

# Foodsharing

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Atlanta Community Food Bank



Holiday 2018

acfb.org

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**“I think you don’t realize that you touch [so many] people’s families.”**

After dealing with cancer, Canveta found help for her family at Urban Recipe, a partner agency of the Food Bank. The holidays are a joyous time for her as she spends time with her families at home and at the co-op. (Photo: Allison Young)

## A Little Generosity Goes A Long Way

In 2009, Canveta had a job she loved and was in the process of adopting her second child. But soon after the adoption was finalized and she took in foster children, she was diagnosed with cancer and had to leave her job to focus on treatment.

Through disability, Canveta struggled to feed her children. A friend connected her to Urban Recipe, a partner agency of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. At Urban Recipe, Canveta was able not only to find food, but also fellowship with the other members of the co-op. As she got more involved, they offered her a job as an administrative assistant, and then a place on the board. “I

think without Urban Recipe, a lot of families would starve. They gave me more than just a job. They made me feel like I belonged to something; they gave me ownership.”

### Fellowship for the Holidays

The holidays at Urban Recipe are memorable for Canveta.

As members of the co-op, they meet bi-weekly and, during the holidays, they make it festive. “We get to have Secret Santa and potluck where families bring what they want to bring. We sit down, and we do a fellowship piece where we share things and eat.” After the meeting is over, members go home with their

grocery items. “They make sure that everybody at least gets something for the holidays and that we can come and get food that can last us through the holidays.”

This season, Canveta will stick close to home, spend time with her children and enjoy a delicious holiday dinner. But she doesn’t forget where the food comes from and how grateful she is to have it.

“I think you don’t realize that you touch [so many] people’s families. I was at the brink of starvation and the Food Bank has saved so many lives.”

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**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

# A Word of Gratitude

Dear Friends,

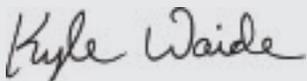
It's the holiday season, a time when people gather together with family and friends to celebrate their blessings. For many of us, food plays an important role in the fellowship and festivities of the season. Unfortunately, too many of our neighbors will struggle to find the means to provide even a simple meal for their families.

Through the generosity of folks like you, we see smiles on the faces of those who are able to get a turkey for their meal at home or a hot meal directly from one of our partner agencies. Your support goes a long way to doing good in your neighborhood.

The holiday season also inspires countless volunteers to help in our mission, from individuals, students and corporate groups who help sort food donations in our Product Rescue Center to local media personalities, who help prepare over 3,000 meals during our annual Thanksgiving Dish event. Everyone is engaged to help people get food on the table.

So this holiday season, all of us here at the Food Bank are thankful for you, our donors and volunteers. Your generous support helps us fight hunger in our communities and lift the spirits of those who struggle with food insecurity.

With thanks,



Kyle Waide, President & CEO



(Photo: Marcus Krause)

## Our New Home



The excitement is brewing about our move to a new facility that will help meet the **Bold Goal** of getting more nutritious food to more people when and where they need it. We anticipate moving to the new location in East Point by early 2020.

The Food Bank is building a new home. Located just inside I-285 off of Camp Creek Parkway in East Point, the future home of the Food Bank provides 346,000 square feet of space that will enable us to nearly triple the volume of food we source and distribute today. Our new home is designed to have expanded space for volunteers, supporters and the community, so we can welcome, serve and engage more of our partners to innovate and solve challenges.

In addition to the new space, the Food Bank will also work with our partner agencies to increase their capacity, create new food distribution centers in high need areas and implement new technology that will help us communicate and connect more effectively.

The current home of the Atlanta Community Food Bank originally was designed to accommodate the distribution of up to 40 million pounds of food each year. Yet in 2017, we distributed more than 70 million pounds of food, and this growth is only expected to continue. By 2025, we expect to distribute an estimated 150 million pounds of food annually, with an increased emphasis on providing fresh, nutritious food.

### Highlights of the new facility include:

- Triple the cooler space, enabling the Food Bank to significantly increase the amount of produce and other fresh food we can accept and distribute
- Double the freezer space for the storage of frozen, perishable foods
- Five times as many dock doors, allowing for more efficient ingoing and outgoing movement of food
- On-site parking for volunteers, staff, and—for the first time—the Food Bank's fleet of vehicles
- A "clean-room" to process bulk food items such as rice, beans, and cereal into smaller packages
- New and upgraded warehouse equipment, such as forklifts, pallet jacks, reach trucks, scales, and shrink-wrap machines
- Greater opportunities for civic engagement, with a larger training space and conference rooms that will help us build on our foundation of strong civic and corporate collaboration

# A Treasured Tradition for 20 Years

This year marks the 20th Anniversary of The Great Thanksgiving Dish held at the Renaissance Waverly Hotel and overseen by Chef Rohan Leach. This annual event brings together our local Atlanta news personalities from 11Alive, Fox 5 Atlanta, CBS 46 and WSB for one cause: preparing Thanksgiving meals for those in need. Thousands of meals have been prepared over the years; this year, 3,300 meals were prepared and distributed to our partner agencies to serve during Thanksgiving week.

The event, hosted by the Renaissance Waverly Hotel and supported by other Marriott Hotels in the area, has been a staple for many of its participants.

“The Great Thanksgiving Dish is one of my favorite holiday traditions,” says Jennifer Leslie of 11Alive. “It puts giving back before everything else and lets us help those in need in a tangible way. I love seeing how reporters and anchors from different stations can set aside competition and come together for good.” “We all stay extremely busy year-



The Great Thanksgiving Dish marked its 20th year with members of Atlanta’s network media – WSB, 11Alive, Fox 5 and CBS46 – preparing 3,300 meals for those in need.

round, sometimes even driving each other a little crazy with our uber-competitiveness,” Randy Travis of FOX 5 adds. “Yet this one morning allows us all to put down our rivalries, roll up our sleeves and tie on our aprons for a great cause.”

The event is also a favorite of National Baseball Hall of Fame pitcher John Smoltz. “I, along with my family, look forward to serving the community by spending four hours cooking and serving those who are struggling to get a meal. It is the

most gratifying and humbling feeling to help in anyway we can and feel blessed to do so through the Atlanta Community Food Bank.”

**“It is the most gratifying and humbling feeling to help in any way we can”**

We are deeply appreciative to everyone who has participated through the years and has kept this event so close to their hearts.

# HUNGER WALK RUN 2019

5K WALK • FUN RUN • FAMILY FESTIVAL • FOOD TRUCKS » [HungerWalkRun.org](http://HungerWalkRun.org)

Sunday, April 28, 2019



Noon – 4 p.m.



The Home Depot Backyard



# A Decade of Volunteering

Sherin Peter has been volunteering with the Food Bank on a weekly basis for almost 10 years. “When I moved to Atlanta, I didn’t really know anybody,” she says. “I actually started volunteering with Hands On Atlanta and this was one of the projects we did. I liked the cause and the way things were run so I just started coming regularly.”

Hunger wasn’t an issue that was close to Sherin’s heart at the beginning, but as she regularly volunteered in the Product Rescue Center, her desire to support the cause grew.

**“You feel like you did something productive and you gave back and it’s a good feeling.”**

“I like coming here and it has become part of my routine,” she says. She feels that summer is when her volunteering impact is most felt. “Kids who are in lunch program in school are not getting that nutrition in school. We never had food security issues in my house growing up, but I can understand how those who rely on school lunch programs might find [summer] difficult.”



Sherin Peter has been volunteering weekly in the Product Rescue Center for almost 10 years. Through the years, she’s made friends with fellow volunteers and staff and feels the impact she’s made through giving her time. (Photo: Allison Young)

## Building Connections

Sherin also has built great friendships through volunteering at the Food Bank, with both fellow volunteers and staff. “I met one friend, Stephanie, while we were volunteering. She just moved to South Carolina, but we keep in touch,” Sherin says. “It’s a pretty good friendship.” Food Banker Bavone Longwa, a Food Bank driver who started in the Product Rescue Center also is a favorite of Sherin’s. “If I see him around, I talk to

him too.”

“I just like the people because it’s very exciting and upbeat. Everyone really gets into it. And in the end, you feel like you did something productive and you gave back and it’s a good feeling.” She feels the impact that she’s made through volunteering at the Food Bank no matter the totals at the end of the night. “I used to stay back and listen to how much food we packed when I first started but I don’t really do that anymore. You kind of get an idea after a while. I feel very involved and it’s very satisfying.”

## My Donation

**YES, I want to help provide hungry Georgians with nutritious food so they can lead healthy lives.**

\$35  \$100  \$250  \$500  \$1,000  Other

I commit to a monthly gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_. My first gift is enclosed.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



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