



Atlanta Community Food Bank & Partners To Host Summer Meals Kickoff Celebrations
Programs will be held in Fulton & Hall Counties in June

ATLANTA (May 26, 2017) – Nearly one in four children face food insecurity in Georgia--and during the summer months, their concern about having enough food to eat grows since school isn't in session. This year the Atlanta Community Food Bank has joined forces with a number of state partners to promote the Georgia Summer Meals program, beginning in June with kickoff events to raise awareness about this opportunity for school-age children to have healthy meals year-round. These events will be hosted at summer meal sites and will include a fun-filled day of activities, guest speakers, entertainment and a free healthy, nutritious lunch for the children.

Upcoming events include:

- **June 8, 11am-2pm, Hapeville Recreation Center**
3444 N Fulton Ave, Hapeville, GA 30354
- **June 22, 10am-2pm, Boys & Girls Club of Hall County**
1 Positive PI, Gainesville, GA 30501

In Georgia, nearly 62% of children in public schools are eligible for the free and reduced lunch programs but only 17% have access to lunch after school ends for the year. Throughout the state, schools, community and faith-based organizations participate in the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), administered by Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning. In addition, many also participate in Seamless Summer Option Programs (SSO), administered by the Georgia Department of Education, that provide nutritious meals and snacks to children during summer vacation.

In 2016, the program helped to provide 8.7 million meals throughout the state, and it is anticipated the number of children served will increase this summer. Any child 18 years old and younger is eligible to visit meal sites to receive a free nutritious meal during the summer months. There are a number of options to find a location:

- **Text "FOODGA" to 877-877 to receive results in your zipcode**
- **Visit ACFB.org for a GPS-enabled map of the closest sites**
- **Dial 1-866-3-HUNGRY (1-866-348-6479) to find locations. Spanish-speaking clients may call 1-877-8-HAMBRE (1-877-842-6273)**

The Atlanta Community Food Bank's Summer Meals program extends to 29 counties in Metro Atlanta and North Georgia and is funded by the Arby's Foundation and The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.

This summer, the Food Bank will open 10 new summer pantry sites where families will not only be able to get free lunches, they will also receive groceries to help assure that children's nutritional needs are met.

For more information, contact Chaundra Luckett, chaundra.luckett@acfb.org or call (678) 553-6010.

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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, by 2025, 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 Arby's Foundation

The Arby's Foundation, the independent charitable arm of Arby's, carries out a mission to end childhood hunger in America. Building on a philanthropic heritage that has contributed more than \$80 million to child-related causes since its inception in 1986, the Arby's Foundation is working to ensure every child in America has the meals they need to succeed, especially when school is out. With more than 16 million U.S. children—*more than 1 in 5*—facing hunger daily, the Arby's Foundation has devoted its resources to providing education and access to wholesome food choices for children across the country. The Arby's Foundation is a registered 501 (c) (3) organization headquartered in Atlanta. To learn more, visit www.arbysfoundation.org or follow the Arby's Foundation on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#).

About the Junior League of Atlanta, Inc.

The Junior League of Atlanta, Inc. (JLA) is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women, and to improving the community through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable. Funds raised through the efforts of the JLA are used to aid and support projects and programs of our community partners. In addition, funds are utilized to train and develop our membership to become future leaders of the Atlanta community. Combined, our volunteers and funding have impacted the lives of hundreds of thousands of women and children in the communities in which we serve. For more information on the Junior League of Atlanta, [visit here](#).

About Bright from the Start

Bright from the Start: Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning is responsible for meeting the childcare and early education needs of Georgia's children and their families. It administers the nationally recognized Georgia's Pre-K Program, licenses child care centers and home-based child care, administers federal nutrition programs, and manages voluntary quality enhancement programs. The department also houses the Head Start State Collaboration Office, distributes federal funding to enhance the quality and availability of child care, and works collaboratively with Georgia child care resource and referral agencies and organizations throughout the state to enhance early care and education. For more information, go to www.dec.al.gov.

About the Georgia Department of Education School Nutrition Programs

The Georgia School Nutrition Program, a division of the Georgia Department of Education, is dedicated to building Healthy Minds + Bodies in Georgia. **Our Vision:** to be the authority and resource for Georgia school nutrition programs so that every child in school has healthy choices, every day. **Our Mission:** Provide leadership, training and technical assistance, and resources so that local program personnel may deliver quality meals and education that contribute to the nutritional well-being of Georgians and their performance at work and school.

About the Southeast United Dairy Industry Association

On behalf of dairy farm families, the non-profit Southeast United Dairy Industry Association, Inc. (SUDIA), works with schools, health professionals, retailers, dairy processors and the public to promote dairy foods. For more information, visit www.southeastdairy.org.

About the USDA

USDA's Food and Nutrition Service administers 15 nutrition assistance programs that include the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC), and the Summer Food Service Program. Together, these programs comprise America's nutrition safety net. For more than 40 years, USDA has been committed to closing the food security gap that occurs in the summer months when children no longer have access to the nutritious meals they're offered in school. Just as learning does not end when school lets out, neither does a child's need for good nutrition. To find a summer site near you, visit www.fns.usda.gov/summerfoodrocks.

