

# [nourish news]

July 2026 Community Update from **Waste Not Want Not**

---

## [From the Executive Director]

Every day at **Waste Not Want Not**, we are reminded that our mission is about more than rescuing surplus food...it's about rescuing hope.

This past month has been filled with incredible milestones that demonstrate what is possible when compassionate people, businesses, and community partners come together to rescue hope.

We were honored to receive our **first-ever \$25,000 grant from the Clif Bar Foundation**, recognizing our organization's unique ability to address two critical challenges with one solution: fighting hunger while protecting our environment. Every pound of food we rescue keeps edible food out of landfills, reducing greenhouse gas and carbon emissions while placing healthy meals into the hands of families who need them most. This investment will strengthen our ability to rescue even more food, expand our reach, and increase our impact across Northeast Florida. I am especially proud of our team member **Avery Cecere** for successfully securing this important funding, which validates the innovative work happening every day at **Waste Not Want Not**.

Our commitment to rescuing hope for our neighbors was on full

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.

by **Saved2Serve** and **Seeds of Love**. Together, we distributed nearly **two tons of groceries** to families preparing for the new school year. We are deeply grateful to the volunteers from **Baptist Medical Center Clay**, who spent their time packing grocery bags and ensuring every family received nutritious food with dignity.

This effort would not have been possible without the generosity of our food donors, including **The Winn-Dixie Company, Bimbo Bakeries, Pepperidge Farm, and Local Fare Jax**, whose ongoing commitment allows us to rescue quality food and share it with our community instead of seeing it go to waste.

While I had the privilege of serving briefly alongside our volunteers, including the ever-dedicated **John Nelson**, during the event, I left with mixed emotions. We celebrated helping hundreds of families, yet we also witnessed a heartbreaking reality. The line of people seeking food stretched farther than we anticipated, and within the first hour, every bag had been distributed.



We showed up! What we brought was significant.

But it was not enough.

That moment served as a sobering reminder that food insecurity remains one of the greatest challenges facing our community. Behind every bag we handed out was a child wondering where breakfast will come from and a hardworking family making partial utility payments in order to have money left to buy food.

The bottom line for us is – no one should go to bed hungry and no one should wake up wondering if there will be food on the table. And for sure **no child** should ever have to trade the excitement of learning and playing for the anxiety of a grumbling stomach.

So experiences like this don't discourage us. Instead, they strengthen our resolve.

In alignment with our strategic plan, **Waste Not Want Not** is doubling down on our efforts to rescue more food, cultivate additional food donors, and expand service into more rural and underserved communities throughout our 14-county service area.

more about very soon, we're preparing to significantly enhance our capacity to meet the growing need and ensure that more families have access to nutritious food.

The need is **great**, but so is our **determination**.

Thank you for believing in our mission, standing beside us, and helping us create a community where good food nourishes people not landfills. Thank you for your efforts in rescuing food and... rescuing hope!





## Our Impact

Pounds of Food Rescued Last  
Month

168,598

Pounds of Food Rescued This Year

926,792

Volunteer Hours This Year

11,023

Meals Put into the Community Last  
Month

219,177

Lbs of CO<sub>2</sub> Kept Out of the Atmosphere  
This Year

3,239,914



With excitement,

Kathleen



P.S. – Our fiscal year 2025 Annual Report is here! Take a look at our year in review below.

[Click Here to See Our 2025 Annual Report](#)

---

# [Community Nourishment]

As summer winds down, many families are preparing for the expenses that come with a new school year. Backpacks, school supplies, clothes, and shoes can place a tremendous strain on already tight budgets. That is why **Waste Not Want Not** is proud to support community partners who are helping children head back to school with confidence and families with food on the table.

Last weekend, we joined **Saved 2 Serve** for its **Back to School Community Day**, where **more than 3,000** people received backpacks, clothing, and brand new shoes. Families also took home groceries made possible through rescued food provided by **Waste Not Want Not**. On **August 1**, we will continue those efforts by supporting **Harvest Ministries Jax's Back to School Bash**, providing snacks for children and families as they receive backpacks, school supplies, haircuts, health services, and other essential resources.

Preparing children for a successful school year takes more than pencils and notebooks. It takes a community working together to ensure every child begins the year nourished, equipped, and ready to learn. We are grateful to play a critical role in helping local families start the school year with hope, dignity, and healthy meals on the table.

[Click Here to Find Back to School Giveaways](#)

# [Partner Highlight]

This month, we're honored to shine a light on another one of our amazing partners — **His Body Ministries**. Reaching from the streets of Jacksonville and Macclenny all the way to the nation of Haiti, His Body Ministries goes directly into communities to meet people right where they are — providing food, essential resources, and support to those who need it most. What sets them apart is their commitment to the personal touch: showing up one on one and giving neighbors not just a meal, but real hope for a brighter future. We're so grateful to walk alongside them in this work. Read what they had to say below!



## What is your mission?

Our mission is to bring Hope to a hurt and lost world by providing food, resources and prayer to people, helping them fulfill the plan God has for their life.

His Body Ministries continues to affect many lives as we go into the cities of Jacksonville, Macclenny and surrounding areas in Florida and we also extend into the nation of Haiti. While we do not use Waste Not Want Not donations, we do support the nation of Haiti in other ways.



## How do you serve the hungry and impoverished in our community?

Our ministry goes straight into the heart of different communities and we reach out to the people who have been unable to provide for themselves and or their family. We bring them not only food but hope for a bright future with God and surround them with people who are able to help them in any way they need.

## How does Waste Not help you execute your mission?

By partnering with **Waste Not Want Not** we are able to bring the physical needs of food and hygiene products to hundreds of people. Many people have no means of getting food and personal items and we are blessed to share with them items that bring them hope for a better future.

## What do you love most about your organization?

We absolutely love that God uses our hands, feet and voices to touch His people in a way that otherwise would not be happening. A lot of times it is the small ministries that are able to go into highways and byways and reach people where they are because sometimes bigger ministries are unable to do and go and reach the people one on one. The smaller ministries have the opportunities are it truly is an honor.





---

## Birthdays & Volunteer-Versaries



## 🎂 Happy Birthday July Volunteers!

Wishing a very happy birthday to Ernest Fisher, Cara Freitag, Carolyn Glaser, Pam Gould, Irene Harrell, Alex Hawkins, Helen Howard, Michelle Jenks, Sam Kilgore, Torin McKenzie, Bob McKinney, Greg Myers, Krista Shaughnessy, Barry Summers, Kelli Taylor, and Luisa Ziolkowski! 🎉

If we missed your birthday or you'd prefer not to be included, just email Avery at [avery@wastenotflorida.org](mailto:avery@wastenotflorida.org).

## Happy Volunteer-Versary to our July service anniversaries! ❤️

Thank you for showing up, month after month and year after year. Your consistency is what keeps this mission running, and every hour you give helps make sure no one in our community goes without. We're so proud to celebrate your dedication as part of the **Waste Not Want Not** family!

**16 Years** — Roger & Karol Higginbotham

**14 Years** — Cathy Haralson

**12 Years** — Fr. Edward Rooney

**10 Years** — Karen Henley

**9 Years** — Ernie Fisher, Julie Stofan

**7 Years** — Sam Kilgore

**5 Years** — Jan Broomfield

**3 Years** — Larry Meyer, Scott Rasmussen

**1 Year** — Sherrie Hamilton

*If you've been volunteering with us for many years and happen to know the year you first got involved, **we'd love to hear from you**. Please send anniversary date to [Linda@wastenotflorida.org](mailto:Linda@wastenotflorida.org) so we can keep our records accurate. Thank you for being part of our community!*

## Welcome back & welcome aboard!

We are so happy to welcome back **Kristine Guha**, we missed you and are glad to have you back with us! And a very warm welcome to our



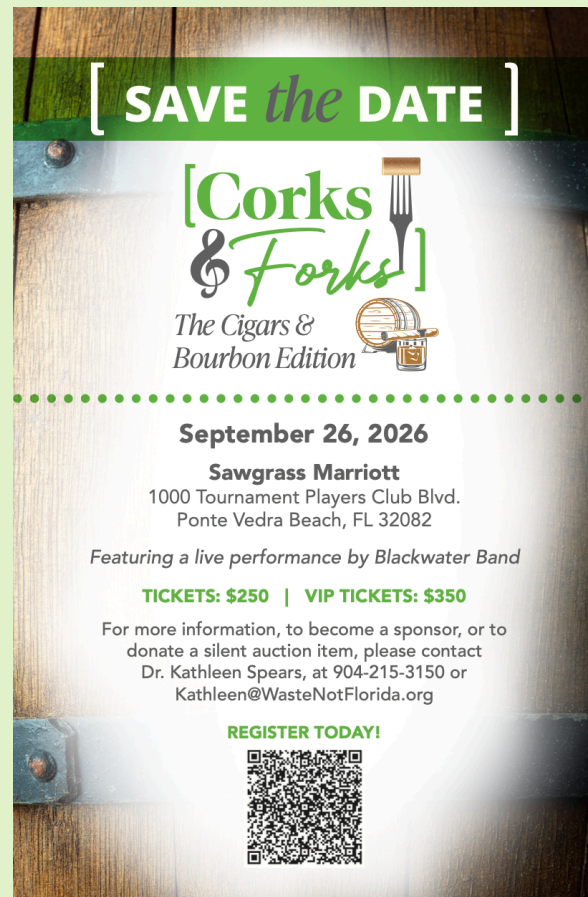
newest volunteer, **Cara Lilly**, we are thrilled to have you join the family!

---

## Mark Your Calendar

The 2nd Annual Corks & Forks Gala: The Cigars & Bourbon Edition is coming to the Sawgrass Marriott in Ponte Vedra Beach on September 26, 2026, featuring a live performance by Blackwater Band!

Want to come? **Active volunteers are eligible for buy-one-get-one-free tickets!** Contact Linda for details at [linda@wastenotflorida.org](mailto:linda@wastenotflorida.org).



**[ SAVE *the* DATE ]**

**[Corks & Forks]**  
*The Cigars & Bourbon Edition*

**September 26, 2026**

**Sawgrass Marriott**  
1000 Tournament Players Club Blvd.  
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32082

Featuring a live performance by Blackwater Band

**TICKETS: \$250 | VIP TICKETS: \$350**

For more information, to become a sponsor, or to donate a silent auction item, please contact Dr. Kathleen Spears, at 904-215-3150 or [Kathleen@WasteNotFlorida.org](mailto:Kathleen@WasteNotFlorida.org)

**REGISTER TODAY!**



## Special Thank You: VyStar Credit Union

A special thank you to VyStar Credit Union — particularly the Regency Commons branch — for collecting food throughout the month of August to support **Waste Not Want Not** and organizations like ours.



**Good Starts Here**

FOOD DRIVE | AUGUST 1<sup>st</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>

 **Good is everywhere** 

Did you know we hold a yard sale every 1st Saturday of the month?  
**We've moved locations!** Our next yard sale will be **Saturday,**  
**August 1, 2026, at 8 AM,** at **673 Kingsley Ave.**

---

Explore more on our website!



[Manage](#) your preferences | [Opt Out](#) using TrueRemove™  
Got this as a forward? [Sign up](#) to receive our future emails.  
View this email [online](#).

PO Box 119 | Orange Park, FL 32067 US

[Subscribe](#) to our email list.