

CONTACT

Kathleen N. Spears PhD

Executive Director

Kathleen@wastenotflorida.org

904-687-6327

Website: www.wastenotflorida.org



For Immediate Release

March 23, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

Waste Not Want Not Expands Its Team and Its Reach Across Northeast Florida

JACKSONVILLE, FL – In Northeast Florida, **one in five neighbors** faces food insecurity. Waste Not Want Not responds by showing up – rescuing surplus food and moving it quickly to community partners across the region. Now, the organization is expanding the team that makes that work possible.

Waste Not Want Not welcomes **Christie Hingst**, MPA, as Director of Mission Delivery & Volunteer Services; **Avery Cecere**, MS, as Mission Delivery Lead; and **Esther Zeigler** as Mission Delivery Coordinator.

Christie Hingst brings a lifelong commitment to public service shaped by careers in city planning, education, and community leadership. A Florida State University graduate with a Master of Public Administration from The George Washington University, Christie taught second grade at Clay Hill Elementary in Fleming Island and remains deeply rooted in the community– currently serving as an appointee of Clay County Commissioner John Sgromolo on the Clay County Land Conservation Committee.

Joining the team is Avery Cecere, who understands that food insecurity is never just about food. It is deeply connected to health, education, economic stability, and the environment – a systems issue that touches every part of a community. A graduate of the University of Florida, Avery went on to gain hands-on experience at the Palm Beach County Food Bank, where witnessing hunger in her own community strengthened her commitment to systemic solutions. She later earned a Master of Science in Sustainability and Global Governance in Madrid, bringing a global lens to the structural forces that shape food access. At Waste Not Want Not, she leads mission impact strategy, overseeing the data systems and analysis that measure the organization’s reach, efficiency, and long-term impact.

Esther Zeigler’s path to the team began as a volunteer. A Northeast Florida native, she spent years as a dedicated Tuesday volunteer at the organization’s food rescue facility before joining the staff as Mission Delivery Coordinator. Week after week, she learned the rhythms of the operation and developed a deep

understanding of how rescued food moves from donation to distribution. Today, Esther oversees food intake and distribution, manages day-to-day facility operations, and brings a ground-level understanding of the work that only comes from having done it firsthand – ensuring that every pound of food is handled with urgency and care.

Together, these three women bring the experience, drive, and community commitment to help Waste Not Want Not to continue **delivering more than 2.6 million meals a year** to hungry children, families, seniors, veterans, and unhoused neighbors across Northeast Florida.

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.

###

###