

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Donated not Wasted – Lee County’s eighth annual food-rescue campaign begins as seasonal residents head north

Donations to be accepted April 7 through April 21

Fort Myers, FL, March 17, 2025 – Lee County Solid Waste’s eighth annual “Donated not Wasted” food rescue campaign encourages seasonal residents and visitors to donate unopened pantry items before returning north. Since the program’s inception, more than 38,700 pounds of food has been diverted from potential disposal and sent to the Harry Chapin Food Bank – enough food to provide more than 32,200 meals to residents.

Join Lee County Solid Waste, Harry Chapin Food Bank, Waste Pro, the Lee County Library System, the Sanibel Public Library and Lee County Parks & Recreation in this effort to help route food that might otherwise end up in the waste stream to the county’s population of people in need.

To help, drop off unopened canned or dry goods from Monday, April 7, to Monday, April 21, at participating libraries or Lee County parks facilities and recreation centers. Additional collection containers are available Lee County Solid Waste’s Topaz Court Facility, 6441 Topaz Court, Fort Myers. Visit www.leegov.com/solidwaste/donated-not-wasted or call 239-533-8000 for more information.

Drop off locations include:

Parks facilities/recreation centers

- Estero Recreation Center – 9200 Corkscrew Palms Blvd., Estero, FL 33928
- North Fort Myers Recreation Center – 2000 N. Recreation Park Way, North Fort Myers, FL 33903
- Six Mile Cypress Slough Interpretive Center – 7791 Penzance Blvd., Fort Myers, FL 33966
- Veterans Park Recreation Center – 55 Homestead Road S., Lehigh Acres, FL 33936
- Wa-Ke-Hatchee Recreation Center – 16760 Bass Road, Fort Myers, FL 33908

Library locations

- Bonita Springs Public Library – 10560 Reynolds St., Bonita Springs, FL 34135
- Cape Coral Lee County Public Library – 921 SW 39th Terrace, Cape Coral, FL 33914
- Dunbar Jupiter Hammon Public Library – 3095 Blount St., Fort Myers, FL 33916
- East County Regional Library – 881 Gunnery Road N., Lehigh Acres, FL 33971
- Fort Myers Regional Library (South Building) – 1651 Lee St., Fort Myers, FL 33901
- Lakes Regional Library – 15290 Bass Road, Fort Myers, FL 33919
- North Fort Myers Public Library – 2001 N. Tamiami Trail, North Fort Myers, FL 33903
- Northwest Regional Library – 519 Chiquita Blvd. N., Cape Coral, FL 33993
- Pine Island Public Library – 10701 Russell Road, Bokeelia, FL 33922
- Riverdale Public Library – 2421 Buckingham Road, Fort Myers, FL 33905
- Sanibel Public Library – 770 Dunlop Road, Sanibel, FL 33957

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About Lee County Solid Waste

Lee County Solid Waste is one of the country's most successful and sustainable recycling and solid waste management systems. Lee County consistently has been listed in Florida's top five counties for recycling since 2012. Solid Waste continues implementing programs that make recycling, resource recovery and responsible waste management easier.

About the Harry Chapin Food Bank

Harry Chapin Food Bank, a Feeding America partner food bank, is the largest hunger-relief organization in Southwest Florida and serves 250,000 neighbors monthly through its Feeding Network of 175 agency partners. In 2024, the nonprofit distributed 39.5 million pounds of food, the equivalent of 32 million meals, at food banks and mobile pantries across Charlotte, Collier, Glades, Hendry and Lee counties. The Food Bank is privately funded and receives support from individuals, businesses, foundations, grocery stores and food distributors. Harry Chapin Food Bank is an Agency Partner of United Way and a Blueprint Partner of the Naples Children & Education Foundation, rated as a Four-Star Charity by Charity Navigator and Platinum-rated by Candid's GuideStar. For more information, please visit HarryChapinFoodBank.org or call 239-334-7007.