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PRESS RELEASE

Waste Not Want Not Convenes Clay County Food Insecurity Task Force to Build a Stronger, More Connected Community Response to Hunger

ORANGE PARK, FL – Waste Not Want Not has convened the Clay County Food Insecurity Task Force (CFIT), a new coalition of nonprofits, healthcare providers, government agencies, faith communities, and food assistance organizations united around a single goal: building a stronger, more coordinated response to food insecurity across Clay County.

CFIT came together in the summer of 2025 with a shared belief that the organizations already doing this work independently could accomplish far more together. The task force meets regularly to share data, identify gaps in service, align resources, and develop strategies to tackle food insecurity.

Clay County is home to thousands of residents facing food insecurity, many of them in areas with limited access to food assistance programs. Despite the dedication of the organizations serving these neighbors every day, gaps remain – and CFIT exists to surface those gaps, connect the dots, and reduce hunger.

To do that work effectively, CFIT operates through three subcommittees – Food Access, Systemic Change, and Self-Sufficiency – each focused on a distinct but interconnected dimension of food insecurity in Clay County.

In its first months, CFIT has already begun translating that commitment into action. CFIT hosted a SNAP training event at the Orange Park Library, equipping more community members to help neighbors navigate food assistance programs. The Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida prepared geographic maps to visually identify areas of highest food insecurity across the county. A scheduling gap analysis helped identify where service timing – not just service availability – is leaving neighbors without consistent access to food. And later this year, CFIT will launch a financial literacy and crisis-reduction workshop series – because reducing hunger means addressing the full picture of what families need to stabilize and thrive. This work is data-informed, community-driven, and just getting started.

Mission Reduce hunger and improve community health by expanding equitable food access, advancing education, and driving systemic change through collaboration and community voice.

Vision A Clay County where every resident has reliable access to nutritious food, stronger health, and a community united against hunger.

Call to Action *Nourish a stronger and healthier Clay County...together.*

Founding members of CFIT represent a cross-section of the organizations closest to this issue in Clay County, including Waste Not Want Not, Baptist Medical Center Clay, the Florida Department of Health, the Health Planning Council of Northeast Florida, Challenge Enterprises, Impact Clay, Clay County Rescue Mission, Clay Kitchen, Mission of the Dirt Road, and Celebration Church.

Food insecurity is a layered, multifaceted issue – and tackling it takes a force that matches that complexity. CFIT is actively growing its membership and welcomes nonprofits, healthcare providers, faith communities, government agencies, and social service organizations working in Clay County who want to be part of the solution. Whether you have ideas to share, programs to connect, or simply want a seat at the table, there is a place for you here.

For more information about CFIT, to explore membership, or to get involved, contact Avery Cecere, Director of Mission Impact at Waste Not Want Not, at avery@wastenotflorida.org.

About Waste Not Want Not

Waste Not Want Not is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to fighting hunger and poverty and to reducing food waste across 14 counties in Northeast Florida. As the region's only hunger alleviation organization solely committed to food rescue, *Waste Not Want Not* does not purchase food or operate as a traditional food bank. Instead, *Waste Not* bridges the gap between surplus food and hungry people – recovering high-quality, excess food from retailers, distributors, and other partners and redirecting it to nonprofit agencies serving individuals and families facing food insecurity.

Powered by hundreds of dedicated volunteers and supported by generous food donors and community partners, *Waste Not Want Not* ensures that wholesome food feeds people—not landfills. Each week, as a result of *Waste Not's* efforts, more than 15,000 neighbors receive nourishment made possible through rescued food that would otherwise go to waste.

To learn more, volunteer, or support the mission, visit www.wastenotflorida.org.