

Foodsharing

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Atlanta Community Food Bank



Spring 2019

acfb.org



Inside This Issue

A Word of Gratitude **p. 2**

Breaking Ground **p. 2**

Countdown to Hunger Walk Run **p. 3**

Giving Through Generations **p. 4**

Editor: Allison Young

“When we don’t know whether or not where we’ll be – to know you’re out there. Just thank you so much.”

Gladys has worked for the IRS for 24 years and has never experienced food insecurity until the government shutdown in January. Food distributions occurred at both IRS and TSA home offices in Atlanta. More than 80,000 pounds of food went to over 2,000 government workers and contractors. (Photo: Allison Young)

Government Workers Facing Food Insecurity

For 35 days, from December 22 to January 25, the government was shutdown. For Gladys, who has been working for the IRS for 24 years, it was her first time experiencing food insecurity. “This is my first time having to go to the food bank,” she says. “You don’t know where your next meal is going to come from. It’s one of those very dark and grim places to be in.”

Kimberly, another IRS employee echoed the sentiments. “A lot of these employees are young, starting out, single parents and they were making decisions for their family. There are a lot of decisions they had to make that they never thought they would working every day.”

Mobilizing Response

During the government shutdown, food distributions occurred at both IRS and TSA home offices in Atlanta. More than 80,000 pounds of food went to over 2,000 government workers and contractors. In addition, partner agencies were ready to make sure the need was met for anyone who came in.

Gladys has been appreciative of the outpouring of support from various businesses and people. “When we don’t know whether or not where we’ll be--to know you’re out there. Just thank you so much.”

What Next?

With the uncertainty of how things will proceed, employees are watching and waiting to see what will happen. In the meantime, they have been getting ready. “I see a lot of folks who are like squirrels and they’re storing up including myself,” Kimberly says. “They’re making different decisions for themselves and for their families. The government used to be a very secure occupation and now, it’s not.”

Editor’s Note: At press time, the three week grace period was still in effect.

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

A Word of Gratitude

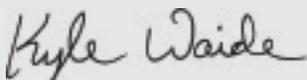
Dear Friends,

A new year typically brings hope and an opportunity to renew our faith in a more prosperous future. But, for many of our neighbors who work for the federal government, the new year brought uncertainty. As the partial government shutdown grew longer and paychecks were missed, more families struggled to put enough food on the table -- many for the first time. Fortunately, with the support of folks like you, they were able to find help through our emergency food distributions and our amazing network of partner agencies.

The urgency to help those who struggle daily with food insecurity was foremost in our minds as the Food Bank broke ground in January for our new, larger and more efficient warehouse and offices. Even through the excitement of the groundbreaking, the call was clear: we must be tireless and unwavering in our efforts to end hunger in our community.

Our work makes a big difference in their lives; but, it couldn't be accomplished without your help. One great way to continue your support is by participating in our annual Hunger Walk Run on Sunday, April 28. You can find event details on page 3. I can't wait to see thousands of you coming together on that day to bring hope to your hungry neighbors.

With thanks,



Kyle Waide, President & CEO



The Growing Healthy Futures Capital Campaign Leadership took the stage to break ground at the location of our new home in East Point. To learn more about our Capital Campaign, please visit www.acfb.org/capitalcampaign.

Groundbreaking for A New Home

The day was brisk, the ground was orange, and spirits were high as community leaders, board members and supporters came together on January 25 in support of our official groundbreaking at the site of our new home. We're excited for this new chapter to start in our Food Bank history and to have your support as construction moves forward.

The event, hosted by Monica Pearson Kaufman, featured words from our governing board chair, James Dallas and CEO Kyle Waide.

"On these grounds, we will witness not only the terrible tragedy of hunger and poverty," Kyle remarked. "We also will experience their antidote."

Achim Synagogue and Imam Plemon El-Amin of Atlanta Masjid of Al-Islam blessed the ground for our new facility, the people who help with our mission, and the community.

"We all come together in this moment with the same earnest plea: that this Food Bank might be an oasis off of Desert Drive," Reverend Rice said. "To provide food to many; food to those who come from all walks of life, all races and all faiths."

Thank you to everyone who helped to make our groundbreaking such a joyous event including Catamount Constructors.

Coming Together for a Shared Cause

Reverend Natosha Reid Rice, Ebenezer Baptist Church associate pastor and Food Bank governing board member, Rabbi Neil Sandler of Ahavath

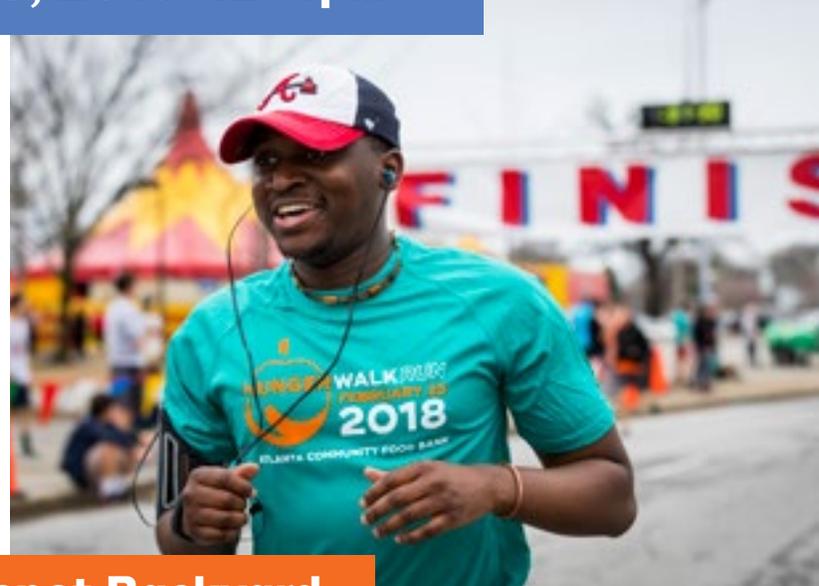
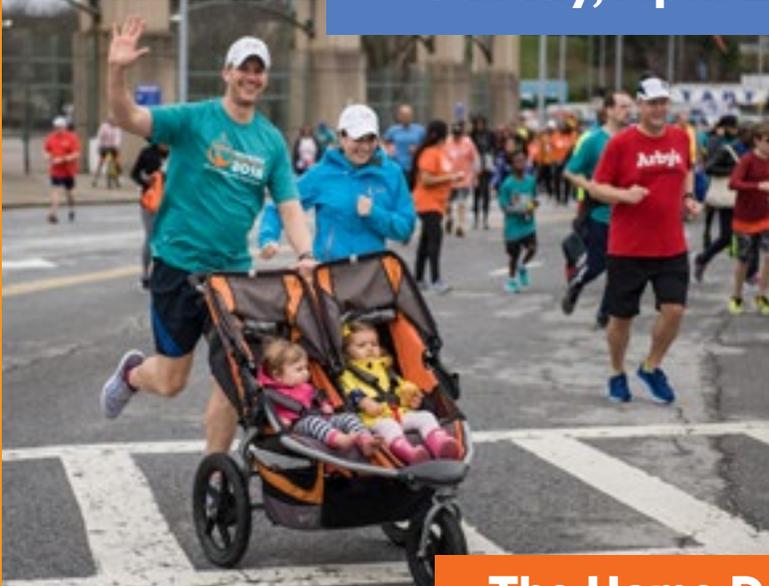
You can help.

Learn more about our Growing Healthy Futures campaign at www.acfb.org/capitalcampaign

HUNGER WALK RUN

5K WALK • FUN RUN • FAMILY FESTIVAL • FOOD TRUCKS » HUNGERWALKRUN.ORG

Sunday, April 28, 2019 12-4pm



The Home Depot Backyard

On Sunday, April 28, thousands will come together for the 35th annual Hunger Walk Run at The Home Depot Backyard! It's a wonderful opportunity to get outside and have fun - all while making a big difference for those facing hunger. Participants will enjoy entertainment along the route, family-friendly games, popular food trucks, live music and much more.

Hunger Walk Run benefits the Atlanta Community Food Bank and five other organizations with hunger relief programs: Episcopal Community Foundation for Middle and North Georgia, The Jewish Federation of Greater Atlanta, In Spiritus (formerly Lutheran Services of Georgia), Presbytery of Greater Atlanta and St. Vincent De Paul Society. Your donations support the food pantries, shelters, community kitchens, senior centers and child care centers operated or supported by these organizations.

Online registration is open until 12:00 p.m. on Friday, April 26, or you may register on-site the day of the event. The gates will be open from 12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. with the walk and run starting at 2 p.m. Visit hungerwalkrun.org to register or learn more.

If you raise over \$500 individually, you join the ranks of our Champions Club! The perks are pretty great, and even better if you raise over \$1,000. Learn more www.hungerwalkrun.org

In April, when you dine out at one of the participating restaurants around town, you can enjoy a great meal AND support Hunger Walk Run. That's as good a combo as macaroni and cheese! Find a list of restaurants at www.hungerwalkrun.org

PRESENTING SPONSORS



GOLD SPONSOR



Know before you go:

MARTA's Vine City Station goes right into The Home Depot Backyard so taking MARTA is strongly encouraged!

Generations of Giving Back

Ever since they met and got to know one another, Todd Vermeer and Samantha Hodgkins knew that giving back was important to them. Both had family who were involved in community and service. So as their family grew with their two daughters, now 14 and 9, giving was important to them. That included the Atlanta Community Food Bank.

“We’re business people by background and nature, so we think of it as a portfolio. And we think about where and how we want to give and contribute in a portfolio kind of effect,” Samantha says.



Todd Vermeer and Samantha Hodgkins have been supporters of the Food Bank for over 10 years. They both came from families who prioritized giving back and have done the same with their two daughters, Payton and Tamara.

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

“It was one of the very intentional and strategic ways that we knew that locally, we could be helping and serving in that way.”

A Family Affair

They feel the impact the Food Bank has had since they started giving over 10 years ago. It’s only more recently they’ve gotten more directly

involved via service and outreach events the Food Bank has which has also included their children.

“It started with just talking openly about the charitable giving we do—more conversational, and more around letting them know that even if our time wasn’t being spent in a consistent way, our dollars were spent consistently.” They’ve included their children in volunteering within the Product Rescue Center. “That experiential first-hand involvement – there’s no substitute for that either

and the more we can do that as a family the more powerful it is because it ingrains the values as well as the importance of the issue.”

“Right here within the broader area, the needs are so real,” Samantha says. “But even equally if not more important is how well managed and what kind of leadership and management the Food Bank has. It is a good steward of the assets and the resources that go into it and has partnered really effectively with other organizations.”

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



**ATLANTA
COMMUNITY
FOOD BANK**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

2816

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

Card Number

Name on Account

Telephone Number

Signature