Some things are difficult to forget. I still have images in my mind from the aftermath of the March 2nd tornadoes that crossed southern Indiana: rooftops blown off, entire towns flattened; neighborhoods cut off by blocked roads and felled trees. Beyond the physical destruction, I remember the human impact: people left without homes, food, or water, so grateful for the food distributed by our partner food banks and pantries which helped our Hoosier neighbors get through many hard days.

While we surely hope that we never again have to respond to a disaster like these tornadoes or the flooding we experienced in our area in 2008, Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank is at the ready to get food out to our communities during an emergency.

An event like a tornado or a flood reminds us all how vulnerable our own food security can be. The loss of a home or workplace due to a natural disaster could easily put any of us in a situation of needing food assistance. Unfortunately, for more than 41,000 people in west central Indiana, hunger is a reality on any given day of the year.

The Foodbank’s core service is providing food to people in need during natural disasters and during the less visible ongoing crises that afflict tens of thousands of households all year round. Sadly, these crises affect some of the most vulnerable in our society; almost half of those who experience hunger in our communities are children and the elderly. For many, their food supplies don’t last till the end of the month, and the reality is that many cannot provide food for every meal. Through Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank and its 87 member agencies, which provide more than 2 million meals each year to our neighbors in need, hunger does not have to be their reality.

Nothing is gained when a child or an adult goes hungry.

A Word from the Agency Director

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Bread and Produce Market

What began as a beautiful, crisp Saturday morning in September ended as a joyous occasion for a special girl. As we pulled up to the Foodbank for the monthly Bread & Produce Market, we could already see that it was going to be a busy morning.

The volunteers this day were a group of men from Turning Point/Club Soda and two ladies from Special People Performing Random Acts of Kindness (SPPRAK). As we were setting up the tables outside on the drive and pulling the food from the warehouse, a few of the gentlemen remarked that they never imagined we would be distributing this much food to the community.

Around mid-morning, a young girl came through the line with her father. The father asked if he may have a birthday cake for his daughter who would be celebrating her 13th birthday the following day. One of the volunteers, not knowing if he could satisfy the request, went to the cooler and pulled out a birthday cake trimmed in pink ribbons. As the girl continued through the line, she did not have any idea what her dad had requested. When she got to the end of the line, the gentlemen handed her the birthday cake and sang “Happy Birthday” to her.

While food is essential, it is sometimes the experiences we have while enjoying the food that are most precious. We are truly thankful for the men, women, and young adults that take time out of their Saturday morning to serve our community. They are not only a blessing to our organization, but also to those they serve.

Food Sourcing

The past month has been both busy and productive for the Foodbank. Part of the responsibility of a food sourcer is to bring awareness to the “Invest an Acre” program throughout the agricultural community to get them involved in the fight against hunger.

“Invest an Acre” allows the farmer or landowner to designate any number of bushels from their harvest to go to the food bank of their choice. We expect this program to grow by the bushels in years to come.

In addition, we have had continued support from our retail donors including Walmart, Sam’s Club, Baesler’s, IGA, and Kroger. We couldn’t provide food to over 32,000 people each year without their ongoing donations. We appreciate the generosity of the many donors who provide help to thousands of our hungry neighbors each year.
Bonuses of Fresh Produce

As we welcome autumn and prepare for a busy holiday season, we look back over a long, hot summer and remember the abundant blessings which Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank has received.

While many individuals struggled through the drought, hot temperatures, and lack of fresh garden produce over these past few months, many businesses and individuals stepped forward to help those who have been struggling to make ends meet. With one of the hottest summers on record, donations of fresh produce, from gardeners and farmers alike, still made their way to the Foodbank. A very special thanks goes out to the Amish Community in Parke County who, weekly, through the assistance of the Emergency Food Pantry in Parke County, donated their excess produce, which totaled 6,000 lbs. over the course of the summer.

Being able to distribute high quality, nutritious fresh produce is always a bonus. We often associate the Foodbank with canned goods and shelf-stable items, which are truly beneficial, but during the growing season we attempt to secure local sources of fresh foods to supplement our food supply. Not only is it a “treat” for shelters, pantries, and soup kitchens that receive food through the Foodbank, but it is a necessity to feed an ever growing population of hungry men, women, and children right in our own neighborhoods. We wish to share our gratitude with the entire community for helping us to feed those who find themselves hungry on a daily basis.

Mobile Pantries are available monthly in the following communities:

**Parke County**
- Marshall Federated Church
- Montezuma Community Center

**Greene County**
- Jasonville United Methodist Church
- Scotland Community Center

**Sullivan County**
- Carlisle First United Methodist Church
- Shelburn Community Center

**Clay County**
- Bowling Green Community Building
- Carbon Baptist Church

**Vigo County**
- New Goshen Lion’s Den
- Prairie Creek Lion’s Den
- Maryvale Apartments

**Vermillion County**
- Clinton Fire Department
2013 Soup Bowl Benefit

The Soup Bowl Benefit, an evening of music, conversation, soup and bread, will take place February 2, 2013 in the atrium of Maryland Community Church, 4700 S. State Road 46 in Terre Haute.

Attendees will join area artists, chefs, sponsors and volunteers to support the Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank. Through a simple bowl of soup, the event shines a spotlight on the issues of hunger in our community, and friends and neighbors are encouraged to share their abundance with those in need.

Those attending will purchase a handmade bowl for $25 and have it filled with delicious soup from area chefs and restaurants. For children and those who do not wish to purchase a handmade bowl, tickets for dinner are $6. The event will feature two seatings this year to accommodate our growing event.

Seating and handmade bowls are limited! Tickets will be available beginning January 2, 2013 at the Catholic Charities office or the Terre Haute Deanery Pastoral Center, both located at 1801 Poplar St. in Terre Haute, or by calling (812) 232-1447.

Friday Football Food Drive Winners

Between Aug. 17 and Oct. 12, food donations were generated by sports teams, students, parents and others at high school football games at South Vermillion, Riverton Parke, North Central, Terre Haute North, Paris, Ill., Terre Haute South, Rockville, West Vigo and Northview. During this year’s food drive, the schools collected more than 21,000 pounds, more than doubling that collected in 2011.

Grants from the Pepsi Refresh Project were awarded to: West Vigo, 5,612 pounds of food collected, $1,500; Terre Haute South, 5,160 pounds, $1,000; and Northview, 3,788 pounds, and Terre Haute North, 3,612 pounds, each received $500.

Sponsored by Refreshment Services Pepsi, Feeding America, Catholic Charities Terre Haute, WTHI-TV and My Fox 10, WMGI 100.7 MIX FM, Kroger and First Financial Bank.

In photo above:
L-R Back-Norm Lowery-First Financial Bank, Amy Simonson-Pepsi, Scott Jones-FS The Magazine, Kristen Flowers-100.7 Mix-FM, Nick Steele-100.7 Mix-FM, Rick Semmler-WTHI Sports Director, Tom Kuhl-Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank