



For Immediate Release
5/8/2019

Media Contacts:
Heather Moon
Public Relations Coordinator
Heather.Moon@ACFB.org
Manda Hunt
Executive Director, The Empty Stocking Fund
mandahunt@emptystockingfund.org

Atlanta Community Food Bank To Transfer School Supply Program to The Empty Stocking Fund

Kids In Need distributes thousands of pounds of school supplies annually to teachers in low-income schools in the Atlanta region.

Atlanta, GA - Atlanta Community Food Bank (Food Bank) and The Empty Stocking Fund (ESF) today announced the transfer of the Food Bank's Kids In Need program (KIN) to The Empty Stocking Fund, effective July 1, 2019. The move ensures that children and teachers in low-income schools continue to have access to much needed school supplies, while allowing the Food Bank to focus more resources on growing food distribution through its diverse and expanding network of distribution partners.

"We've been partnering with ESF for two years and they are uniquely capable of continuing the important mission of KIN. These programs (ESF and KIN) serve similar communities of disadvantaged youth and their families, and they serve them through similar, volunteer-driven distribution models." Kyle Waide, President and CEO of Atlanta Community Food Bank, said.

The Kids In Need mission is to provide learning supplies for students whose academic success is threatened by poverty. Parents who struggle to put food on the table often find it challenging to provide their children with the necessary supplies for school. Since its creation in 2000, the Food Bank's Kids In Need program has proudly distributed hundreds of thousands of pounds of brand new school supplies to teachers in low-income schools in the Atlanta region. For a school to qualify, a minimum 80% of the students must be enrolled in the federal free and reduced meal program. There is absolutely no cost to teachers or schools. The Kids In Need program currently uses a retail store model continuously stocked with school and art supplies for grade levels Pre-K through 12.

Manda Hunt, Executive Director of The Empty Stocking Fund, said, "The new ESF/KIN organization will serve more than 150,000 disadvantaged, low-income youth in metro Atlanta. We especially are excited about the opportunity to expand access to sorely needed school supplies through alternate distribution models currently being explored. The newly combined



organization will be able to leverage existing staff and facilities better throughout the year and benefit from deeper partnerships with donors and suppliers. With the combined ESF/KIN programs, all beneficiaries will have free access to toys and gifts during the holiday season as well as core, essential supplies for social/emotional development and academic success.”

Under the terms of the agreement, the Food Bank will transfer inventory and all related equipment to ESF, while also making a one-time financial contribution toward ESF’s initial costs for operating KIN. Additionally, the Food Bank will provide limited administrative and fundraising assistance to facilitate a seamless transition. The new ESF/KIN organization is expected to continue to operate out of the Food Bank’s location at 970 Jefferson St., N.W. Atlanta, GA 30318 until the end of June, 2020, or until ESF secures a new location.

The Kids In Need program is a member of the Kids In Need Foundation National Network of Resource Centers.

###

About the Atlanta Community Food Bank

The Atlanta Community Food Bank works to end hunger with the food, people and big ideas needed to ensure our neighbors have the nourishment to lead healthy and productive lives. Far too many people in our own community experience hunger every day, including children, seniors and working families. Through more than 600 nonprofit partners, we help more than 755,000 people get healthy food every year. Our goal is that all hungry people across metro Atlanta and North Georgia will have access to the nutritious meals they need when they need them. It takes the power of our whole community to make that possible. Join us at ACFB.org.

About The Empty Stocking Fund

The Empty Stocking Fund empowers metro Atlanta parents and guardians of children living in poverty by providing them with an opportunity to give their children gifts at Christmas time. Since 1927, The Empty Stocking Fund has been bringing joy to the lives of metro Atlanta children in need by offering parents and guardians an opportunity to ‘shop’ for toys and gifts to give their children during the holiday season. Last year we provided 34,000 children nearly 200,000 toys, gifts, clothing, educational and basic needs items with the help of more than 4,000 volunteers. In December, we invite qualified parents and guardians of children up to 12 years old to visit Santa’s Village and select gifts for their children. emptystockingfund.org.