

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Media Contact: Heather Moon Phone: 678.553.5967 <u>Heather.Moon@acfb.org</u>

ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OPENS FIRST COMMUNITY FOOD CENTER IN GWINNETT COUNTY

ATLANTA, GA (August, 2020) – The <u>Atlanta Community Food Bank</u> will open its first-ever Community Food Center in Gwinnett County, serving as a local food pantry operated directly by the Atlanta Community Food Bank and its volunteers.

Located at 1979 Parker Court, Stone Mountain, Georgia, the new Community Food Center (CFC) is a 14,000 square foot facility that will distribute food directly to local families. It also will serve as a distribution hub for the Food Bank to its partners in the surrounding area, helping food pantries conserve time and transportation costs. In its first year, the CFC is projected to distribute 650,000 pounds of food, enough for approximately 542,000 meals.

The location was specifically chosen due to a history of high need for food assistance in the area. Gwinnett County's population of 902,300 people has a food insecurity rate of 9%, including nearly 26,980 children, based on Feeding America's most recent Map the Meal Gap Study. The coronavirus pandemic has only worsened the situation, with projections for Gwinnett County now reaching as high as 14.3% food insecurity.

The Community Food Center is part of the Food Bank's strategic plan to increase access to nutritious food wherever need exceeds the capacity of local resources; this center will join the Food Bank's existing partner network of nonprofit organizations serving Gwinnett County.

"Providing greater access to healthy food is the reason why we are opening the CFC, and we're excited to be able to help more of our hungry neighbors in need," said <u>Kyle Waide</u>, President and CEO of Atlanta Community Food Bank.

The Community Food Center was made possible by generous gifts from the following founding donors:

UnitedHealthcare



- Publix Super Markets Charities
- Subramonian and Lakshmi Shankar
- Kiari "Offset" Cephus
- Richard Pitts
- CardioVascular Group

The Atlanta Community Food Bank relies on volunteers to serve our community. If you are interested in volunteering at the new Community Food Center visit <u>www.acfb.org/volunteer</u>.

If you, or someone you know, is in need of food assistance please visit <u>www.acfb.org</u> or text the word "FindFood" in English or "Comida" in Spanish to 888.976.2232 to receive a list of food pantries close to you.

###

About 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 700 nonprofit partners, we help more than 710,000 people get healthy food every year. Our goal is that 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 <u>ACFB.org</u>.