



PRESS RELEASE

14125 S.W. 320th Street
Homestead, FL 33033
www.FarmShare.org

Farm Share Inc.

Contact: Yvette Rodriguez
Media Specialist
Yvette@FarmShare.ORG
(305) 248-3006
(305) 248-3020 Fax

Farm Share and Senator Nelson to Teach Students the Importance of Feeding the Hungry

Tallahassee, FL January 21, 2009—Farm Share, an organization devoted to feeding the hungry in Florida, is partnering with Bill & Grace Nelson’s Student Leadership Forum to give food away to poor families in the Tallahassee area and neighboring counties. The distribution will be held Saturday, February 28, 2009, 11:00 AM at the Walker Ford Community Center, 2301 Pascoe Street, Tallahassee, FL 32301. Student leaders will hand out 42,000 pounds of food directly to families in need for the 17th year in a row. The food will be shipped from Homestead, Florida and will include fresh produce donated by Florida farmers as well as other food items. Grace Nelson, wife of Senator Bill Nelson, will be attending the distribution and handing out food next to the students.

“These kids are probably going to be running things before we clear this economic hurdle,” said Mark Robbins, President/CEO of Farm Share Inc.. “It is vital that they get this kind of hands-on experience with the realities of poverty. It’s not the same as reading about it in a book or seeing it in a movie.” Student Leaders will meet poor families face-to-face and have an opportunity to make a difference in the community. They will also get to see an example of how much edible food we throw away. “Almost no one realizes that we are throwing away millions of pounds of Florida produce every year before it even gets packaged for the store,” says Robbins. “Farm Share recovered and gave away almost 15 million pounds of food last year, down from over 20 million pounds in 2006 due to state budget cuts.” Food stamp applications in Florida are up 43% this year. As legislators work to solve budget problems this session, a 43% increase in a \$93 million program like administering the Food Stamp program is a huge issue. “Farm Share can help solve this problem. The more food Farm Share gives away the less food stamps people need. It’s pretty simple. As a society we’re throwing this food out anyway.”

Farm Share Inc. is a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in Homestead, Florida. Farm Share feeds the hungry throughout Florida by distributing tractor-trailer loads of fresh produce donated by farmers as well as USDA commodities. This program is different, not only because it handles huge quantities of fresh produce, but also because Farm Share does not charge any fees to hunger agencies that receive Farm Share food. Farm Share helps Farmers by providing them an alternative to the expense of dumping or plowing under their “culled” produce while providing them with tax credits. Since 1991, more than 240 million pounds of food to Florida’s hungry, free of charge to families **and** hunger agencies.

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