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**ATLANTA COMMUNITY FOOD BANK EXPERIENCES A 300% INCREASE  
IN HOLIDAY MEAL REQUESTS**

*Food Bank will Celebrate the 22<sup>nd</sup> Annual Thanksgiving Dish Differently Due To COVID-19*

**ATLANTA, GA**— On Tuesday, November 24th, the [Atlanta Community Food Bank](#) will host its 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Thanksgiving Dish. The event will take place at the [Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center](#) where the Food Bank and its partner agencies will have the opportunity to celebrate the true meaning of the season— giving back. Together with Marriott's Executive Chef, [Rohan Leach](#), the team will cook and prepare 3,500 Thanksgiving meals that will be distributed across its 29 county service area.

While many look forward to the holidays as a joyful time, COVID-19 has even further impacted the reality of food insecurity for one in eight people in Georgia. The Food Bank has seen a 300% increase in inquiries from people seeking food assistance. Over four million pounds of food have been distributed via special COVID-19 mobile pantries. For the past 21 years, the Food Bank has been joined by local journalists and other guests to provide Thanksgiving meals for the families, children and seniors who rely on Georgia's pantries and food service programs for nutrition. In its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, however, due to COVID-19 regulations, the Food Bank is instead asking for support and participation through a social media campaign.

"Our 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Thanksgiving Dish looks a little different this year due to safety and the economic effects of COVID-19," says [Kyle Waide](#), President and CEO of the Atlanta Community Food Bank. "But it's during hard times like these that it's even more important to give back. Our wonderful partnership with the Renaissance Atlanta Waverly Hotel & Convention Center allows us to prepare these special holiday meals for children, families and seniors in our community. We hope that these meals bring a sense of normalcy to Georgians who are in need this holiday season."

In lieu of traditional on-site meal prep assistance, The Atlanta Community Food Bank is asking for social media support through a campaign where home cooks can "snap peas," a ceremonial ritual to kick off the event. Participants can share their images of the peas that would have been used for the poached green beans, to their Thanksgiving cooking stories to raise awareness of the Food Bank's mission to end food insecurity. Social media users are invited to share their pictures with by tagging #ACFB to join in on the fun and contribute to the spirit of giving back during the holiday season.

The 2020 Thanksgiving Dish will benefit the following local Food Bank partner agencies: Atlanta Rescue, Atlanta Union Mission - Sister's House, Shepherd's Inn, Making Away Housing, Grace Community Fellowship Church, Evolution Center, Atlanta Harm Reduction, Salvation



Army Red Shield, Gateway Center, Ministerio Shalom, Trinity House, CHOICES, Early Learning Scholars & Family Services, Inc, and Korean American Senior Citizens League.

Traditional holiday staples will make up the menu, including items such as: more than 1,753 pounds of turkey breast, 3,500 dinner rolls, 70 gallons of giblet gravy, 288 cans of cranberry sauce, 600 pounds of poached green beans and more than 480 pumpkin pies.

*This event is limited to members of the media. If you are a member of the media and would like to attend the 22nd annual Thanksgiving Dish, please reach out to Heather Moon, [heather.moon@acfb.org](mailto:heather.moon@acfb.org) or call 678.553.5967, for more information.*

For those that are looking for help this holiday season, the Food Bank's Text for help SMS function can assist. Please text '**FindFood**' (no space) in English or '**Comida**' in Spanish to **888-976-2232 (ACFB)**, this will prompt those in need for their zip code or address to enable location services for food pantries closest to them.

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#### **About the 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 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 [ACFB.org](http://ACFB.org).