



## PROJECT INTRODUCTION

In July of 2010, Feeding America released the 2010 Hunger Report indicating Florida had moved up into the top ten states for childhood hunger in the United States, with a growth rate (4.9%), second only to Arkansas. In 2011, the Food Research and Action Center (FRAC) released statistics revealing Florida was now fourth in the nation among the 50 states in food insecurity and 27% of families with children suffering from food hardship.

To address this growing crisis in our community, food providers convened to begin developing a plan to engage additional stakeholders to eliminate hunger and barriers to food access. This group formed a coalition – the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger - to assess food insecurity problems and evaluate existing services in the community to determine best practices and effective strategies. The coalition would then identify and target food services to these high-risk populations.

The network adopted the mission of eliminating hunger and barriers to food access, and embarked on a path to find simple solutions first:

- Keeping food banks supplied to meet demand.
- Creating ways for food banks to supply fresh produce/healthy supplements to canned goods and boxed items.
- Developing stronger systems of coordinated delivery of fresh produce when opportunities arise.
- Finding ways to dispose of fresh product delivered when donated beyond expiration and usefulness.
- Educating the community on where and how to access food.
- Educating the community on what to do with fresh food.
- Finding a data portal to serve providers and the community.

To meet these objectives, one of the initiatives the Network has established is:

- **Community Gardens:** Very simply put, a community garden is any piece of land gardened by a group of people. It can be at a school, church, or neighborhood center. Our community gardens will be established in locations supporting low-income neighborhoods for two reasons; to educate the community on how to grow fresh produce, the nutritional value of eating

fresh produce, and how to prepare fresh produce, as well as to supplement food supplies in surrounding communities.

Harvests will be managed by voluntary organizations and distributed by the Tampa Network to End Hunger members.

## PROJECT SUMMARY

The Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger has successfully completed Phase I and Phase II of the Community Gardens project on the Lighthouse Ministries International campus, located at 7211 S 78<sup>th</sup> St., Riverview, Florida 33578. With the great success of this garden, the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger has been open to adding more community gardens with charities that are willing to host a garden and interested in helping feed the underserved in our community.

The proposed plan for sites is described below.

Four 2x16 all access beds will be constructed, prepared and planted. A seedling bed and compost bin will also be constructed and prepared. A backbone and micro irrigation system will be installed to provide water to all raised beds, seedling bed, and compost bin. A garden pack will be provided to include all of the tools essential for garden maintenance. A follow-up product pack will also be provided as well as a worm bin with red wigglers for faster composting. Follow-up service and training/coaching will be provided to ensure the gardens take successful root and are being adequately maintained. Line item details of each service area of this project are attached to this proposal as an addendum. Also, the beds will be built to be accessible for those with disabilities.

This project could be in coordination with the xxxxx. xxxxx will need to cover the cost of water and assist in providing volunteer labor support to manage maintenance and harvest. A separate example of a Memorandum of Understanding detailing these responsibilities is also attached.

### Yield:

While yield is a challenge to predict as it is dependent upon many factors, one projection as documented in our research is 100 lbs of potatoes grown vertically in layers in an area of less than 2 square feet. Our project contractor anticipates a yield of somewhere in the neighborhood of 2lbs. per square foot per planting season. There are 3-4 planting seasons in Florida which equates to about 5,640 pounds of food per year from the collective gardens. Using the accepted Feeding America formula for calculating pounds of food into meals of 1.3 pounds of food per 1 meal, the collective gardens have the potential of providing 4,339 meals year one. By producing compost and raising seedlings, each garden should be able to add additional beds every 3-6 months increasing crop yield every year from year to year.

**Oversight:**

**Tampa Bay Harvest will serve as the project administrator and assume responsibility on behalf of the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger for ensuring all work outlined in the attached vendor estimates are completed by the due dates and as described in the estimate and above narrative. United Way of Tampa Bay serves as the fiduciary agent for the Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger and will provide a check to the vendor upon receipt of notice of completion from the project administrator. The Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger will assume responsibilities for ensuring each MOA associated with the Community Gardens project is fully executed, adhered to and updated as required according to the terms of the agreement(s).**

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**Pat Rogers, Executive Director, Feeding America  
Chair, Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger**

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**Date**

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**Will Carey, Director, Tampa Bay Harvest  
Project Administrator, Tampa Bay Network to End Hunger**

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**Date**