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## **‘Nourish Our Neighbors in Need’ In a Year of Adapting, Palm Beach Civic Association raises over \$400,000 to tackle food insecurity in greater community**

*(Palm Beach, Florida, January 19, 2021)* It was 10 months ago that members of the Palm Beach Civic Association recognized a shocking truth; one in every five children in Palm Beach County goes to bed hungry. In response Palm Beach Civic Association launched “Save our Produce”, an initiative that partnered local farmers with the Palm Beach County Food Bank, to provide much needed sustenance to the County’s food insecure. Funds raised in just a few months provided 18,000 boxes of fresh vegetables and fruit that would have otherwise been unused and plowed over. Local farmers were paid during the pandemic and the fresh produce was distributed by Palm Beach County Food Bank - creating a win-win and putting healthy food on the tables of those most in need.

As we approach Spring of 2021, nearly a year later, the relentless attack of COVID 19 on county residents, leading to job loss and consequent hunger, spurred the Palm Beach Civic Association to establish a Critical Needs Initiative Committee to address the issue impacting our greater community, and to identify where help was needed. Together with Co-Chairs Michael Picotte and Michael Pucillo, the committee decided to continue the partnership with the local farmers and Palm Beach County Food Bank, and step up once again, with ‘Nourish Our Neighbors in Need.’

The Palm Beach Civic Association realizes that adaptability is the key during these critical times and recognized the need to go above and beyond its mission. According to Palm Beach Civic Association President Mary Robosson, “The demand has never been greater in Palm Beach County. When you look at the need, the critical needs of others, now is the time that we must help one another, and those in the greatest need.” So once again, Palm Beach Civic Association enlisted the hearts, minds, and funds of its members, residents and supporters. The call went out in December to meet the even more severe need for food in Palm Beach County, and in poured the much-needed funds.

Just how much more critical are the needs of Palm Beach County’s food insecure after the many long months of COVID related unemployment, illness, and family despair? Consider this: Before the pandemic, 200,000 residents of our county did not know where they would find their next meal. Sadly 60,000 of those were children. Now, many months into the Coronavirus pandemic, the number of our neighbors without access to reliable healthy, daily meals has tripled. This alarming increase in demand for food has created a large burden on local food banks. In fact, demand has increased so dramatically, the PBC Food Bank recently moved from a smaller warehouse in West Palm Beach, to a much larger facility in Lantana.

To date, the Palm Beach Civic Association has raised over \$400,000. 100% of these funds provide families that are food insecure with locally grown fresh produce, through the Civic Association’s partnership to the Palm Beach County Food Bank.

To learn more about ‘Nourish Our Neighbors in Need’ please call 561-745-4002 or visit [www.palmbeachcivic.org](http://www.palmbeachcivic.org).