ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK ANNOUNCES 2026 HUNGER CHAMPIONS

Award celebrates those who go above and beyond to fight food insecurity

ATLANTA, GA (September 22, 2026) –– The Atlanta Community Food Bank, one of the nation's largest food banks, recently announced their 2026 Hunger Champions, the people and organizations that have gone the extra distance to help end hunger in our community. The Food Bank recognizes five Hunger Champion categories: Food Donor of the Year, Partner Agency of the Year, Public Official of the Year, Supporter of the Year, and Volunteer of the Year. The winners were announced today at a luncheon hosted at the Atlanta Community Food Bank headquarters.

"The commitment of our Hunger Champions is what allows us to do this work. One in seven of our neighbors in metro Atlanta and North Georgia don't have access to the food they need for an active, healthy life and meeting that need takes a community willing to give their time and resources." said Kyle Waide, President & CEO of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "We are proud to celebrate our Hunger Champions, whose generosity has made, and continues to make, a real difference in the lives of the approximately 255,000 neighbors we serve each month."

Hunger Champions are selected based on their contributions during the previous fiscal year.

2026 Hunger Champions

Meet this year's Hunger Champions who went above and beyond in their efforts to fight food insecurity, making a significant impact on those in need across metro Atlanta and north Georgia.

Food Donor of the Year: Target Stores and Distribution Centers

The Food Bank's partnership with Target Stores and Distribution Centers has grown tremendously over the past several years. Last year alone, they donated 3,152,724 pounds of food. They are an exceptional partner in the fight against hunger – consistently communicating, and identifying new opportunities to increase food donations at the store level. Target's collaboration and commitment have made the retail donation process more seamless, helping the Food Bank better serve neighbors in need.

Partner Agency of the Year: Solidarity Sandy Springs

Serving over 32,000 shoppers annually and distributing 1,101,198 pounds of food last year, Solidarity Sandy Springs has made a significant impact in north Fulton County. Their client choice model offers culturally preferred foods and spices for a

diverse community. The pantry also runs programs built for the whole family, such as fulfilling holiday wish lists for all members of the household and a Mother's Day store where children can shop for gifts. Solidarity Sandy Springs is committed to helping end hunger and serving the whole person in a way that is compassionate, warm, and dignity led.

Public Official of the Year: Mayor Andre Dickens

City of Atlanta Mayor Andre Dickens' support made a tremendous impact on the Atlanta Community Food Bank this past year. As Board Chair of Invest Atlanta, Mayor Dickens helped champion funding efforts for the Food Bank through the Atlanta Food Access Catalyst Grant and the Hollowell/Martin Luther King TAD. His leadership was instrumental in expediting the opening and operation of the Food Bank's Community Food Center – Atlanta which currently serves more than 135 households daily and distributed 1.9 million pounds of food last year. Mayor Dickens also joined Food Bank President and CEO Kyle Waide and Nutrition Programs Manager, Kristen Elliott, to lead a Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) cooking demonstration for seniors, demonstrating his commitment to advancing programs that uplift and empower Atlanta's citizens.

Supporter of the Year: Takeda Pharmaceutical

Takeda - a global, R&D-driven biopharmaceutical company - is a vital partner in the Food Bank's efforts to increase access to healthy, nutritious food across our network. Their generous multi-year support has made a tremendous impact, allowing the Food Bank to launch and scale its Community Food Center model, dramatically increasing food access and improving the service experience for neighbors in underserved communities. Their long-standing partnership has helped ensure the Food Bank is equipped to meet moments of increased need and is part of the company's generational promise to improve the lives of patients and communities for a healthier world.

Volunteer of the Year: Mickay Hall

Mickay Hall began volunteering with the Atlanta Community Food Bank in 2019 and became a regular presence in 2023. He serves at least twice a week at the Community Food Center - Marietta, sometimes up to four days, and has contributed more than 1,200 volunteer hours. Mickay helps train other volunteers and knows the operations of the Community Food Center inside and out, ensuring neighbors always have an exceptional experience. Many of the neighbors who interact with Mickay at the CFC - Marietta have shared heartfelt praise for his kindness and support.

“We served more neighbors this year than ever before, thanks in large part to our Hunger Champions,” continued Waide. “Each day, these dedicated Champions bring us closer to ending hunger in Atlanta and this is our chance to recognize them.”

The Atlanta Community Food Bank is the Southeast's largest food bank and serves as the distribution hub for a network of 700 community-based partners, working across 29 counties, to fight hunger and improve food access for more than 900,000 food insecure neighbors across metro Atlanta and north Georgia.

For more information about the Atlanta Community Food Bank or to learn how you can help, visit acfb.org.

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. Through more than 700 community-based, nonprofit partners in 29 counties, we help thousands of families, children, and seniors 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. In 2023, the Atlanta Community Food Bank distributed its one billionth meal. Join us at ACFB.org.

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Media Contact:
Media@acfb.org