



## Meeting Minutes October 7, 2009

### Welcome

Lisa Roth Blackman welcomed the group and announced that Stephanie Chafee has stepped down as the group's Chair. She announced that Tracey Cugno and Food Bank Board Member Mary Flynn will be taking over as Co-Chairs this year and we're so excited to have them on board. Mary stated that she became involved with the Board through Women Ending Hunger and Tracey said she has been involved with the Food Bank for eight years and has many ideas for the group this year.

### 2009-2010 Project Ideas and Updates

Tracey Cugno discussed the various projects that Women Ending Hunger will be working on this year:

#### Witness to Hunger

This photo exhibit has a direct connection to Dr. Deborah Frank, the speaker at our May meeting. Her organization, Children's Health Watch, is a supporter of the group that created Witness to Hunger. In Philadelphia, cameras were given to 40 women with small children living in poverty and they were asked to document their lives. These photos were made into a traveling exhibit that we hope to bring to Rhode Island, along with some of the women who took the photos. We're looking to hold this event in May or June 2010 and are currently searching for a location to hold it. The exhibit will run for one month and we will hold an opening cocktail reception/fundraiser which will give policy makers and the community a chance to experience it. If you would like to sign up to be a part of the group helping to bring the exhibit to Rhode Island and plan the fundraising event, please contact Liza Gentile at 401-942-6325 x214 or [lgentile@rifoodbank.org](mailto:lgentile@rifoodbank.org).

#### Reusable Shopping Bag Project

New Women Ending Hunger member Ming Lee Prospero brought this idea to Lisa's attention over the summer. Some supermarkets offer customers the option of donating their 5 cent refund for using a reusable shopping bag to the local Food Bank instead of taking the refund off their purchase (Whole Foods is already doing this in Rhode Island). We are asking Women Ending Hunger members to help us reach out to local supermarkets in Rhode Island with this idea, which would help to raise awareness about hunger, and funds to support our work.

Taking the idea one step further, we could have a reusable shopping bag designed and manufactured in RI for the Food Bank to be sold in these stores, further raising awareness and funds. If you would like to be a part of the group to reach out to stores, and to develop and market these bags, please contact Liza Gentile at 401-942-6325 x 214 or [lgentile@rifoodbank.org](mailto:lgentile@rifoodbank.org).

### Future Updates

We have many updates to bring you at upcoming meetings. In January, Dorothy Brayley of Kids First will update us on implementation of the new school nutrition guidelines and the progress made during the first half of the school year. Also, Mary Flynn will provide more information about the success of her Raising the Bar on Nutrition program. A full year of data from her study will be available for in January. Lastly, many of you participated in the Hunger Study held last spring. At the April meeting we will have the results of the study to share with you all.

Elizabeth Burke Bryant –Executive Director, Rhode Island KIDS Count

Elizabeth gave a presentation about the state children and adults living in poverty in Rhode Island. Please see the attached presentation for more details

### Andrew Schiff Update

Andrew Schiff thanked Kids Count for the work they do and stated that the Food Bank depends on them for their research and advocacy.

### SNAP

We are currently doing everything we can to advocate for SNAP (Food Stamps) and the Federal Nutrition programs. In the spring, we received a grant through Feeding America for two full-time SNAP Outreach workers—one in Newport and one in Woonsocket. The state needs to get more people enrolled in the program and our workers have been meeting people in pantry lines to facilitate this process.

### Advocacy

In July, we were level-funded for a Legislative Grant for \$192,000 from the State. We are happy to be level-funded given the state's dire budget situation. Please write to your state Senators and Representatives to thank them for supporting the Food Bank for another year. Also, at the Federal level, the Reauthorization of the Childhood Nutrition programs will be considered in January. There is a draft letter on our website which urges Rhode Island's Congressional delegates to support the passage of these programs, which provide for additional funds for WIC, School Meals and SNAP. This will help to improve the nutritional quality of what people receive through these programs. Please write to your Congressional delegation in support of this important act.

### Lisa Roth Blackman Update

Lisa updated the group on the Food Bank's upcoming events.

### Scouting for Food

The Boy Scouts will be holding their annual Scouting for Food Drive again this year and we ask you all to please donate when the bags are dropped off at your homes. Please watch for the Boy Scouts bag drop-off on October 31. They will be picking up the full bags on November 7. If for some reason your bag does not get picked up, you can drop off your donation at any Walgreen's location.

### Bill Harley and Friends Concert

Due to the success of last year's concert, we will be holding two shows this year. The shows will be held at the Lincoln School in Providence on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. The show will feature Grammy-winning artist Bill Harley and special guests Keith Munslow and Sally Rogers. General admission tickets are \$12 per person and reserved seating tickets are \$18 per person; all tickets will go on sale at the beginning of November. If you would like to help promote the concert in your child's school or in your community by delivering posters,

please contact Liza Gentile at 401-942-6325 x214 or [lgentile@rifoodbank.org](mailto:lgentile@rifoodbank.org) for more information.

#### Taste of the Flower Show 2010

This year's Taste of the Flower Show preview party will be held on Wednesday, February 17, 2010 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Rhode Island Convention Center. 25 of Rhode Island's best restaurants will provide delicious samples among the beauty of the gardens of the Flower Show. If you know of a restaurant who may like to participate, a business who may like to sponsor, or if you would like to volunteer on the day of the event, please contact Liza Gentile at 401-942-6325 x 214 or [lgentile@rifoodbank.org](mailto:lgentile@rifoodbank.org).

#### Closing

Tracey Cugno closed the meeting and asked everyone to please donate what they can for their wonderful breakfast prepared by our Community Kitchen students. She also reminded everyone of the suggested \$50 per year membership fee, but noted that you may still be a part of the group without this donation. We just ask that you give what you can.

The meeting dates for the rest of the year are:

- o Wednesday, January 13, 2010 at 8:30
- o Wednesday, April 28, 2010 at 8:30

Also, if you signed up for a particular group, you will be receiving an email regarding the specific project subcommittee very soon.

Lastly, if anyone has any suggestions for topics you are interested in hearing about at meetings please contact Lisa Roth Blackman at 401-942-6325 or [lrbblackman@rifoodbank.org](mailto:lrbblackman@rifoodbank.org), we'd love to hear your thoughts!