

**Heading The Call**

Requests for food assistance increased significantly due to the economic upheaval caused by the pandemic



**1 in 7**  
food insecure  
**Georgians** in our  
service area



**1 in 5**  
food insecure  
**children** in our  
service area



**35%**  
of pantry visitors  
sought help for  
the first time



**15,000+**  
searches for  
nearby pantries  
via web or text



**12,000+**  
assistance  
inquiries by  
phone

**Distributing More Food**

Our average monthly food distribution increased over 60% during the pandemic, peaking at a record 12 million pounds in October



**113+**  
**MILLION**  
Pounds  
Distributed



**91+**  
**MILLION**  
Meals



**305%**  
Increase in Food  
Purchasing  
Spend



**60%**  
of Distributed  
Food Fresh  
or Frozen



**8,000**  
Hours of OT Worked  
by our Essential  
Warehouse Crew

**Increasing Access**

As our network stretched to meet the increased demand, we mobilized thousands of pop-up pantries to increase access and serve more families



**2,000+**  
mobile  
pantries



**21+**  
**MILLION**  
meals



**550,000+**  
families  
served



**670+**  
school  
distributions



**9**  
school  
districts



**4.5+**  
**MILLION**  
school meals

**Strengthening  
Our Network**

We issued grants to partner agencies to help them adopt new distribution methods, purchase equipment to increase fresh food handling, and serve more families.



**175+**  
capacity grants  
**\$1**  
**MILLION**

**Engaging  
More Partners**

With increased awareness of pandemic-related hunger, more caring members of our community engaged with our mission: individuals, families, foundations, companies and more stepped up to help



**“Everybody’s  
going through  
things right now.  
But it’s gonna  
be all right.”**

## Ruth's Story

Ruth moved to Atlanta a little over a year ago and began volunteering regularly with Malachi's Storehouse, a partner agency of the Food Bank. What she didn't realize was that she'd need assistance from them when COVID hit.

A bartender and actress, Ruth found herself and many neighbors trying to make ends meet when she was furloughed from her job. But the community she found at Malachi's helped her pull through.

"Being a bartender was always kind of scary because you don't know when you're going back to work. When you finally did, you're not even making a quarter of what you were before. So you're barely holding on, but you see it so much in this community of everybody just trying to make every day worth it."

Ruth is back to work, but things are still tenuous. And not just for her.



Ruth will bring food boxes to her neighbors that aren't able to get to a pantry easily.

"A lot of us will take extra boxes to neighbors who can't get off work or have kids who are in school." Between her and her neighbors, they all help one another out by cooking and sharing. "The three people [living] below me are all out of work and one neighbor with three kids was being threatened with eviction. I have the means to be able to pull together what we have."

Despite the hardships, Ruth thinks that things are moving toward something better.

"As much as COVID hit and it wasn't something that was great, what I have seen is how much community has pulled together and how people are working together and I feel like that's something kind of cool to start 2021 off with because everyone's on this equal playing field now and people are willing to help each other."



## The Road Ahead

We expect the increased need for food assistance across our service area to continue for the foreseeable future; and, we will continue to meet the need with creativity, agility and speed: procuring more nutritious food, building new partnerships that increase access to food,

advocating for stronger federal and state nutrition programs, and maximizing this moment of heightened attention on our community's hunger crisis to rally even more people to join our mission.

