

Foodsharing

A Quarterly Newsletter from the Atlanta Community Food Bank



Summer 2018

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Editor: Allison Young

“You’re changing the lives of our future.”

Katreina and her son, Tristan, 8, have received food from The Salvation Army Bellwood Boys & Girls Club, a summer feeding partner of the Food Bank. Katreina is grateful for the help the Club has provided throughout the years, not just to her family, but to other kids in the neighborhood. (Photo: Allison Young)

Kids Need to Know We Care

Katreina has lived off and on in the neighborhood near the Atlanta Community Food Bank since she was four. The Salvation Army Bellwood Boys & Girls Club, a summer feeding partner of the Food Bank and a staple in the community, has been there for her family. “When we were growing up, they always provided some kind of meal,” said Katreina. Her daughter, a college student, attended the Club after school, and her son attends now.

A couple of years ago, Katreina lost her job. In the six months it took to find work, the Boys & Girls Club helped feed her kids. “Meals weren’t

what they used to be, so the Club providing them something gives you a little relief, knowing they did eat,” said Katreina. Even when she had her prior job, she struggled to make ends meet. “I used to do the math. Once I pay rent, the car note, medical insurance and utilities, I wouldn’t have money left to go to the grocery store.”

Always There

Katreina is grateful for the Club, not only during the school year, but during the summer when they offer breakfast, lunch and snacks. She volunteers there and sees the effects of having nutritious meals available.

“It’s a blessing because those kids need to know someone cares.”

“There are some kids, that’s the only meal they receive. A lot of kids are left at home with nothing to eat, so to be able to go to the Club and be a part of the summer program, they know that’s a meal,” said Katreina. “It’s a blessing because those kids need to know that someone cares. You’re changing the lives of our future.”

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A Word of Gratitude

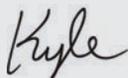
Dear Friends,

As many people are preparing for warm weather and summer vacations, there are families who are preparing for something else – kids at home with empty refrigerators. Children across metro Atlanta and north Georgia who rely on free and reduced meals during the school year often can't access the food they need during summer months.

The Atlanta Community Food Bank's child nutrition program works hand in hand with our partners to provide solutions to this urgent problem. More and more of our partners, like The Salvation Army Bellwood Boys & Girls Club featured in our cover story, are coming to the rescue. I'm especially amazed by youth who step up to help their peers with innovative solutions, like Jonathan featured on page 4. This young man has used technology to develop an app that helps get food to families more efficiently.

I hope you're inspired by the stories in this issue. Thanks to your support, more kids will have access to healthy meals this summer.

With thanks,



Kyle Waide
President & CEO

(Photo: Marcus Krause)



Laura and her family have received assistance through Covington First United Methodist Church, a partner of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. Laura has also participated in the Food Bank's Stabilizing Lives initiative which uses real-life case studies and research to understand the relationship between hunger and household economic stability. (Photo: Allison Young)

Help Comes When Illness Strikes

Laura, her husband Jeff, and their four kids moved to Georgia for an opportunity that didn't end up working out. They had to rely on hotels and the hospitality of others before Jeff was able to find a job and they could get into affordable housing.

Their relief didn't last long, however – Jeff suffered a heart attack before Christmas at the age of 40 and was unable to work. "Our family was put in a really tough spot," said Laura. "We didn't know what we were going to do. Do we buy food? Do we pay our bills?"

To further complicate things, two of Laura's children have health issues and allergies that affect what they can eat. Her husband is also on a special cardiac diet. Thankfully, the family found help at Covington First United Methodist Church, a partner agency of the Food Bank. "The best part about that food pantry was that they had fresh

bread, fresh fruits and vegetables and frozen meat," said Laura.

Some Peace of Mind

Laura has been able to have some peace of mind thanks to Covington First UMC and the Food Bank. Her family is getting back on their feet and she is starting work with a local nonprofit board, which could turn into a paid job.

"You're helping preserve a family..."

"When you put a can or something in a box and send it off, that can make people smile," said Laura. "It gives them some comfort, some peace. You just think you're donating to a food bank. You're donating to a family. You're helping preserve a family – helping give a family hope which is what we really all need."

Thank You for an Amazing Hunger Walk Run!

It rained. But that didn't stop you. Thanks to you, Hunger Walk Run was an incredible success! Over 7,000 people came out on Sunday, February 25, and helped take the next step toward ending hunger in our communities.

It would not have been such a success without our sponsors, donors, volunteers, walkers, runners and EVERYONE who supported the event this year! Special thanks to:

- Our Title Sponsors: Arby's Foundation, Sysco, Buckhead Meats and Freshpoint, who through their support allow us to continue to gather together with our community for Georgians in need.
- Our emcees, 11Alive's Shiba Russell and Chesley McNeil, who busted out some sweet dance moves and kept everyone excited for the day.
- More than 190 Champions, who each raised \$500 or more.

For more photos from the day, visit the Food Bank's Facebook page!



(Photo: Neal Patton)



(Photo: Elle Wood)



(Photo: John Boydston)



(Photo: Louie Favorite)



(Photo: Neal Patton)

Protect the Wellbeing of Georgia Farmers and Families



Atlanta Community Food Bank staff and clients joined other food banks for "Georgia Food Bank Day at the Capitol" on March 15. (Photo: Allison Young)

At the Atlanta Community Food Bank, we rely on partnerships to help us do our work efficiently and effectively. As a member of the Georgia Food Bank Association, along with six other food banks in the state, we share food, resources and best practices to help close the meal gap.

The Georgia Food Bank Association works throughout the year to advocate for policies and practices that help combat hunger and facilitate the work of Georgia's food banks. For example, they helped to secure a sales tax exemption that supports food banks and coordinates

orders for the Georgia Nutrition Assistance Program, which serves low-income families with children.

As a member of the Feeding America network, the Georgia Food Bank Association also plays a leading role in promoting reauthorization of a strong Farm Bill. As the work begins to underscore the important role of agricultural commodities and federal nutrition programs, we need your help and for your voice to be heard. It's essential for the wellbeing of Georgia farmers, families and food banks. Visit www.acfb.org/advocacy and join us in speaking up for people in need.

Student's Tech Skills Help Feed Others

Jonathan Daniel, a student at Georgia Cyber Academy and Georgia State University, loves to code. He started coding in the fifth grade for extra credit and fell in love.

He's volunteered with One Accord Church, a partner of the Atlanta Community Food Bank, since his freshman year of high school. Frustrated with the tally mark system in the food pantry, he challenged himself to create something to move the process along. The TEFAP (The Emergency Food Assistance Program) Tracker is an Android app that allows pantry workers to more efficiently track the grocery products in stock and how much they're giving

"We've definitely gotten faster because of it."

out. All of the information is saved into a spreadsheet that's easily shared at the end of the day.

The pantry's reaction? "They were really supportive of it and thought



Jonathan created an app that has helped make One Accord Church, a Food Bank partner, more efficient. He hopes to soon have an iPhone version and other features to help streamline the process. (Photo: Allison Young)

it was really neat," said Jonathan. "We've definitely gotten faster because of it." The pantry used the app as a backup at first, but started to use it more on a regular basis.

Someone Who Really Cares

His dedication hasn't gone unnoticed. "He has committed himself to developing and being instrumental in implementing the TEFAP tracking process for all families, which gives us more of a timely execution of services," said Beverly Perry, Jonathan's supervisor at One Accord Church. "And it's a joy to work with someone who really cares."

The clients are thankful for the time saved. "They have lives and as a result, they can't be sitting around for the whole thing—some of them have to pick their kids up from school, maybe they have to go to their jobs—you can tell they really appreciate not having to sit around for long," said Jonathan.

Jonathan wants to make the app available for iPhone and continue developing more features. "I want to continue studying this because I really like doing coding, especially when it's something that works with people."

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.

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Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

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