

Foodsharing

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Atlanta Community Food Bank



Holiday 2017

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“I don’t have to worry about food. My kids will never starve.”

Jennifer, her husband Kenny, and daughters Kayla and Kenya found a sense of belonging when they joined the grocery co-op at Food Bank partner agency NETWorks Cooperative Ministry. Jennifer now serves as the communications coordinator and helps organize food distribution for member families. (Photo: Allison Young)

A Community That Feels Like Family

A little more than a year ago, Jennifer lost her job after recovery from surgery took longer than expected. Her husband Kenny was also in between jobs. They didn’t know how they would pay the bills.

They sought help and found it at Atlanta Community Food Bank partner agency NETWorks Cooperative Ministry in Tucker. The ministry brings families together through its grocery co-op and other programs. Jennifer’s family not only received food, but discovered a sense of belonging at the co-op. “It feels like we have a second family,” she said.

Kenny now has a sales job, and

Jennifer helps lead food distribution efforts for fellow co-op members who gather to pack food boxes every other Tuesday.

“I’m forever grateful for the co-op.”

“Some of our favorite Food Bank items are meats, lettuce, potatoes and carrots,” she said. “I’m forever grateful for the co-op. I don’t have to worry about food. My kids will never starve. If I see neighbor kids who are hungry, I share with them and tell their parents about the co-op.”

Brighter Holidays

This time of year, Jennifer is in holiday mode. She’s already picking up turkeys, hams and hens from the Food Bank to distribute for Thanksgiving and Christmas. In December, she’ll volunteer at NETWorks annual Good Neighbor Christmas Shop, where parents can purchase gifts for their kids at a minimal price. She’s also hoping to organize a first-ever holiday celebration for co-op members. “Some of us don’t have family here. It would mean so much to come together as a family for the holidays.”

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A Word of Gratitude

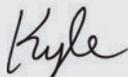
Dear Friends,

This is the time of year when the Food Bank goes into high gear for the holidays. With so many of our neighbors near and far impacted by an historic season of hurricanes, we are preparing to work harder than we ever have to connect families in need with food, community and compassion. Based on the tremendous response of our community to the needs of these families already, we know you're ready to stand with us, ensuring our neighbors in need have a healthy and happy holiday season.

As Thanksgiving approaches, I feel grateful for people who open their arms wide in the face of human suffering. I'm also thankful for a community that will continue rallying for those who needed our help before these disasters ever happened.

My wish for you this holiday season is a renewed sense of purpose in knowing that each person doing his or her part can make all the difference in a hurting world.

With thanks,



Kyle Waide
President & CEO



South East Texas Food Bank Agency Relations Specialist Audine Rathbun and Atlanta Community Food Bank Agency Relations Associate David Brighton worked together to bring help to victims of Hurricane Harvey. David and co-worker Ondreal Andrews (bottom left) spent two weeks at the Food Bank in Beaumont, Texas. (Photo: Dan Maher)

Food Bank Provides Hurricane Relief

Because of your support, the Atlanta Community Food Bank moved quickly to answer calls for help in the wake of Hurricanes Harvey and Irma. In just 10 days, you contributed critical funding and 30,000 pounds of food, water and supplies.

Your resources made it possible for us to provide many tangible solutions. These included sending truckloads of supplies to hard-hit communities in south Georgia, opening emergency mobile pantries in metro Atlanta and deploying staff members to help their fellow food bankers in Texas.

A True Blessing

When Food Bank Agency Relations Associate David Brighton and Receiving Associate Ondreal Andrews were asked to lend a hand at the South East Texas Food Bank in Beaumont, they gladly accepted. For two weeks, they assessed community needs, distributed emergency food and more.

Agency Relations Specialist Audine Rathbun said the extra help made a big difference for the partner food programs she serves. "Many are struggling. When they see a fresh face, they feel supported. They know we're actively seeking ways to fulfill their needs."

"It's just a true blessing to be part of the solution."

David described his time in Beaumont as a humbling experience. "It's just a true blessing to be part of the solution." He was inspired by the people he met who had lost everything and still had a desire to serve. Audine was among them. "You forget about your own loss for a little while when you're out there helping someone else," she said. "You're focused on bringing some hope to them."

CEO Kyle Waide talks with Ondreal Andrews after he returned from assisting our sister food bank following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey. (Photo: Allison Young)

Why I Walk

Hunger Walk Run Co-chair Shireen Herrington doesn't hesitate to share her story. As director of sales for Ford Fry Restaurants, she helps provide some of Atlanta's finest dining experiences.

“Hunger is a feeling of hopelessness...”

But there were times when she didn't know where she'd find her next meal. “As a teen, I rebelled from my family, school, the law... pretty much any authority establishment I could find. I ended up on the streets as a runaway for stretches of time,” said Shireen. “But my experiences were self-inflicted. I can't compare to kids who have nowhere to go or people working multiple jobs on minimum wage. I always knew I had a home I could go back to.”

Bringing Hope to the Hungry

“Hunger is a feeling of hopelessness,” said Shireen. “It's empty. To imagine not knowing when that feeling would end is unfathomable to me.” That's why she's been bringing hope to the hungry through her years of participation in Hunger Walk Run. She believes her biggest impact is getting people excited to make a difference. One of those people is her 14 year old daughter. “Maxine is a huge supporter. I couldn't miss a year if I tried! We can't wait for the 2018 event.”



Shireen Herrington and daughter Maxine are gearing up for Hunger Walk Run 2018, their 12th year participating together. Shireen is returning as event co-chair and team captain for Ford Fry Restaurants, where she serves as director of sales. “We should make sure people are fed. The Hunger Walk Run is a fun and easy way to do that.” (Photo: Shireen Herrington)

HUNGER WALK RUN 2018

WHAT TO KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

HUNGERWALKRUN.ORG

Your go-to for online registration, motivation, information and more.

EARLIER DATE

Sunday, February 25, 2018. Gates open noon-4 p.m. Race starts at 2 p.m. Online registration will open in November.

SPONSORSHIPS

If your company or organization would like to sponsor Hunger Walk Run 2018, call 678-365-4276.

NEW VENUE

International Plaza/Falcons Landing, located between the new Mercedes-Benz Stadium, Georgia World Congress Center and Philips Arena. 285 Andrew Young International Blvd., N.W.

SAME GREAT VIBES

Join thousands of people from all walks of life who are making a difference for those struggling with hunger. Enjoy family-friendly games, entertainment and Atlanta's best food trucks.



Veteran Gives Back to His Community

Wendell is a Vietnam veteran who served as one of the youngest sergeants in the Marine Corps. He received the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for sustained acts of heroism while leading his troops in 57 battles. After serving in the military, he played professional golf in Phoenix and promoted Gospel music in Minneapolis and Atlanta. He's the proud father of three grown children; all attended college and have careers of their own.

Faith in Tough Times

After retiring, Wendell faced unexpected financial challenges. "There are times when you have to have faith that something will be there for you," he said. "You have to knock and believe the door will be opened."

His prayers were answered through Rosaleana's Community Development Center, a partner agency of the Atlanta Community Food Bank that provides transitional housing and food assistance. "When I think of Rosaleana's and the Food

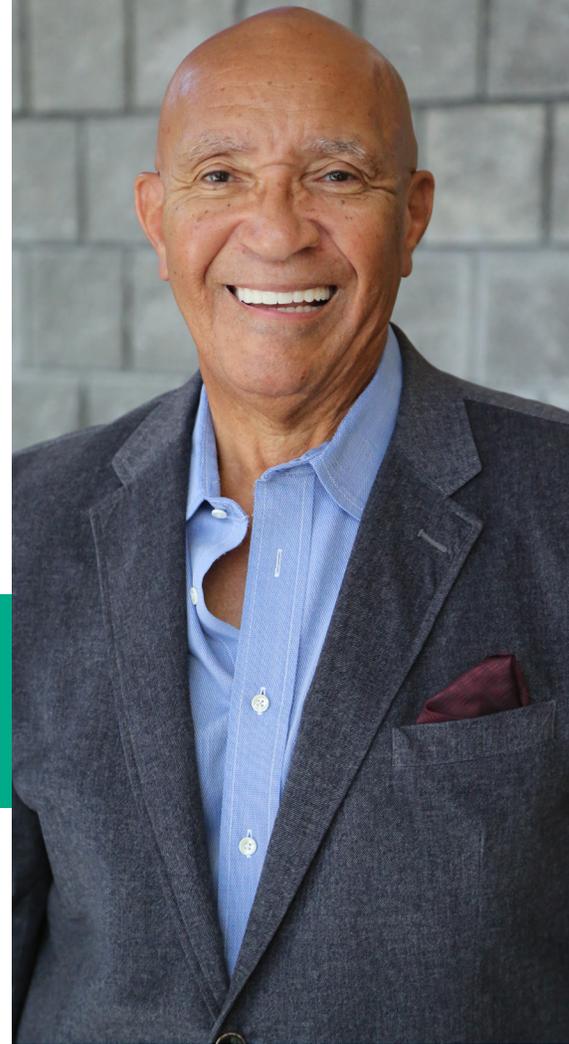
Bank, the word blessing is what should be used," said Wendell.

Today, he helps others through his own nonprofit, Rhythm & Praise Charitable Fund, a program of United Charitable. The organization collaborates with community partners and musicians to provide tools for urban youth and families to succeed.

"You have to have faith that something will be there for you."

This November, Rhythm & Praise will host a community fair for up to 1,000 newly released prisoners. "We'll connect them to groups that offer services to help them get back on their feet – assistance and training in the areas of job readiness, nutrition, education, parenting and more," said Wendell.

"Of course, we'll have live music too. We're there to show a positive side to life. Music brings a message of hope."



Wendell received the Purple Heart and the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal while serving in Vietnam. Later in life, he faced financial challenges and found help at Food Bank partner agency Rosaleana's Community Development Center in South Atlanta. (Photo: Allison Young)

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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Please charge my gift on my credit card: VISA MC AMEX DISC

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Please make your check payable to: Atlanta Community Food Bank | P.O. Box 105263, Atlanta, GA 30348-5263 | Give online at acfb.org