



For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat- Matthew 25:35

History:

Started by Bay Life Church, Brandon, in 2006, their people left church early on the Sunday before Thanksgiving and, with preprinted grocery lists in hand, headed to designated grocery stores to purchase items for local food banks. Trucks parked outside the stores served as collection sites. One after another members of the congregation brought cart after cart full of food to the trucks. Children were with their parents, unloading bag after bag as active participants in the gift. In the stores, long lines formed with very cheerful people-store employees, convinced their absent coworkers wouldn't believe them, took pictures. All told, they collected 30,000 pounds of food that day. The food was then delivered to local charitable organization's to stock their shelves. In 2007, we tried it again and we collected 33,000 lbs of food. Then the event branched out to other churches and began to grow-

- 2008, there were 15 local churches and 12 food agencies collected approx.189,000 lbs of food.
- 2009, there were 33 local churches and 13 food agencies collected approx.316,500 lbs of food.
- 2010, there were 35 churches and 13 local food agencies that collected approx.131,600 lbs of food.

We met with our food agencies at the end of the October 2010 event, and asked them about the benefits to Feed the Bay. We were making a difference, but we needed to move the event to the spring because their need and demands were high and their food was low.

In March 2011, there were 33 local churches and 11 food agencies that collected approx.138,193 lbs. of food. Over the years we continue to grow-

- 2012, there were 38 local churches and 15 food agencies that collected approx.180,908 lbs of food.
- 2013, there were 32 local churches and 17 food agencies that collected approx.160,049 lbs of food.
- 2014, there were 32 local churches and 17 food agencies that collected approx.161,264 lbs. of food.
- 2015, there were 33 local churches and 16 food agencies that collected approx. lbs. 156,152 of food.
- 2016, there were 34 local churches and 14 food agencies that collected approx. 165,693 of food.

In the total 11 FTB events= Approximately 1,662,359 lbs of food has been collected and distributed back into our community's food agencies.