“MEAT! MEAT! MEAT!”
by Rick Wilson

A couple of years after Farmers & Hunters Feeding the Hungry began, I visited Bethel AME, a church in Baltimore, to help serve venison spaghetti to those who needed it most. Also helping was Bill Ewing, the Executive Director of the Maryland Food Bank. I asked him what he found to be the most needed food for the hungry. I have never forgotten his answer, “I recently sent out a survey asking for the top 10 most needed food products; and the top 3 listed were MEAT, MEAT, and MEAT!”

As you read the following excerpts from an article from America's largest food gathering organization, Feeding America, you will see that this need is as great as ever.

“Meating” the Client Need for Protein
January 17, 2015
by Karen Hanner

… It’s a fact that animal protein products and other grocery items high in protein are donated less frequently than other items like snacks and cereal. During the holidays, the people we serve are often more likely to get protein as special effort is put towards donating holiday meals. But it is important that people facing hunger get a balanced diet all year round.

While Americans consume over 326 billion pounds of protein each year, food banks only receive enough protein to represent 1 percent of their total distribution. Sure, I realize that the people we serve don’t only rely on
food banks and can use their own money to buy protein to supplement the food bank’s food, but I also know from shopping for groceries, that if I had a limited budget each month it would be hard to buy enough meat, eggs and dairy – given how expensive those items are.

The expense of these items also explain why they are seldom donated and when they are, why they are offered at smaller quantities. All forms of animal protein are expensive, so the industry gets the most out of every animal produced. Sausage uses scraps, pet food uses trimmings and rendering converts the remaining inedible parts into sauces and flavorings. Very rarely is there unsellable beef, chicken, pork, fish or eggs, which is the major source of food donation across the country.

… Which means that our teams have to source animal protein for donation in creative ways all year round. We are getting better – and we are very appreciative of partners in the industry that are willing to help find creative ways to get more protein to hungry people too.

… Food banks should be able to offer all types of snacks, cereal and beverages throughout the year just like a supermarket. But also, like the corner grocer, we should offer sufficient quantities and varieties of protein to eat a balanced, or even low-carb diet.

So while my personal new year’s resolution will focus on more protein and fewer carbs, so will my professional resolution. And I hope that others will continue their support of this important professional resolution.

(Karen Hanner is the Managing Director of Manufacturing Partnerships at Feeding America)

During the past 18 years, hunters and farmers across the United States have donated venison, elk, and even cattle and hogs to FHFH enabling us to provide over 17 million meals to Feeding America, churches, and many other feeding agencies.

Back to that day at Bethel AME, one of the reasons we were in Baltimore serving venison spaghetti was to videotape a segment for a TV program about FHFH. That day Justin Flaherty, one of the two Mossy Oak production people, called me aside to witness two teenage boys scraping their spaghetti pasta into the trash can. Together, we watched them return to the serving line for second and third helpings of spaghetti, each time devouring the spaghetti meat sauce and discarding the pasta for more … MEAT! MEAT! MEAT!

Ohio Food Pantry Appreciates Venison Donation

To the Wayne County FHFH, Ohio:

We at Old Mother Hubbard's Cupboard thank you for the venison which you shared with us this past deer season. Last year you helped us reach an unknown goal of feeding over 12,771 people from our two sites here in Wayne County. May those who “have” share with your organization as generously as you have with ours.

Washing Feet,
Timothy D. Miller
Christian Bowhunters of America Partnering with FHFH

“Christian Bowhunters of America (CBA) is a great ministry that we know touches the lives of many, many people and hunters across the nation. Working together where and when possible is a natural fit for FHFH. We know that as we work with and communicate with folks through our ministry, opportunities will arise where we can point them toward ways to get involved with CBA as well. We are excited about the possibilities of how CBA chapters can come alongside existing, or even start new, FHFH chapters to help feed more hungry people through hunting,” says Matt Wilson, Program and Development Director for FHFH.

Merle R. Fredericks, CBA Executive Director, said, “We here at Christian Bowhunters of America (CBA) are excited about partnering with Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH). Both ministries are tangibly busy about the Lord’s work, loving the lost in word and deed. Currently CBA has 42 chapters in 21 states serving and exalting Jesus Christ by leading the lost to Him and encouraging Christian growth. CBA members and chapters target Bowhunters and outdoorsman by hosting game dinners, 3-D shoots, youth camps and hunts and much more. By participating in these types of activities together, and laboring with FHFH, both ministries will be able to accomplish more, and at the same time raise the awareness of our common and related goals and objectives.”
Arizona FHFH Coordinator Kerry Ketchum Holds Fundraiser

Kerry Ketchum, Coordinator for Arizona FHFH, held a gun drawing fundraiser to raise money for his chapter. The raffle started in 2014 and concluded February 22, 2015.

Abigail from Tuscon Flagstaff Heritage 30-30 Rifle
Gary from Phoenix Henry Golden Boy .22 Octagon Rifle
Dwayne from Flagstaff Henry .22 Youth Rifle

Kerry was able to talk to thousands of people about FHFH and hand out educational material on the program. The parents were especially happy with the FHFH Kids hand out info. Kerry said it was a lot of work and worth every minute. He had a great time promoting FHFH, raising dollars, making new friends, and thanks everyone that participated, bought a ticket, or just wanted to learn more about the program.

2015 Ohio Deer & Turkey Expo

FHFH had a booth at the 2015 Ohio Deer and Turkey Expo held in March at the Expo Center in Columbus, Ohio.

Raffles were held during the expo. The prize drawing winners were:

- Jerry S. of Millersburg, Ohio won the Bow package
- Kris and Laurie F. of Columbus chose the $250 Cabela’s Gift card in one of the Classic Raffles
- Jennifer W. of Washington Courthouse, OH chose the Thompson Center Impact in one of the Classic Raffles
- One gentleman from Wellington, OH preferred not to be identified and chose the $250 Cabela’s Gift card in one of the Classic Raffles
- The other won the CVA Accura Premium Raffle package.
Southwest Ohio FHFH Awarded Grant from Field & Stream Store in Ohio!

Southwest Ohio FHFH helped recently at the Miamisburg, Ohio Field & Stream retail store.

Southwest Ohio FHFH, along with 3 other conservation groups, were asked to set up a booth and educate the public about FHFH. They had to convince each person, via a wooden chip, that they had the best program that day. The chips were collected in a "master vote" board with transparent tubes to monitor progress throughout the day. At the end of the day, the group with the most chips, was awarded a $500 grant from the store! Congratulations Southwest Ohio FHFH!

Tim Fisher’s daughter, Maddie, ran the Big Buck Ring Toss game (for candy prizes) for youth to interact, as they discussed FHFH’s mission with parents. Southwest Ohio FHFH Co-Coordinators Don Boling and Tim Fisher were on hand for the event. Co-Coordinator Don Distler was not present, but played a key roll in handling all of the paperwork for the event.

Southwest Ohio FHFH created a video of the event. Check it out at https://youtu.be/ON2TaQeE8SQ
Helping feed the hungry
Non-profit led by hunters and farmers donates meat to local ministry

The Daily Courier
- Local Matters -
Jan. 20, 2015 @ 09:42 AM

LAKE LURE - The Rutherford-Henderson County Chapter of Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry (FHFH) recently donated more than 80 pounds of USDA inspected, fresh venison to Hickory Nut Gorge Outreach (HNGO).

Lake Lure resident Lance Johnson started the local FHFH chapter in 2002. It is one of several chapters in the Carolinas and one of many more across the nation.

For the last several years, the Rutherford-Henderson County Chapter has donated venison to Interfaith Assistance Ministries, the Hendersonville Rescue Mission and for the second year in a row, HNGO serving Rutherford County.

Founded in 1997, FHFH is a mission organization enabling hunters and landowners to feed their hungry neighbors. Hunters and farmers donate deer, elk and livestock to inspected, approved butcher shops that participate with the program. The meat is then distributed to local food banks, soup kitchens, homeless shelters and other feeding ministries such as HNGO.

Chapter leaders like Johnson raise financial support to pay the meat processing bills so that hunters, farmers and feeding programs can participate free of charge. In addition to private donors, the Rutherford-Henderson County Chapter of FHFH has received financial support from Hendersonville Presbyterian Church for several years.

Local chapter leaders organize a network of at least one USDA approved meat processor to cut, package and freeze the donated deer and other big game and at least one food bank or feeding ministry to distribute the meat to the hungry. The Rutherford-Henderson County Chapter of FHFH has been a long-time partner with M&M Freezer Locker in Hendersonville to process the donated meat.

“We are very grateful to FHFH for this most recent donation,” said Hope Wittmer, director of HNGO. “Providing meat to our clients is one of our larger food expenses and so when we are able to receive donations like this, it is quite helpful.”

FHFH is a non-profit, 501(c)3 organization and all contributions are tax-deductible. To learn more visit fhfh.org.

Hunters or farmers who would like to learn how to donate venison or meat to local food pantries through FHFH can contact Johnson at 828-243-7636 or lancealot@mindspring.com.
Note of Appreciation for FHFH in Maryland

Dear FHFH:

White-tailed deer are so numerous in Maryland that they have destroyed the forest understory that is critical to our breeding birds. The Maryland Ornithological Society’s Conservation Committee has supported your charity for many years with a contribution used to pay butchers to process donated deer carcasses for distribution to food banks and soup kitchens throughout our state. In this way, we support deer population control in a manner that makes good use of our natural resource, while helping conserve habitat necessary to our birdlife.

Sincerely,
Maureen Harvey, Past President
Maryland Ornithological Society, Inc.

Robinson Area Food Pantry in Illinois Grateful for Venison Donations

Jimmy Nees, Coordinator for Eastern Illinois FHFH, received this note of appreciation for the 192 pounds of venison FHFH donated to a food pantry in his area.

The Robinson Area Food Pantry would like to thank you for your recent donation.

During the year 2014, the Food Pantry fed 12,407 people a total of 86,849 meals,

Your donation is very much appreciated. The community’s needy persons are benefiting.

Barbara Newlin,
Secretary
Robinson Area Food Pantry

Tips to Encourage Wild Birds

Five Tips: For the Birds
by James Tate, Jr.
Coordinator for DC Metro FHFH

Here are five tips on how you can encourage wild birds throughout the year.

- Learn the names and needs of the common birds of your neighborhood, teach your neighbors, and get involved with your local birding community. Start with eBird.org.
- Put up seed feeders and nectar feeders on your property - either very close or several feet away from your windows. Start with Audubon at Home. http://www.audubon.org/conservation/creating-bird-friendly-communities
- Limit the use of lawn chemicals and pesticides in your garden - they are harmful not only to birds, but also to you, and your pets. Start with this article from Hometalk. http://www.hometalk.com/1924621/a-warning-about-lawn-chemicals-and-pets
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• Annual FHFH “For I was Hungry” Newsmagazine
• Vinyl FHFH Logo Decal
• FHFH Supporting Membership Card
• Entry into Annual Hunger Busters Sweepstakes
• 20% Discount off FHFH Logo Gear in online store

To join as a Supporting Member or give a Gift Membership
visit www.fhfh.org/supporting-membership.html to join online or print and mail a form
or call 1-866-438-3434
Hunters and landowners have provided nearly 16 Million Meals since 1997 with FHFH. On average around 1.5 Million Meals are provided annually through FHFH chapters. Help us reach the 2X16 Challenge Goal of providing 2 Million meals annually through 200 FHFH Chapters across our nation.

You can join the hunt against hunger in your neighborhood today!

Start a chapter, give support, or donate a deer.

Over 48 Million hungry men, women, and children are waiting for your help!

Earn a $5.00 DONATION for FHFH when you join World Class Hunting for FREE now through June 30th using our PROMO CODE “FHFH”!

Earn $5.00 for FHFH along with chances to win hunts and gear year round from our ministry partner World Class Hunting - all for FREE! Just use PROMO CODE “FHFH” when you sign up for a free WCH membership at www.worldclasshunting.com/sweepstakes. When you use promo code “FHFH” you’ll also be upgraded automatically to their annual “Marksman” membership level which provides you with even more chances to win!

This offer is good now through June 30th. Remember to use promo code “FHFH” when you join, and then share this offer with your friends and family!
FHFH Sponsors

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We give special thanks for the following national companies and organizations that have chosen to support the work of FHFH nationally through cash contributions, merchandise donations, promotional assistance and ministry partnership over the past year. We greatly value the support of each national partner regardless of the amount given. Any gift of money, time, or other assistance is a sacrifice appreciated very much by the men, women and children we serve!

To find out how your corporation or organization can partner in support of FHFH, please email us at staff@fhfh.org or call 1-866-Get FHFH today!

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www.christianbowhunters.org

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Special thanks to these corporations, organizations and foundations who provide a significant amount of financial support for our work. Some provide support to feed the hungry of a particular state while others focus their support on specific communities. Together these sponsors are helping to feed nutritious venison to many thousands of our hungry neighbors!

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