



EXPANDING

HOPE

Feeding Manatee County

The Food Bank of Manatee is a PLUS program of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee



Meals on Wheels PLUS
OF MANATEE

Dear Friends,

Our community is facing a pressing challenge: food insecurity is on the rise, affecting individuals and families from all walks of life. As a beacon of hope, The Food Bank of Manatee has been tirelessly working to combat hunger, providing essential support to those in need since 1985. However, the demand for our services continues to outpace our capacity. To address this urgent need and ensure that no one in our community goes hungry, we are embarking on an ambitious expansion project.

The expansion project aims to address the root causes of food insecurity by significantly enhancing our capacity to serve the community. Through strategic investments in infrastructure, technology, and outreach programs, we will:

- **Expand Facility Space:** A larger distribution center will allow us to more efficiently store and distribute food to those in need. Expanding the facility also allows us the opportunity to replace aging infrastructure which has exceeded its useful life.
- **Upgrade Equipment and Technology:** Investing in modern equipment and technology, such as refrigeration units, transportation vehicles, and inventory management systems, will streamline operations and ensure the safe handling and distribution of food items. This will enhance our ability to meet food safety standards and maximize the impact of every donation.
- **Implement Targeted Outreach Programs and Nutrition Education Initiatives:** Increased programming will empower individuals and families to make healthier food choices and access available resources. By partnering with local schools, healthcare providers, and community organizations, we will continue to identify and support vulnerable populations, including children, seniors, and individuals experiencing homelessness.

A June 16, 2024, Herald Tribune article cited, “one-third of Sarasota-Manatee working households are living paycheck-to-paycheck.” Florida was labeled, “worst in the nation for employed households that can’t make ends meet,” due to the high costs of housing and childcare. After all the bills are paid and there is no money left for food, our services are life changing and life saving providing critical nutrition and hope.

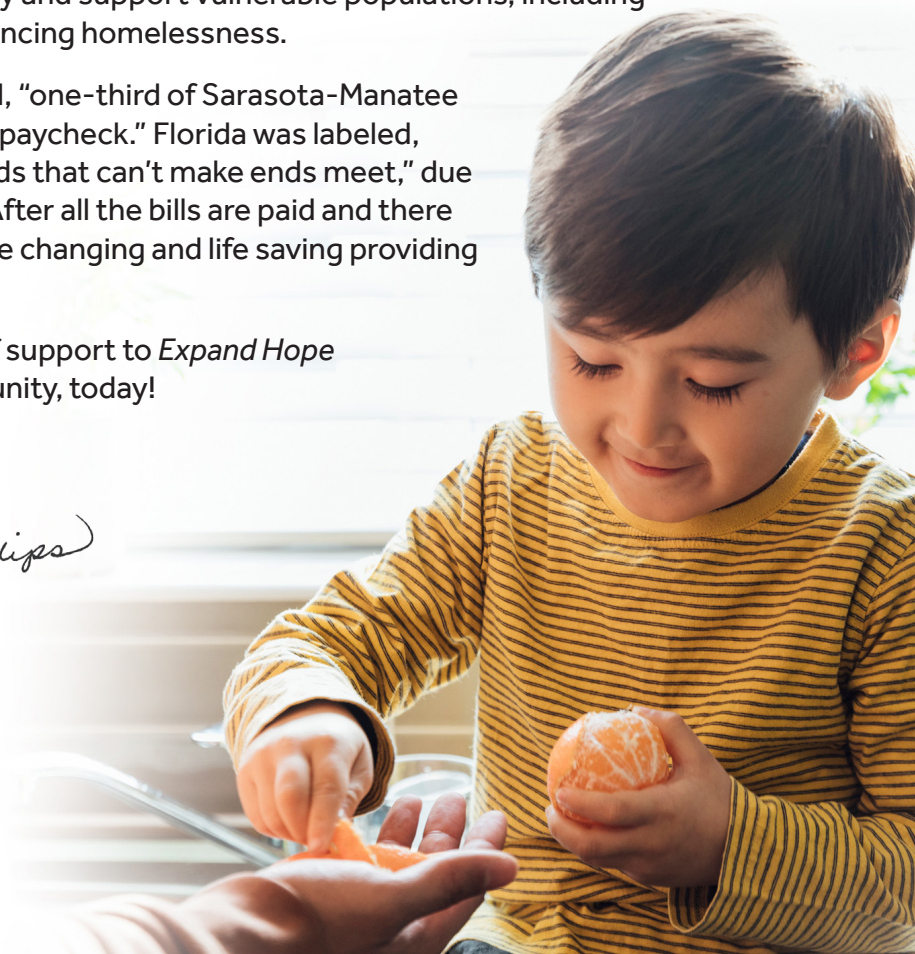


Join us with your gift of support to *Expand Hope* and nourish our community, today!

Sincerely,

Maribeth Phillips

Maribeth Phillips
President & CEO



Almost half of all
Sarasota-Manatee
seniors are ALICE*
or in poverty...



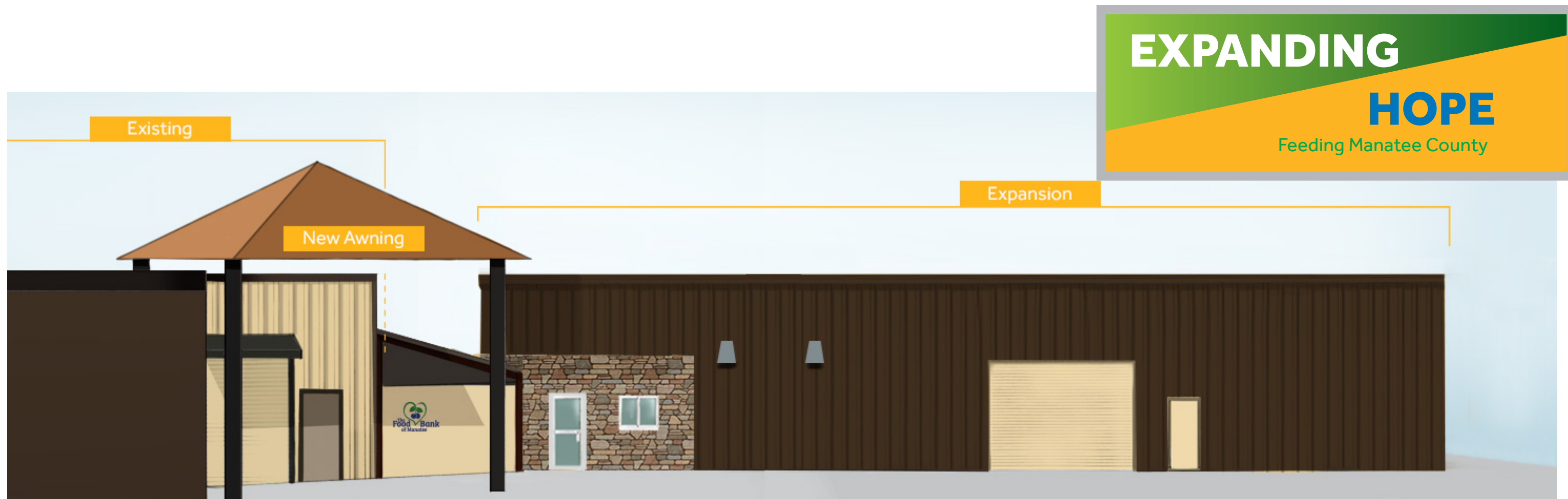
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A third of Sarasota-Manatee
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*Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed | www.UnitedForAlice.org



Our Mission

To assist individuals to live independently by providing nutrition, and caring, supportive services.

Our Vision

Individuals in Manatee County have access to programs that end hunger and promote independent living.

Our Values

Service Excellence: We strive to provide excellent customer service to our clients, our customers, our volunteers, and to each other.

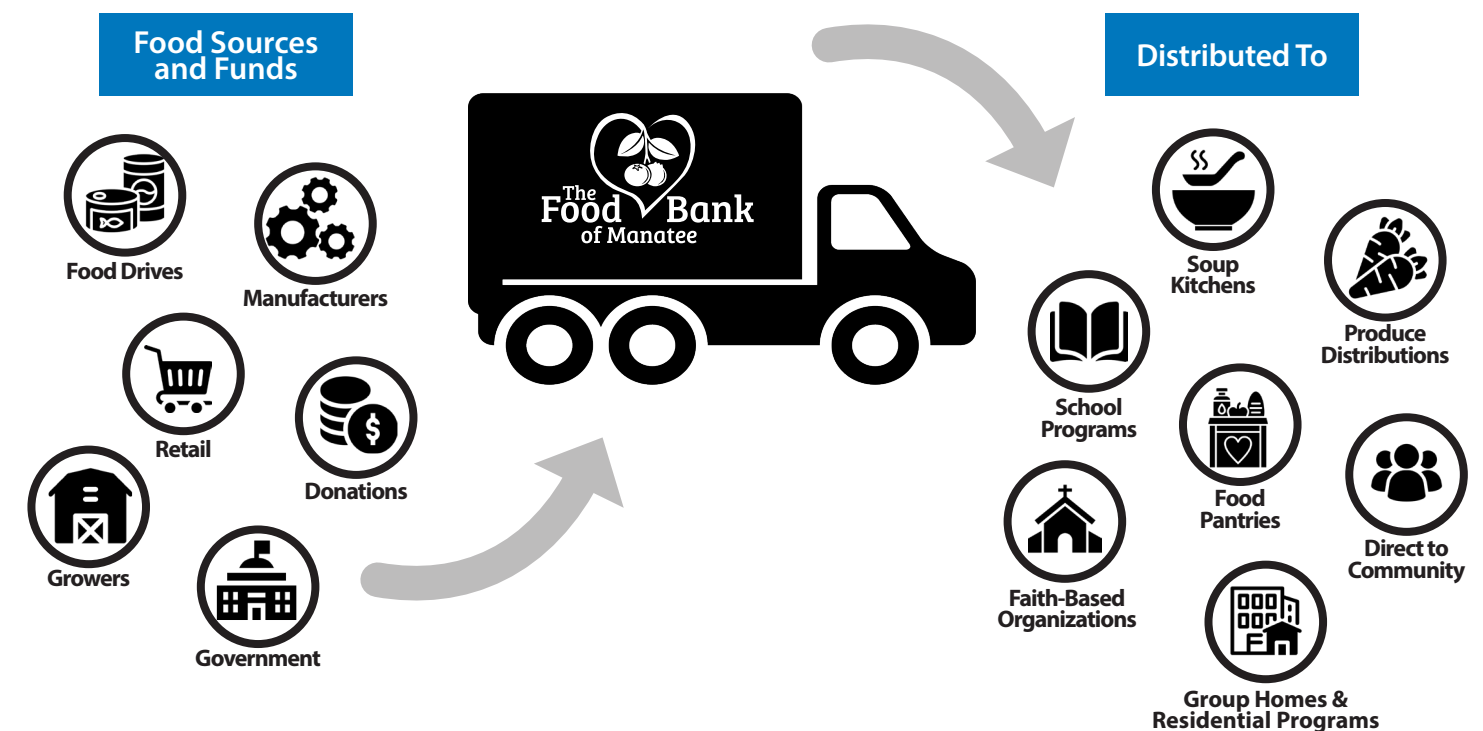
Community: We appreciate our donors, our sponsors, our Board Members, the agencies we serve, and the community partners who support us.

Integrity: We are transparent in full disclosure of our operations and stewardship.

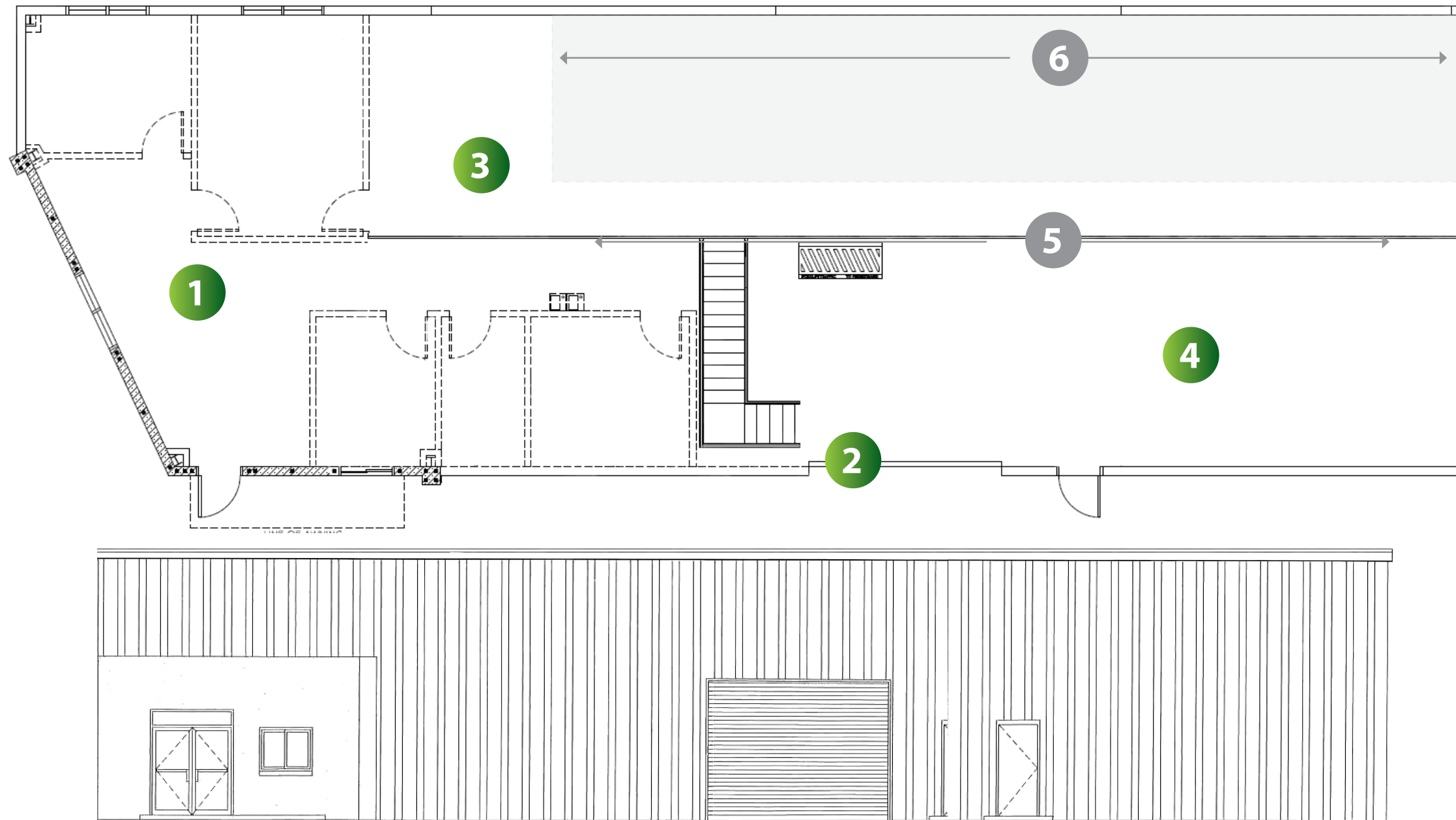
Employee Well-being: We promote respect, teamwork, opportunities for growth, and our culture of caring for one another.

Innovation and Continuous Improvement: We are continuously seeking new ideas and the latest technology and trends to work as efficiently as possible.

How Do We Work?



NEW BUILDING FEATURES



FIRST FLOOR

- 1 Offices & Break room
- 2 Air Curtain
- 3 Emergency Food, Baby Baskets, and Pet Food
- 4 Packing

SECOND FLOOR

- 5 Railing/Gate
- 6 Mezzanine/Storage Racks

People We Serve



Seniors



Families



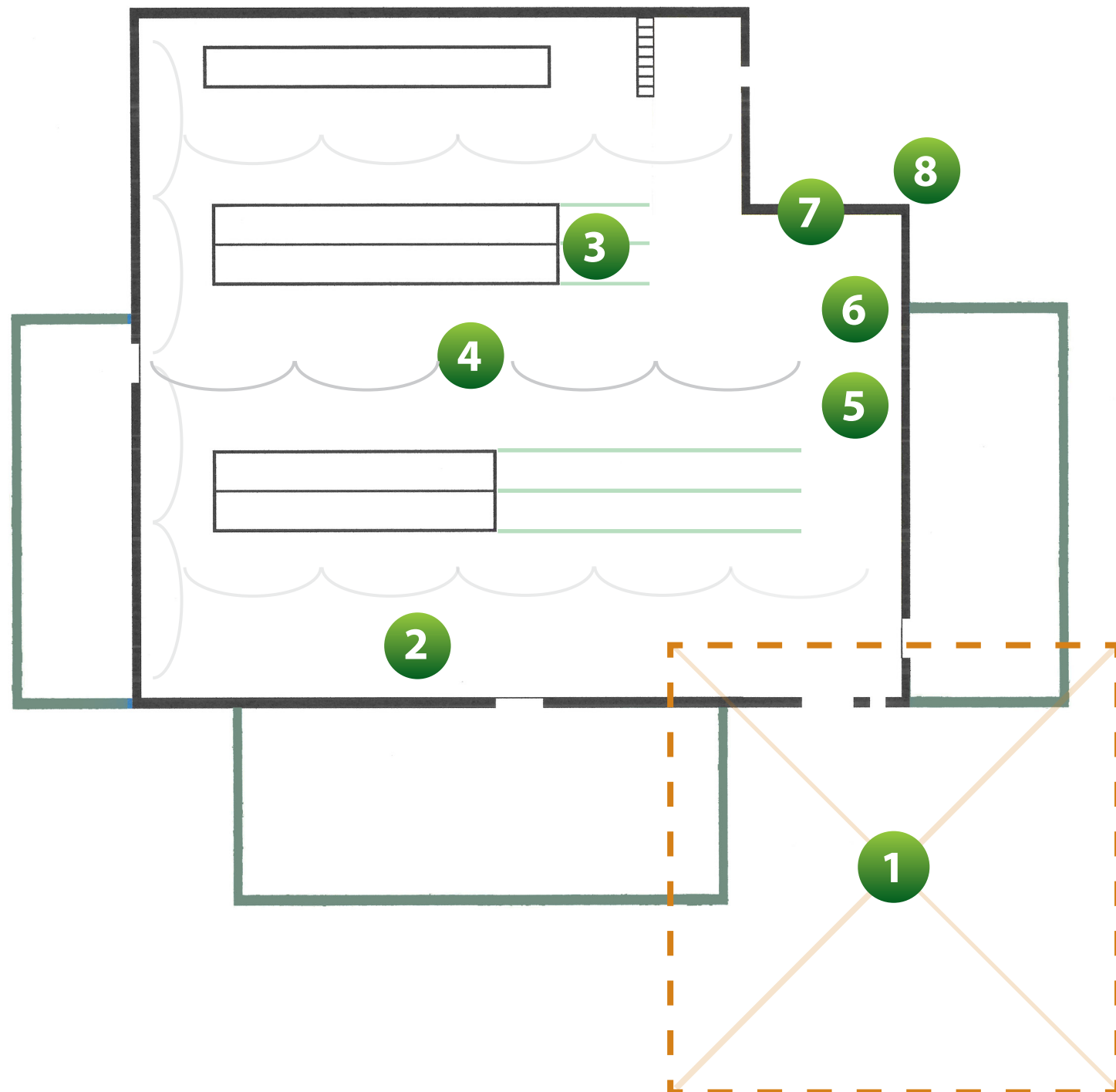
Children



Babies

EXISTING BUILDING

ENHANCEMENTS



EXISTING FOOD BANK BUILDING RETRO-FIT

- 1 Entrance Awning/Canopy
- 2 Standing Workstations in Warehouse
- 3 Rack Space
- 4 Lighting
- 5 Inventory System
- 6 Forklift/Pallet Jack Charging Station
- 7 Air Curtain
- 8 Shed & Maintenance Storage



Impact in 2024

Nearly
3.8 million
pounds of food distributed in our community through our PLUS Program, The Food Bank of Manatee.

Over
57,500
pounds of produce distributed to seniors and families through Produce on Wheels and Mobile Produce Pantry programs.

Over
2,400
bags of supplemental food provided to low-income seniors, in addition to their regular meal delivery.

Nearly
2,100
emergency baskets provided, including diapers, wipes, and formula, to infants in crisis situations.

Over
110,000
meals provided through hurricane relief recovery efforts.

CORE FOOD BANK PROGRAMS

Reducing Barriers to Food Access

Through our network of 105+ Food Pantries and Partner Agencies, we are reducing the barriers families are experiencing in accessing food. Spread across the county and strategically located in high-need areas, our Food Pantries and Partner Agencies are meeting the real and immediate needs of Manatee County residents. Approximately 94 % of the food distributed by The Food Bank of Manatee is distributed through our network of partner agencies such as food pantries, churches, shelters, community centers, and after school programs in Manatee County. Over 75% of our Food Pantries and Partner Agencies rely solely on the The Food Bank of Manatee for food resources.

Food4Families Direct Distributions

The Food Bank of Manatee hosts Food4Families distributions at least ten times each year, providing bags of non-perishable food items directly to families in areas of the community where there is high need. These bags contain meals to feed a family of five for two or more days, or in the case of our Holiday food distributions, include a traditional Holiday meal for a family to prepare at home. These direct distributions have an immediate impact on the residents of Manatee County. The food for these distributions is purchased in bulk using monetary donations so that each family receives the same items and amounts.



Mobile Produce Pantry

Through our network of 105+ Food Pantries and Partner Agencies, we are providing thousands of pounds of nutrient-rich fresh fruits and vegetables into our community each year, our Mobile Produce Distributions take place in low-income, high need areas near Title 1 schools. Scheduled around school drop-off times for convenience for families, these distributions provide families access to free fresh fruits and vegetables.

Emergency Food Baby Basket Programs

These programs help to meet the immediate needs of families in crisis situations referred to us by local partners such as the Manatee County Sheriff's office. By providing food, diapers, wipes, and formula to meet the needs of individual families, these programs provide critical nutrition.

Pet Food Program

Pets are a part of the family and providing pet food to low-income seniors and families ensures people don't share their food with their pets.

Hurricane & Disaster Relief

Meals on Wheels PLUS is considered an emergency response agency and coordinates closely with local officials before, during, and after storms impacting our community.



GIVING OPPORTUNITIES

CAPITAL NAMING RIGHTS

Naming Rights to New Building \$2,500,000

Exterior Recognition

The most impactful and visible gift of the campaign—a true legacy gift. The building will be named as designated by the donor.

Truck Fleet \$300,000

Exterior Recognition

The Food Bank's fleet of refrigerated and non-refrigerated vehicles ensures food is transported from food donors to partners and program distribution sites. A \$300,000 naming opportunity includes a new refrigerated truck and 3 years of maintenance support.

Welcome Lobby \$50,000

Interior Recognition

The Food Bank's lobby will be the point of entry for partners, donors, employees, volunteers, and other constituents.

Food Packing Production Area \$50,000

Interior Recognition

Packing lines for Food4Families, Senior Nutrition, Mobile Produce, Emergency Food, and Emergency Baby Baskets.

Fresh and Perishable Food Storage \$45,000

Interior Recognition

Upgrades to refrigeration systems in existing bread, dairy, and produce coolers.

Food Rescue Center \$30,000

Interior Recognition

Area for volunteers to sort donated food, preventing perfectly good food from becoming food waste.

PROGRAM SUPPORT

Food4Families Program \$800,000

A gift of \$800,000 will provide critical food to children and families during the summer months and throughout the year for 3 years.

Food Bank Purchase Program \$500,000

To allow for food purchases, a gift of \$500,000 will support The Food Bank purchases for 3 years.

Senior Nutrition Programs \$100,000

Older adults are a vulnerable population and many in our community need fresh produce and food assistance. Food is medicine: a gift of \$100,000 will support these programs for 3 years.

Pet Food Program \$60,000

To expand our pet food program to include food pantries to receive pet food for their clients who attend their food distributions, as well as our homebound seniors.

Emergency Relief Program \$40,000

Allows for immediate response during a crisis, such as a hurricane, etc., to include food and water.





A PLUS program of Meals on Wheels PLUS of Manatee
 811 23rd Avenue East, Bradenton, FL 34208
 (941) 747-4655 | MealsOnWheelsPLUS.org

Expanding Hope Areas of Interest & Naming Opportunities

Name_____

Company Name (if applicable)_____

Address_____

Phone, Fax_____

Email_____

Areas of Interest & Naming Opportunities_____

Sponsorship Amount_____

- ☐ I/We prefer to remain anonymous
- ☐ I/We prefer to make our gift:
 - ☐ Outright ☐ Split evenly over two (2) years ☐ Split evenly over three (3) years

Form of Payment:

- ☐ A check made payable to Meals on Wheels PLUS is enclosed ☐ Please send me an invoice
- ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ American Express ☐ Discover

Name as it Appears on Card_____

Account Number_____

Expiration_____ CVC_____ Authorized Signature_____

For wire transfer and stock gifts, please contact Dana Maassen
 dmaassen@mealsonwheelsplus.org | 941-747-4655 x1233

For questions about Expanding Hope, please contact Amy Towery
 atowery@mealsonwheelsplus.org | 941-747-4655 x1238

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