



- Font Size
- Home
- Links & Numbers
- Jobs
- Contact Us
- Traffic
- Wireless

[Atrial Fibrillation Facts](#) Get Info On Atrial Fibrillation: Symptoms, Diagnosis and Treatment. [www.afibtreatment.net](http://www.afibtreatment.net)

[Polypropylene Bags](#) NYP Corp Wholesalers - Since 1946. US Gov Agency Approved. Contact Us! [www.NYP-Corp](http://www.NYP-Corp)

[Private Investigator?](#) We're Your Private Investigator in South Florida. [JRSInvestigations.com](http://JRSInvestigations.com)

Ads by Google

TROPICAL WEATHER

[Track Storms - Interactive Maps](#)

[Hurricane Info](#)

[Hurricane Preps](#)

NEWS

[S. Florida News](#)

[U.S & World News](#)

[Noticias \(Spanish\)](#)

[I-Team](#)

WEATHER

[Latest Weather](#)

[Zoom Radar](#)

[WeatherBug](#)

[Hurricane History](#)

[Weather Cams](#)

[More+](#)

MONEY

[MoneyWatch](#)

[Consumer News](#)

[Business News](#)

[Job Search](#)

[Al Sunshine's Blog](#)

[More+](#)

SPORTS

[South Florida Sports](#)

[Florida Marlins](#)

[Miami Heat](#)

[Florida Panthers](#)

[Miami Dolphins](#)

[More+](#)

HEALTH AND LIVING

[Healthwatch](#)

[Healthcare Reform](#)

[Medicare Resources](#)

[Senior Resources](#)

[H1N1 Flu](#)

ENTERTAINMENT

[20 Questions Quiz](#)

[Entertainment News](#)

[Horoscopes](#)

[Lottery Results](#)

[Watercooler](#)

COMMUNITY

[In The Community](#)

[In The Newsroom](#)

[Neighbors 4](#)

[Neighbors](#)

[Community Calendar](#)

[News & Views](#)

[More+](#)

FEATURED

[DeFede](#)

[News Team](#)

## Food

Lots Of Love In South Florida

[Holiday Section](#)

- [Light Up The Holidays, But Be Safe](#)
- [The Best Present: A Safe Tree](#)
- [Tipping Etiquette For The Holiday Season](#)
- [Battling The Holiday Bulge At Home](#)

[E-mail](#) [Print](#) [Share +](#) [Comments \(2\)](#)

Dec 1, 2010 6:52 pm US/Eastern

# S. Floridians Line Up For Holiday Food Vouchers

## Many Lined Up Days Before For Food Bag Distribution

[Click To Read or Leave Comments](#)



LITTLE HAVANA (CBS4) — Thousands of South Floridians lined up early in Little Havana Wednesday for a chance to feed their families this [holiday](#).

[Reporting Lisa Cilli](#)  
[E-mail](#)

As part of the Latin Chamber of Commerce's annual holiday basket giveaway, representatives from the organization handed out food vouchers on Flagler Street between 14th and 15th Avenues until 9:00 a.m. in Little Havana.

Sarah Morejoa stood in line for four days in hopes of getting the tiny blue-papered voucher that she said will make all the difference for her family this Christmas.

"My higher power, I give the (grace) that I finally made it," she said.

The line wrapped around the block outside the voucher distribution location. About 2,000 people showed up early and camped out for days for the voucher.

For Morejoa, the help comes when her family needs it most.



1 of 1 [Click to enlarge](#)

A long line of people stand in line for food vouchers as part of the Latin Chamber of Commerce annual holiday basket giveaway. CBS

Slideshows



[Jewish Celebrities](#)



[2010 Celebrity Deaths](#)

[Forbes 2010 List Of Most](#)

### Food

- [S. Floridians Line Up For Holiday Food Vouchers](#)
- [Food Allergies On The Rise, Experts Say](#)
- [IHOP Stacks Up Free Scary Face Pancakes For Kids](#)
- [Dining In The Dark Concept Comes To South Beach](#)
- [Feds Consider Limiting Potatoes Offered To Kids](#)

### Top News Stories

- [Hollywood ATM Robber Caught On Camera](#) 11 mins ago
- [EXCLUSIVE Fla. Woman Accused In Schools Threat In Court](#) 1 hr 15 mins ago
- [Farmers Protect Crops From Chilly Blast](#) 1 hr 19 mins ago
- [South Florida Shivers Under Record Breaking Cold](#) 1 hr 34 mins ago
- [Search Is On For Mail Carrier's Killer](#)

Meet CBS4 Personalities  
TV Schedule  
Watch CBS Shows  
More+

LIFESTYLE

Clubs & Music  
Food  
Pets and Animals  
Family  
Beauty & Style  
More+

OTHER WAYS TO CONNECT

CBS4 Facebook  
CBS4 Twitter  
Newsletters & Alerts  
XML Feeds

COLLECTIONS

Slideshows  
Webcams

ABOUT US

Station Info  
Advertise With Us

OUR PARTNERS

CBSnews.com  
CBS.com  
CNET  
CNN  
Miami Herald  
More+

SERVICES

Special Offers



Powerful Celebrities

"I lost my father (on) October 18 at 1:20 at Mercy Hospital and I have my mother, and this is for my mother," she said. "I love my mother and I'm doing it for her."

Concerned about safety, the City of Miami Police Department was in attendance to keep order and look after the sick and elderly.

"We have to make sure the police is out here, visible," [Commander](#) Jose Perez of the Miami Police Department said. "We patrol every hour and make sure we don't have any fights."

The chamber handed out approximately 3000 vouchers this year on a first come, first served basis and said there was an obvious difference about this year's crowd.

"I am surprised to see the younger crowd," Beatriz Gradera of the Latin Chamber of Commerce said. "In the past years, we usually have the disabled, the handicapped, the retired. This year we see a lot of young people and I would assume it's because of the unemployment and the need."

Young families in need like Maria Peralta, a 35-year-old mother of two who said she is unable to find a steady job, was there.

"My family... for food. That's good," Peralta said. "I'm happy. I'm happy today."

Those who receive a voucher Wednesday will have to return on December 15th and exchange the voucher for a free basket of food.

CBS4's Sharrie Williams reported that each voucher can be redeemed for five bags of groceries worth \$120.

In the past years, as many as 3,000 underprivileged families were given bags of food. The bags are filled with about \$150 worth of pork, rice, beans, milk, bread and other delicious items.

The event began 25 years ago when the Latin American Chamber of Commerce handed out [holiday gift](#) bags to help ten families. It certainly has grown over the years. The organization now provides 3,000 families with food bags, truckloads of food that donated by several companies.

**KNOW ABOUT THIS STORY?**  
**MORE** [Click To Share Pictures, Video, Info](#)

(© MMX, CBS Broadcasting Inc. All Rights Reserved.)

Going Green Has Never Been Easier!

- [Going Green To Protect Your Home](#)
- [EcoZone: Store Sells Eco-Friendly Paint](#)
- [Keys Women Go Naked For A Good Cause](#)
- [Organics Class: How To Grow Green](#)
- [Florida Marlins Pitch-In To Go Green](#)

Add Comment

To post comments, you must log in by clicking [here](#). Need a log in? [Register here](#)

Your Name

Your E-Mail

\* Will not be displayed with comment

Suggest Link

\* e.g. (<http://www.mywebsite.com>)

Your Comment

1024 characters remaining for comment