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A YEAR IN REVIEW — ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK'S RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

ATLANTA, GA (April 13, 2021) — One year ago, COVID-19 became a household term and changed daily life for all. The COVID-19 pandemic impacted everyone at varying levels, but for those who were already struggling with food-insecurity, it made a tough situation dire. And one year into the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 800,000 Georgians are still facing hunger — many for the first time. The COVID-19 impact projections state that 1 in 7 Georgians are food insecure, and 1 in 5 children in Georgia are food insecure.

Because of the tremendous support of the community, [Atlanta Community Food Bank](#) is continuing to ensure our neighbors impacted by the crisis have the food that they need. Over the past year, the Food Bank adjusted daily to meet the needs of the community, and adapted logistics and operations to help people in the safest and most practical ways possible.

“Everyone has been through such an incomprehensible year, filled with uncertainty, but we’ve also seen compassion and kindness throughout these hard times,” says [Kyle Waide](#), President and CEO of Atlanta Community Food Bank. “We are so grateful to our community, who came together during an extreme time of need, to support our efforts. Because of the support we’ve received over the past year from our partners, community leaders, donors and staff we have been able to provide more food to those who need it most.”

Atlanta Community Food Bank stepped up in several key ways to serve community needs that have grown under the influence of COVID-19:

- Demand for food assistance increased dramatically right from the start of lockdown orders in early 2020. Atlanta Community Food Bank’s daily distribution increased roughly 66% from the previous year, to 395,000 pounds per day and going as high as 483,000 pounds per day. The numbers – some still being tabulated – are staggering, but all told, in the first 12 months of the pandemic, from April 2020 through March 2021, **the Atlanta Community Food Bank distributed an astounding 113+ million pounds of food.**



- As a response to the pandemic, the Food Bank has launched a free “Text for Help ” SMS platform to assist those in need by. Those who need assistance in finding food pantries nearest to them can easily text “FINDFOOD” or “COMIDA” (in Spanish) to 888-976-2232 (ACFB).
- Throughout the pandemic, the Food Bank gave out over \$1million dollars in grants to more than 175 partner agencies. These grants have supported transportation, refrigeration, facility improvements, technology upgrades and more to help our partners support and respond to the increased need for food as a result of the crisis.
- The Food Bank partnered with nine different school districts, conducting 677 mobile distributions to provide groceries and prepared meals for children and their families during school closures. In total these mobile distributions provided more than 4.5 million meals.
- All while the pandemic raged on, the Food Bank opened its first Community Food Center (CFC) in June, 2020. The 14,000 square foot facility distributes food directly to local families. It also serves as a distribution hub for the Food Bank to its partners in the surrounding area, helping food pantries conserve time and transportation costs. Located in Gwinnett County, this CFC location was specifically chosen due to a history of high need for food assistance in the area. Since it's opening in June 2020, the CFC has distributed enough food to provide approximately 663,556 meals.

At a time when so many people are visiting food banks for the first time, your support is driving the Food Bank's strong daily response. If you would like to support Atlanta Community Food Bank, visit www.acfb.org to make a donation.

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About Atlanta Food Community 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 864,000 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 ACFB.org.