

Form 990 2004: Part III - Program Service Accomplishments**Grocery Product Collection and Distribution****• Overall Product Distribution**

The Atlanta Community Food Bank completed its 26th year of operation by collecting **18.5 million pounds** of grocery products from 711 local donors as well as from national sources coordinated by America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network. 10.3 million of those pounds were distributed to approximately 800 partner agencies throughout the 38 northwestern counties of Georgia. The remainder of the distribution (4.9 million pounds) was shared with other food banks in Georgia and the southeast. (1.2 million pounds of unusable product was dumped and 2.2 million pounds were retained in inventory for the next year). Due to a major transition into a new warehouse/office facility in December of 2004, this year's distribution was 4% less than in the prior fiscal year. Over half of the recipient partner agencies are faith-based organizations – representing all major faith traditions. Many of them are “food pantries” that serve the working poor. Approximately half of the agencies are “on site” feeding programs such as shelters for the homeless, day care centers, senior citizen centers, and addiction treatment facilities. An estimated **302,300 different individuals** were served – approximately **42,400** people were helped in any given week.

○ SNAP

While most of the Food Bank's products are donated from wholesalers, retailers, and the general public, **1.87 million pounds** (12%) of this year's distribution was product that was purchased with funds from Georgia's State Nutrition Assistance Program. These as well as other grants enable the Food Bank to secure highly nutritious products that are more rarely donated. These products, however, are restricted for use **ONLY** by partner agencies that serve children and/or families with children.

○ USDA

United States Department of Agriculture provided “commodities” through Georgia's Department of Human Resources in the amount of **2.2 million pounds**. At year end 1.3 million of that had been distributed (8.5% of total distribution)

- **Other Sources of Product**
 - Manufacturers/Wholesalers 42%
 - Reclamation 14%
 - Other salvage 12%
 - Food Drives 5%
 - Produce 4%
 - Atlanta's Table (perishables) 3%
 - Other purchased product 1%
 - FEMA purchased product < 1%
 - TACK processed product <1%

- **Product Rescue Center (Salvage)**

At the Product Rescue Center (PRC), nonperishable foods donated from food drives and salvage centers are inspected, sorted and packaged for distribution to our partner agencies. This project is often considered the heart of the Food Bank and is the most popular volunteer effort (see section below). **4.8 million pounds** were processed at the PRC during this fiscal year.

- **Volunteers**

Volunteers from all segments of our community (corporate, individuals, faith-based, schools, civic groups, government, and court-appointed Community Service Volunteers) make a huge contribution to the work of the Food Bank. In 2004-05, approximately **17,000 visits** by volunteers contributed over **62,000 hours** of labor to our distribution department – most (37,353 hrs) in the Product Rescue Center. But every project/department of the organization was helped – giving about **\$561,000** worth of time (when valued at an average of \$9 per hour)

- **The Atlanta Collaborative Kitchen (TACK)**

The Atlanta Collaborative Kitchen (TACK), a collaboration of Project Open Hand/Atlanta and the Atlanta Community Food Bank is an innovative program that fights hunger and unemployment by reclaiming fresh, nutritious foods for distribution to some of our partner agencies while training 8 to 15 individuals per each 16-week culinary arts class. In the 2004-05 year, **3,317** pounds of product were reprocessed by TACK and **two classes (#12 & #13)** were conducted in our 732 Joseph E. Lowery kitchen.

Atlanta's Table Project

Launched in 1987, Atlanta's Table addresses problems of local hunger and unused prepared food in the Atlanta area food-service industry. Atlanta's Table seeks donations of excess food from the hospitality industry and delivers it daily to approximately 30 of Metro Atlanta's nonprofit, hunger-relief agencies. In this fiscal year the project collected **484,461 lbs – a 19 percent increase** over the prior year.

STMT 13

Reclamation Center

Through a contract with Publix Supermarkets, our Reclamation Center receives, scans, and processes unsaleable grocery products from Publix retail outlets primarily in the Georgia market area. After individual items were sorted for either safety-required dumping, sale to other salvage processors, or return to manufacturers, **2.5 million pounds** of quality product was donated back to the Food Bank for additional quality check and eventual distribution through our Product Rescue Center.

STMT 14

Kids In Need Project

When children come to school with a full stomach and the right school supplies, there's no limit to what they can learn. This realization inspires the mission of Kids In Need: to provide learning supplies to students whose academic success is threatened by poverty. In our 4,200 sq. ft. "retail store," teachers "shop" for free school supplies. A total of **148 schools (2,296 teacher visits)** were given **183,155** pounds of supplies. **141,529 children benefited**. And **55** food bank partner agencies received **16,793 pounds** of those supplies for after-school programs for kids.

STMT 15

PUBLIC EDUCATION

- **Hunger 101**

Through this interactive education program, the issues of hunger, food security and poverty are addressed on the national, state and local levels. The purpose of Hunger 101 is to fight hunger by building community awareness on these difficult issues while creating a vehicle to further the Food Bank's mission directly: to fight hunger by engaging, educating, and empowering our community. In the 2004-05 year **105 classes** were offered – some at the Food Bank but more at the sight of schools, businesses, clubs, and congregations and reached **2,766 different individuals**.

- **Foodsharing**

Foodsharing is our organization's quarterly newsletter with a circulation to approximately 28,000 individuals. In addition to feature articles and commentary on hunger and poverty issues by our Executive Director, Bill Bolling, each issue pays tribute to one or more of our partner agencies, volunteers, and other special donors/supporters. Results from recent special events or projects is reported. And upcoming opportunities for readers to get involved are described. A final section entitled "Cheers" gives acknowledgement to gifts from individuals, honor-memorial gifts, ongoing monthly "Partners In Sharing" donors, gifts from organizations, individual volunteers, group volunteers, food donors, and Kids In Need donors

- **Community Gardening Initiative**

This initiative helps neighborhood groups find locations for gardens, as well as plan and organize gardens to help build stronger communities one garden at a time. With more than **150 gardens** in the Atlanta area, the effort is an going, year-round project that empowers people to supplement their food supply by growing it themselves and/or sharing some of their abundance with others. A special summer project – **Plant-A-Row for the Hungry** – sponsored by the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, used 20 drop-off sites throughout **17 counties** to collect more than **20,000 lbs of fresh produce**.

- **Public Policy**

Understanding that hunger and poverty are profoundly impacted by public policy, the Food Bank works to provide the community and our decision-makers with relevant information and a point-of-view. Our advocacy efforts have created and maintained state funding for SNAP, county funding for human services, organized a southeastern anti-hunger coalition, offered testimony at Farm Bill hearings, worked to maintain national funding levels for the Food Stamp Program, provided a linkage between the regional office of USDA and our partner agencies, and promoted the Georgia Food Bank Association.