



World Food Day is celebrated globally every year on October 16, marking the founding of the United Nations' Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) in 1945. This year, the global theme is *"Innovate today. Nourish tomorrow."* a directive that challenges us to look at how modern agrifood advancements and shared corporate responsibility can build resilient, sustainable systems to support a growing population.

Why It Matters:

To understand why this day is so critical, look at the latest numbers from the 2026 State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World (SOFI) report:

- **The Hunger Gap:** An estimated 645 million people (roughly 7.8% of the global population) faced chronic undernourishment over the past year.
- **Affordability Crisis:** Over 2.69 billion people globally cannot afford a basic, healthy, nutrient-rich diet.
- **The Food Paradox:** While communities go hungry, 13% of the world's food is lost post-harvest during transport and processing, and an additional 19% is thrown away at retail and consumer levels.

How We Can Support the Cause:

Here are a few ways we can maximize our impact, both inside the workplace and throughout our personal routines:

- **Practice Low-Waste Dining:** Commit to a low-waste week by utilizing meal planning, shopping intentionally, and composting food scraps in the office breakroom.
- **Organize Corporate Giving:** Set up corporate donation-matching campaigns this October to directly aid organizations like the UN World Food Programme and local Florida food networks.
- **Support Bio-Diverse and Local Agriculture:** By sourcing food from localized supply chains and regional farms, we reduce the carbon footprint of food transit and support agricultural resilience.

If you are looking to get involved directly in our immediate community, several local events align with health, nutrition, and food support right here in Naples:

- **Dudes in Dukes Charity Food Drive**
A grassroots charity effort focused on collecting funds and items to provide comprehensive, full Thanksgiving holiday meals for local families in need.
 - **When:** Saturday, September 26, 2026, at 11:00 AM
 - **Where:** Naples Park Auto Services

- **NCH & Blue Zones Farmers Market**

Support regional producers and sustainable food supply chains. This weekly outdoor market focuses on healthy, local lifestyle produce choices right in the hospital campus area.

- **When:** Thursday, October 08, 2026, at 10:00 AM (Repeats weekly)
- **Where:** NCH Baker Hospital

- **World Food Day Blood Drive & Health Screening**

Partner with local health services on the exact day of World Food Day. Donors receive complimentary juice and treats supplied by Whole Foods, alongside free health screenings. Donors are reminded to eat a hearty meal beforehand!

- **When:** Friday, October 16, 2026, at 11:00 AM
- **Where:** Mercato Naples

- **Global Hope & Nutrition Presentation**

An informational evening and dinner presentation mapping out regional and international outreach structures dedicated to bringing food security and hope to starving children and vulnerable families.

- **When:** Thursday, November 05, 2026, at 6:30 PM (RSVP by Nov 1)
- **Where:** Hilton Naples