A New Chapter

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- Everyone Loves a Good Story
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- A New Day for North Georgia’s Hungry
I recently had a significant birthday, one of those that as a young person I never imagined having. Of course like everyone else I always wanted to live a long life; I just didn’t know how it would feel along the way. It reminds me of the old saying “if I knew I was going to live so long I might have taken better care of myself”. As I am now finding, it’s never too late.

It’s always a good idea to have a health check-up and personal check-in around such an event. A doctor’s visit soon had me meeting with a physical therapist where I learned that some of my severe neck/body pain came from something as simple as how I hold myself. I learned I need to hold my neck and shoulders straight, which I find easier said than done. I remember and then I forget, remember and then forget again. It’s so easy to slump in front of the computer or TV, or lead with my head during those long walks that I intend to have more of. Over the years, lazy posture can become a bad habit that has long term consequences. So my doctor’s orders were simple and clear: “Stand up straight, eat better and move more.”

It occurs to me that this might be a metaphor for our community and country as well. Bad habits of indulgence over generations, a lazy posture of blaming others for our situation, and short term profit making as if time would never catch up with us have all contributed to the situation we find ourselves in today. And just like my personal health, there are no magic bullets to bring immediate relief.

So, what does “standing up straight, eating better and moving more” look like in today’s world?

For government at all levels, it means living within its resources – not promising the public a silver bullet that can give us greater benefits for less sacrifice and involvement. It took the wisdom and courage of our forefathers to create and protect the living democracy we have enjoyed through the years. It will take courage and hard work by all of us to sustain our democracy over time.

For civic and community-based organizations, it means inventing and re-inventing themselves, engaging young people’s imaginations, focusing on the things that build and sustain trust and motivate positive action. It means creating a world that rewards sacrifice for the common good; that measures our success not by how much we have, but how much we give. It means rewarding those who can show impact and quantify their outcomes.

For businesses and corporate groups, it means investing in their own communities to address a whole host of issues that government was held responsible for in the past. They must be prepared for the fact that it won’t be cheaper, easier or quicker for the private sector to do the job right. It means that business associations will need to use their influence to help create opportunity and wealth for everyone who is willing to work hard and try harder. A growing gap in incomes is never good for a working democracy.

For faith-based groups, it means balancing their role of professing their faith and serving the members with a prophetic voice of raising the moral issues of the day, never an easy balance to reach. In recent years the faith community has been the foundation for much of the work of feeding the hungry, housing the homeless, and ministering to those who
have lost their way. But the harder work lies ahead where difficult decisions will have to be made as government programs get cut and outreach budgets will clash with member benefits.

For schools and universities it means placing a much greater focus on managing and holding accountable their own work force, teaching citizenship and responsibility with the same commitment as science and the humanities. They must be about empowering young people and adults to become involved and committed citizens, building and sustaining the freedom that democracy guarantees. We must always remember that unless we educate our citizenry in the ways of democracy we could lose the freedom or ability to pursue our dreams.

We are all exhausted from the politics of conflict and big money, the win/lose mentality where everything gets promised but little gets delivered, where every decision is predicated on raising money to support re-election, instead of insuring a good quality of life over lifetimes and generations. We must focus on getting more people involved in our democracy instead of having a relatively few people paying for the one they want for themselves.

Dr. Vincent Harding, a respected author and civil rights leader has said our collective actions apply to our current national spiritual and moral crisis: “We are citizens of a country that we still have to create -- a just country, a compassionate country, a forgiving country, a multiracial, multi-religious country, a joyful country that cares about its children and about its elders, that cares about itself and about the world, that cares about what the earth needs as well as what individual people need.”

It’s a simple process of remembering, forgetting, and recommitting again. It’s a practice that requires discipline and a strong commitment toward embracing change. Most of all it requires that we believe an investment today will pay off in the future. We must have faith in our future – enough to pay now even if we don’t see the changes coming as soon as we might like. Even if they don’t come in our lifetime, we must have faith that our actions now will make a difference in the lives of our children, their children and the generations to come.

If we believe in the future, we must take care of the precious things we love. We must take the long view even when the short view is easier and less threatening. We must work for others in a way that nurtures ourselves. We must keep learning and growing and be willing to try new things. We must trust our young people and embrace surprise as a practice. We must face our fears of failure and celebrate our successes.

We must do what we can with what we have in the time that is given, knowing that is all that is required of us. But we must act. In every season, we give thanks for our freedom to make things better by our personal efforts. But just like eating better, moving more, and standing up straight, it is an effort that must be sustained over a lifetime.
Berean Seventh-Day Adventist is preparing to host several activities leading up to Thanksgiving. Not only will the church be hosting a Thanksgiving meal on November 18, but they will also be providing free haircuts, clothing, medical and dental screenings and massages that day. In addition, volunteers will be helping to prepare and distribute over 200 food boxes that will include a turkey and other Thanksgiving staples to those who might not otherwise have a traditional Thanksgiving meal.

David Riley, Associate Community Service Leader, will have his assistant, Kelly Lee, checking eHarvest, the Food Bank’s online ordering system, regularly to see what food items are available to be sure they order enough green beans, corn, cranberry sauce and turkeys to fill the boxes.

Thanksgiving is not the only time Riley experiences the benefit of being a partner with ACFB. He has been coming to the Food Bank three times a week for a little more than three and a half years to pick up food to serve his community. He says that without the church’s partnership with the Food Bank, they would not have the resources to provide the high quantity and quality of food that they are able to give to their clients.

For Riley, helping feed people means a lot and is like a form of therapy. “It is always enjoyable and humbling to help others,” he said. “It’s a way of saying thanks to those who helped my family when I was a child and in need of assistance.”

Thanksgiving is a time of thankfulness for many, but at the Food Bank the words “thank you” are offered and received many times throughout the year. Riley had experienced this first hand. He said, “Whenever I see Bill Bolling at the Food Bank, I always thank him for letting God use him and his employees to make it possible for us to fulfill God’s commission of feeding the hungry. He in turn thanks me and all the other agencies for making what the Food Bank does possible.”

Even the clients are thankful says Riley. “They seem to be so appreciative of what we are able to provide for them. When I tell them we don’t have much to give today, they say they are thankful for whatever we have to give.” He said this keeps him motivated to try and do more.

To learn more about the ministry or to find out how you can help, visit atlantaberean.com or call 678.982.0246.

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**A REASON TO GIVE THANKS**

Berean Seventh-Day Adventist Church

David Riley picks up fresh fruits and vegetables at ACFB.

Riley and Food Bank employee Deon Jackson (l) review Riley’s product order.

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**HOW IT WORKS**

The Food Bank currently distributes two to three million pounds of food every month to a network of 600 nonprofit partner agencies that provide food for families and individuals in need. Where does all this food come from? We utilize a large fleet of trucks and a 129,600-square-foot facility to rescue and distribute food and grocery products from hundreds of donors including manufacturers, wholesalers, retailers, brokers, restaurants, food drives and individuals. The products are easily accessed by our partner agencies. They simply view our inventory online, place their orders and choose a convenient time for pick up!

Are you involved with an organization that is feeding people? Would you like to learn more about becoming a partner with the Food Bank? If so, visit acfb.org, and click “Agencies” at the top of the page.
Volunteers Make a Difference

ENRICHING EDUCATION
Two participants talk about a unique volunteer opportunity

Volunteerism happens in many ways. A friend might invite you to join them or your office offers a volunteer day or you just decide you’d like to give back and seek out the organization yourself. At Morehouse and Spelman Colleges, there’s another way. Students can engage in extended volunteer opportunities with local nonprofits through the Bonner Scholars Program. A unique benefit of the program is that students are volunteering with their organizations of choice long enough to learn about them in a deeper way. We recently had a chance to talk with two program participants, Ephesian Poinsette and Jasmine Levitt, to hear about their experience at ACFB thus far.

ACFB: Why did you choose the Food Bank for your volunteer service?

Ephesian: “I work in the Issue Base of Hunger and Homelessness with the program at Morehouse and I wanted to join efforts with ACFB, a powerful nonprofit in Georgia. The capabilities of the Food Bank fascinated me and I wanted to be up close and personal with serving the community.”

Jasmine: “I volunteered at the Cleveland Community Food Bank in Ohio and loved my experience there. I also felt I could impact the lives of those the Food Bank serves. I like to be able to make a change in some way and felt ACFB would give me that opportunity.”

ACFB: What is something that surprised you about the Food Bank?

Ephesian: “I was surprised at the amount of outreach programs here and the community reach. ACFB serves counties in north Georgia and effectively impacts both urban and rural communities.”

Jasmine: “I was surprised to learn about the Kids In Need program. I had never heard of a Food Bank having a program to help get school supplies to teachers. I really appreciate learning about the different aspects of the Food Bank because it shows me this is an organization that really is involved in the community.”

For information about how to sign up, visit acfb.org/volunteer or email volunteers@acfb.org.

Even in winter months, garden volunteers are needed.
IT STARTS WITH FOOD

ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK
Everyone loves a good story. Fact or fiction doesn’t matter as much as our ability to step into the shoes of the characters. Whether we read it in a novel, see it in our Facebook feed, or just hear it from a friend, we humans can’t help but be intrigued when we find ourselves relating to the situation being played out.

Here at the Food Bank, our story is based on fact, and it starts with food. But it would go nowhere without people. People who help move the food and people who receive it. Entire communities are involved, and for that reason, we’d venture to say thousands of stories have spun off of our story. The challenge is to catch the good ones so they can be shared.

That’s where you come in. If you’ve got a story that relates to the collaborative work we’re doing to fight hunger, we want to hear from you! The possibilities are endless. One of our favorites we fondly call “the fountain of youth”. It came to us when two sorority sisters (both over the age of 90) arrived together at our Kids In Need warehouse to donate cash and school supplies collected by the local chapter of their sorority, Zeta Phi Beta. Turns out they’re also real-life sisters, and their sorority has been supporting ACFB’s Kids In Need program for more than 10 years. We also loved the time someone noticed an old bag of black-eyed peas that had been tossed during a volunteer shift at our Product Rescue Center. The peas had long since passed their expiration date – in fact, the date on the bag was 1970! But they got a second chance when Fred Conrad, our Community Gardens manager, decided to see what would happen if he planted them. Sure enough, they grew and we just harvested 50 pounds of peas!

The time for storytelling is ripe because we’re opening a new chapter with brand new tools for sharing stories. For the past year, ACFB’s marketing and communications team has been working to build these new tools. Our marketing materials have been newly designed with the goal of bringing greater clarity to the work of ACFB and how we address the issue of hunger. You may have noticed the newsletter you’re holding in your hand has a new look and feel as well! Not only are we infusing it with color, we’re also digging deeper to convey more personal experiences and perspectives. Our e-Newsletter followed suit beginning with the November edition, and we’ve spruced up our social media presence as well.

The most dynamic tool has to be ACFB’s new website, which launched two weeks ago. The new site has exceeded our expectations by leaps and bounds. It’s clean, organized and easy to navigate. If you want to donate, it’s just a click away. If you’re a partner agency and need to order food, we’ve got a special link just for you. If you’re a person in need of food, the Agency Locator on our site will take you directly to a list of food pantries and community kitchens in and around your zip code.

The new site is also easy on the eye. It’s loaded with photos, videos and graphics that represent the vast array of food, work and people involved in ACFB’s hunger relief efforts. If you haven’t had a chance to see it, please visit acfb.org and let us know what you think!

HAVE A STORY TO SHARE?

• Send it in an email to communications@acfb.org
• Post it on our Facebook page at facebook.com/atlfoodbank
• Tweet about it and tag us @acfb

Special thanks to our friends at Iconologic, Armchair Media, Fain & Tripp and Gordo’s Print Service. They each brought incredible insight and expertise to the table as they worked with our team to create these exciting new resources for sharing our stories.
HUNGER ACTION MONTH INSPIRES A RECIPE FOR CHANGE

How much hunger action can you fit into one month? Apparently quite a lot! September was Hunger Action Month and we had an amazing response. Partners such as the Atlanta Braves and the Jewish and Mormon communities turned out some amazing food drives pulling in over 76,000 pounds of food. We increased awareness about what we do with tours of our facility. And we had another exceptional year working with the chefs of Inman Park Restaurant Week, raising over $9,200 for ACFB.

Perhaps most exciting was the response we received from our new activity, the Recipe for Change. It was designed to encourage people to gather together, share a meal and talk about the issue of hunger. It also included a toolkit to equip participants with hunger facts, conversation starters, activities, recipes and more. We were delighted to see that hundreds of people clicked the link to download the toolkit, and many who took part in the Recipe for Change shared their experiences with us. We were especially inspired by two groups.

Dana Chance, the outreach coordinator of The Well Discipleship Training School hosted her group’s event at the Atlanta Revival Center. They had an honest and frank discussion about hunger. Some of the attendees had dealt first hand with the issue. “I myself am a child of hunger,” one participant mentioned as she spoke of the correlation between hunger and food. “And so because of that, I hoard food. And it’s like if you have gone without food, any food is good food.” As the conversation progressed, they shared a potluck meal.

The employees at Unitiv proved they were kids at heart and took the opportunity to have fun, going straight for the kid activity provided in the toolkit. They drew their own versions of what a healthy meal looks like and had their potluck at work. We loved the fact that they took us up on our suggestion to share photos of their kit in action on Twitter and Facebook.

More good news about the Recipe for Change: The kit is available year-round on our new website under “More Ways to Participate”. If you didn’t get a chance to participate in September, you can download the kit and take advantage of this opportunity to gather with friends, family or co-workers to see where the discussion takes you. You might be surprised.

Members of The Well Discipleship Training School talk about the issues. We love that the employees at Unitiv shared their photos on Facebook and Twitter.

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TOUCH THEIR HEARTS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Give a meaningful gift to a loved one or recognize a friend or colleague, and feed those in need at the same time. The Atlanta Community Food Bank’s online Holiday Gift Catalog includes such unique “virtual” gifts as turkey dinners for families in need, nutritious after-school snacks, or stocking the shelves of a food pantry during the holiday season. With each gift, you have the option of sending a customizable e-card as well as download a printable card to give or send to your honoree.

Check out the gifts at our online holiday catalog: engage.acfb.org/holiday

TIPS FOR TAX SEASON

With the holidays and tax season fast approaching, you will begin to see offers for holiday loans that allow anticipated tax refunds as collateral. Be wary of these short term loans as they often have extremely high interest rates and require you have your tax return prepared by the original lender for an additional fee. Below are some tips that will help you avoid common pitfalls and choose a reputable tax preparer.

- **DO** choose a preparer who has a permanent office and will be around throughout the year and beyond, in case there is a problem with your tax return.
- **DO** ask about the preparer’s qualifications. Tax professionals should be properly trained and should keep up with yearly changes to the tax code.
- **DO** ask about the fees up front, before the tax return is prepared. Ask if there are any costs for additional schedules or forms and e-filing. Avoid preparers who base their fee on the amount of your refund.
- **DON’T** sign up for “Fast Cash Refunds” or “Instant Refunds.” Most of the quick refunds are actually refund anticipation loans (RALs). When you get a RAL, you’re borrowing against your refund, not getting your refund earlier. These loans are expensive and can cost hundreds of dollars. If you need your refund fast, use direct deposit.
- **DON’T** work with anyone who suggests you lie or alter numbers. You will be responsible for errors.
- **DON’T** sign a tax return that is blank or completed in pencil. Sign the return or authorize e-filing only after you have reviewed it with your preparer. Ask questions about anything you don’t understand. If there are mistakes on your return, you—not the preparer—are responsible for them.
- **DO** make sure your completed return includes the preparer’s name, address and Employer Identification Number (EIN) or Social Security Number or Preparers Tax Identification number (PTIN). This is required by law.
- **DO** make copies of all the documents you give the preparer. Be sure to get a copy of your completed return and keep it on file for at least 3 years.

In partnership with the IRS’s Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program, ACFB’s Atlanta Prosperity Campaign (APC) provides FREE tax preparation services for households with incomes of $49,000 or less at over 40+ sites in 12 metro Atlanta counties. To learn more, please visit atlantaprosperity.org.
The Atlanta Community Food Bank strives to supply the most nutritious food possible to our more than 600 partner agencies. In recent years, we have made it a priority to acquire and distribute more fresh fruits and vegetables. This would not be feasible without the support of companies like FreshPoint Atlanta, which has been a partner of the Food Bank for more than ten years. FreshPoint is a leading national distributor of fresh produce, dairy products and eggs to grocers and the food service industry, and has locations all across the country, including Atlanta. They are truly passionate about providing the best quality food to their customers, and go above and beyond to consistently achieve the highest industry standards through their Quality Assurance Program.

In just the past three years, FreshPoint Atlanta has donated more than 130,000 pounds of fresh produce to the Food Bank, and with their support we are well on the way to meeting our goal of distributing 6.5 million pounds of produce for those in need this fiscal year. In addition to food donations, FreshPoint has provided guidance and training on best practices for handling donated produce so that we are able to extend the viability of every product we receive. FreshPoint has also sponsored many of our fundraising events, including the annual Hunger Walk/Run and the annual Full Course Classic Golf Tournament.

Bob Massave, president of FreshPoint Atlanta, first initiated the relationship with ACFB. “We are proud of our relationship with the Food Bank,” said Massave. “I’ve always believed in their mission, and we have worked together to share ideas to build a stronger community. Supporting our community is not only our business responsibility it is simply the right thing to do. At FreshPoint, we embody the value of giving back so we all succeed.”

Since Massave first introduced FreshPoint to ACFB, other members of the company have lent their time and talents. Preston Fletcher is currently an ACFB Advisory Board member and is serving as chair for this year’s Golf committee. He’s also been instrumental in the evolution of the company’s partnership with ACFB. “As I think about the future, it is clear to me that our community needs more collaboration; private, public and charitable organizations all pitching in for the collective good,” said Fletcher. “Our local community has been hard hit by the economic difficulties of the past few years. As the Food Bank has taken on the increased demand for services, FreshPoint’s partnership has evolved beyond simply donating fresh produce. Our procurement team at FreshPoint now works directly with the purchasing team at the Food Bank to help them capture great deals for fresh produce in the marketplace. We are sharing distribution capabilities to capture collective savings in freight and to offset expenses. We have opened up our network of grower-vendors to ACFB to capture any opportunities for new items to help them meet their goals. Whether we are a for-profit or not-for-profit organization, we each have a stake in the success of our community.”

We truly appreciate FreshPoint Atlanta for all they do, and we thank them for their longtime support!
The 25th annual Atlanta Apartment Association Food-A-Thon took it to new heights and delivered a stunning $941,000 and 156,000 pounds of food! We extend a heartfelt thank-you and congratulations for 25 amazing years of dedicated service to the hungry.

Food-A-Thon 2012 Co-chairs Jamie Teabo, Executive Vice President of Post Properties and Tim Schrager, CEO of Perennial Properties, lead the parade to deliver food and funds on October 19.

More than 800 people representing over 40 apartment and vendor companies participated in the 2012 Food-A-Thon parade.

Association Leadership knows how to get the job done, but they don’t forfeit fun in the process!

Association members volunteered to unload trucks, ensuring a smooth process as the food arrived at ACFB’s loading dock.
MONTHLY SUPPER CLUB MAKES GIVING BACK EASY

Gather with friends and family for an excellent meal while supporting the Food Bank. Each month, a different restaurant hosts Supper Club and donates 20% of the evening’s proceeds to benefit Atlanta’s Table, the Food Bank’s prepared food rescue project. What a great way to try out the best restaurants in town while supporting hunger relief!

Thanks to last quarter’s host restaurants: Watershed in August, Inman Park Restaurant Week in September (All 15 participating restaurants: Fritti, Il Localino, Kevin Rathbun Steak, North Highland Pub, One Eared Stag, Parish Foods & Goods, Park’s Edge, Pure Taqueria, Rathbun’s, Sauced, Sotto Sotto, The Albert, Wrecking Bar, Barcelona Wine Bar and Wisteria), and Campagnolo in October. We also thank our sponsors CBS Atlanta, Ethic, Inc., Jezebel Magazine, and Sports Radio 92.9 The Game (formerly 92.9 davefm).

Sign up to receive the Supper Club e-invitation so you don’t miss out! Visit acfb.org.

OPERATION ISAIAH ‘SHARES BREAD’

L to R: Bill Bolling, ACFB Executive Director, Dr. Nancy Canter Weiner, Chairperson for Operation Isaiah, and James Johnson, ACFB Procurement Supervisor, put food in the barrels at Ahavath Achim Synagogue on the eve of Yom Kippur. The Jewish Community truly stepped up this year helping to collect over 43,058 pounds of food in their 22nd annual Operation Isaiah Food Drive. Over the years, they have contributed more than 663,000 pounds. The drive follows the words of the prophet Isaiah, “share your bread with the hungry”.

OUR SINCERE APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO ORGANIZED OR PARTICIPATED IN THESE EVENTS AND PROMOTIONS BENEFITING ACFB AUGUST 1 – OCTOBER 31, 2012:

Allen Edmonds Shoe Company Grand Opening
Apres Diem Feeds the Soul
Atlanta Apartment Association Can Can Ball
Atlanta Apartment Association Food-A-Thon
Atlanta Braves Food and Fund Drive
Atlanta Browncoats’ Annual Movie Screening and Food Drive
Atlanta Falcon’s FalCan Food Drive School Challenge
Chili’s Restaurant Food Drive
George Duboeuf Beaujolais and Burger Event at Flip Burger
Inman Park Restaurant Week Special Raffle for Supper Club
Kaiser Permanente Corporate Challenge and Food Drive
Kevin Rathbun with Modern Luxury and Verizon Wireless 4G for Charity
LDS Church Community Food Drive
“Lend Me An Ear” Old Time Radio Show Performance (Atlanta Bi-Union Players)
“Operation Isaiah” Food Drive by Atlanta’s Jewish Community
Pickron’s Orthodontic Care – Project Smile
Tower Wine Tasting Room
Yoga in the Garden-Free Spirits 2
Well Done!

FORD FUND GIVES AGAIN

Rob Johnston, Parts and Service Operation Manager, Atlanta Region, Ford Customer Service Division presented ACFB VP of Development Sarah Fonder-Kristy with keys to a new Transit Connect donated by the Ford Motor Company Fund this September. The Connect was the third vehicle donated by the Ford Fund in the past year to help in the fight against hunger locally! Several volunteers also joined Johnston in ACFB’s Product Rescue Center to inspect, sort and pack for Ford’s Global Week of Caring.

SHARPEN YOUR COOKING SKILLS AT A SIMPLE ABUNDANCE COOKING CLASS.

Learn the finer points of gourmet cooking with Atlanta’s best chefs and support the Food Bank at the same time! Simple Abundance Cooking Class participants enjoy demonstrations, tastings and a chance to win fabulous door prizes. Each exciting course is held at one of four Cook’s Warehouse locations, and is made possible by the generous support of many sponsors. 100% of class proceeds benefit Atlanta’s Table, the Food Bank’s prepared food rescue project. We are extremely grateful to the talented chefs who donate their time and to The Cook’s Warehouse for donating the class space.

LAST QUARTER’S SIMPLE ABUNDANCE CHEFS:

Chef Chris Hall of Local Three, Muss & Turner’s
Chef Gerry Klaskala of Aria
Chef Julia LeRoy of Watershed on Peachtree
Chef Joe Truex of Watershed on Peachtree

MONTHLY SIMPLE ABUNDANCE SPONSORS:

Sponsors & Door Prize Providers

- Atlanta Homes & Lifestyles
- Bella Cucina Artful Foods
- Cabot Cheese
- The Cook’s Warehouse
- Gordo’s Print Service
- Hey Roger, LLC
- National Distributors
- Sherlock’s Wine Merchant

Don’t miss our exciting line-up of upcoming classes! See our calendar of events on page 14 for the current class schedule, or visit acfb.org for full details.

LDS DELIVERS BIG

In honor of Hunger Action Month this past September, The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (LDS) hosted their inaugural metro-wide food drive. In total, 54,548 pounds of nonperishable food was donated to the Food Bank. Above, volunteers from local Boy Scout Troop 445 help collect food at the Church’s Marietta East location.

Ford Fund gives again.

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Calendar of Events

November

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11/09 14th Annual CANstruction® runs through 11/18 at Colony Square
11/11 Kroger Can Hunger Campaign runs through 12/22 in all metro Kroger stores
11/12 Simple Abundance Cooking Class with Chef Chad Clevenger of Alma Cocina
11/13 Supper Club at The Lawrence in Midtown
11/15 RA Sushi Restaurant Bar 15th Anniversary Celebration
12/03 Simple Abundance Cooking Class with Mary Moore & Don Hackett
12/08 Tinsel & Twine at Westside Provisions District
12/12 Jingle Ball at Philips Arena
12/15 Tinsel & Twine at Westside Provisions District
Jan Simple Abundance Cooking Class – Date, chef and location TBD
Jan Supper Club – Date and restaurant TBD

NOT YOUR TYPICAL HOLIDAY FARE

What: Simple Abundance Cooking Class with Chef Mary Moore
When: Monday, December 3, 2012 7-9 p.m.
Where: The Cook’s Warehouse-Midtown/Ansley Mall. 1544 Piedmont Road Ste. 403-R Atlanta, GA 30324
Cost: $55, Demonstration and Tasting

The holidays are a great time to spend with family and friends to experience the classic recipes we’ve enjoyed since childhood. But sometimes it’s fun to have something a little different. Chef Mary Moore of The Cook’s Warehouse came up with a fun and fabulous Spanish inspired menu that, while not the typical holiday fare, is absolutely delicious all the same.

VISIT ACFB.ORG FOR UPDATES AND FULL DETAILS ON ALL EVENTS BENEFITING ACFB!
A NEW DAY FOR NORTH GEORGIA’S HUNGRY
Celebrating the opening of Georgia Mountain Food Bank’s Boomershine Family Logistic Center

Some of the best things in this world start with an idea. With a few conversations, the idea comes to life, and before you know it, you’ve birthed a movement. Such was the case with the Georgia Mountain Food Bank (GMFB). ACFB Executive Director Bill Bolling remembers early meetings with now GMFB Executive Director Kay Blackstock. “We knew there was a gap that wasn’t being filled in some north Georgia communities,” said Bolling. “Hungry people weren’t able to access enough food, mainly due to transportation limitations.” Blackstock was eager to help fill that gap. “With encouragement and support from ACFB and the North Georgia Community Foundation, we were ready to move forward and get more people fed.”

GMFB began official operations in 2007 as an affiliate of ACFB, serving 12 partner agencies in Dawson, Forsyth, Hall, Lumpkin and Union counties. For the past four years GMFB has been operating out of space shared by Hollis Transport Agency in Flowery Branch. “Hollis not only provided office and warehouse space, but also lent staff, equipment and transportation,” said Blackstock. “Still, we struggled with storage issues. Our strategy was to quickly turn food out as it came in. We were very limited in our ability to handle refrigerated and frozen product with only 24 feet of refrigerated truck for storage.”

All that has changed. A little more than a year after breaking ground in summer of 2011, GMFB has a brand new 20,000-square-foot facility, the Boomershine Family Logistic Center, located in Gainesville. With 3,500 square feet of freezer and cooler space, frozen and refrigerated donations can now be readily accepted. For dry goods, there’s room to hold up to 600 pallets. Two loading docks add to the efficiency of receiving and distributing donated product. And the facility’s Volunteer Action Center makes it easy for volunteers to prepare food boxes. 5,000 square feet of office and meeting room space are a welcome addition for hosting community meetings, benefits outreach, training classes and more. The original 12 partner agencies have now increased to 44. According to Blackstock, GMFB is now poised to serve in much greater numbers. “Over the next five years we aim to accept and distribute six million pounds of food.”

GMFB celebrated with an open house on August 17. Guests included the facility’s namesake Walter Boomershine and his family, ACFB’s Bill Bolling and Rob Johnson, and Governor Nathan Deal and first lady Sandra Deal. Governor Deal described the new building as “a prime example of what public and private partnership can accomplish”. We couldn’t agree more. Congratulations GMFB! You’ve accomplished great things in a few short years. The future for north Georgia will be brighter because of the work you are doing.

For more information, visit gamountainfoodbank.org

“The creation of the Georgia Mountain Food Bank has been a win-win for people in need of food support and those who are passionate about serving their neighbors. Thanks to the leadership of the North Georgia Community Foundation, Founding Executive Director Kay Blackstock, and an enthusiastic, expanding Board of Directors, GMFB has built a program now ready to take one of the neediest areas of our region and make it one of the most food-secure.”

– Rob Johnson,
ACFB Vice President of Community Building
SAVE THE DATE!
THE HUNGER WALK/RUN: 5K WALK/5K RUN
SUNDAY, MARCH 10, 2013
TURNER FIELD

Join thousands coming together to support our neighbors in need and celebrate the work that’s being done. The festival atmosphere before and after the Walk/Run includes food, games, educational activities and live music. The event benefits ACFB and other local nonprofit hunger relief organizations which provide food assistance. Visit HWR2013.org to register for updates.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR THOSE FACING HUNGER IN OUR COMMUNITY!

HWH2013.org
turner field,atlanta,3.10.13

HUNGER WALK/RUN IS A PROJECT OF THE ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK.