

FALL NEWSLETTER



107 Walter Davis Drive | Birmingham, Alabama 35209 | 205-942-8911 | www.FeedingAL.org

2016 FACTS & FIGURES: A Snapshot of Our Year So Far



3.7 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD RECOVERED THROUGH OUR RETAIL DONATION PROGRAM, AN 8% YEAR-TO-DATE INCREASE



A 22% YEAR-TO-DATE INCREASE

16,400 MEALS PROVIDED EACH MONTH OF THE SCHOOL YEAR THROUGH THE WEEKENDERS BACKPACK PROGRAM, A 58% YEAR-TO-DATE INCREASE



1 MILLION+ POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE DISTRIBUTED THROUGH OUR PRODUCE IN PANTRIES 2016 INITIATIVE

4,107 HOURS CONTRIBUTED BY 1,278 VOLUNTEERS

289 SNAP APPLICATIONS COLLECTED FOR A YIELD OF 239,902 MEALS



A WORD FROM DEB



With school starting, I am reminded that we are rapidly approaching the end of 2016! It is difficult to imagine where the first eight months of the year have gone. When I think on this more, however, I realize that the months have flown by because our small staff of 23 has worked harder than ever to respond to the growing problem of food insecurity across Central Alabama. With the support of our amazing network of 230+ partner agencies, dedicated volunteers, tireless community partners and generous

donors, the food bank will provide record breaking levels of healthy, nutritious food to individuals in need across Central Alabama in 2016. Our staff has risen to the challenge by looking for innovative ways to improve upon old systems and lacking such systems, have developed new and creative ways to support those that were previously beyond the reach of our network. We are accomplishing this record level of service while complying fully with increasingly complex food safety regulations. Not only are we complying with these requirements, but, as reflected by a recent Superior rating by America's most stringent food safety inspectors AIB, we are excelling. As we dash towards year's end, we are motivated by the families whose lives we have the privilege of touching and inspired by the knowledge that the end of this year brings new leadership to the food bank. On October 3rd, a new Executive Director, Kathryn Strickland, will be joining our staff. Already a highly respected and seasoned food bank executive, we look forward to following her leadership into 2017 and what we know will be an exciting time for the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama!

Deb White, Interim Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Debora C. White".

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BRAND NEW PROGRAMS


weekenders+
FAMILY MARKET


produce in pantries



FOOD WASTE & HUNGER: *We're Tackling Both Through Our*

SOME FOOD FOR THOUGHT:

- \$1.3 billion per year is spent on sending food to landfills.
- Food waste makes up 21% of landfill waste in the United States.
- As much as 40% of food produced in America gets thrown out.
- This month you'll toss 24 pounds of food in the trash.

WHAT WE'RE DOING ABOUT IT:

Our Retail Food Recovery Program saved over 5.3 million pounds of consumable food from landfills last year. Working with 30+ grocery retailers in our service area, we collect and distribute excess edible food that cannot be sold. Already this year, we have rescued and distributed over 3.3 million pounds, exceeding last year's August figures by over 209,000 pounds. Thanks to our retail and community partners, we're able to feed our community while also reducing our carbon footprint.

FROM ZERO TO ONE MILLION:

Our New Produce in Pantries Project



Many of our clients live in low-income areas lacking access to a community grocery store with nutritious fruits and vegetables. Other clients spend limited financial resources on high-sodium canned goods, as they are less expensive and last longer than fresh, nutrient-dense produce. Without these nutrients, people are more likely to suffer from chronic illnesses that significantly lower their potential for productivity. Wanting to equip our clients with nutritional resources for success, we know that fighting hunger is not enough in itself. While it remains our main focus to provide food for the hungry, we are now prioritizing healthy options.

Enter the Produce in Pantries 2016 project. Using a Feeding America program and fostering his own relationships with wholesale produce suppliers, our Procurement Coordinator, Robbie Pine, looks for freshness and variety.



Bobby, a CFBCA veteran of 17 years, dropping off a load of fresh produce at King's Way

Our increasing partnerships with farmers, gleaning associations like the Society of St. Andrews, and local produce suppliers like the Alex Kontos Fruit Co. have enabled us to secure produce in its prime for an average of 13 cents per pound. In less than six months, our 2016 produce project has provided over one million pounds of fresh, nutritious fruits and vegetables for our receiving agencies.

Agencies currently participating in the pilot are all located within four highly food-insecure Central Alabama counties: Jefferson, Blount, St. Clair, and Talladega. Our sourced produce is held no longer than three days before making its way to a participating agency for a Produce Drop. Produce is completely free to agencies. We hope to soon offer Produce in Pantries to more of our agencies, as we increase our operating capacity.



Volunteers at Reaching Out International's Zinn Park produce distribution

Retail Food Recovery Program



Perishables go directly to agencies



Non-perishables go to our warehouse for short-term storage

FERNANDA'S STORY

“When I was without a job and didn’t have money, their doors were open.”

- FERNANDA BELL

Searching for a way to bridge the financial gap while between jobs, Fernanda Bell of Birmingham turned to Community Food Bank of Central Alabama agency, Green Valley Baptist Church, for food assistance. “It was truly a blessing, because when I was without a job and didn’t have money, their doors were open,” said Bell.

While Bell is grateful for the food assistance that allowed her family to regain financial footing, she is most thankful for the positive impact of friendships made while visiting Green Valley. “The atmosphere is awesome; they helped direct me to opportunities to find a new job as well.”

Through this support, Bell was able to secure employment and no longer needs food assistance. Bell is currently attending Highlands College, preparing for a career in ministry. Bell still visits Green Valley’s food pantry, this time, as a volunteer.



This year we were able to increase our warehouse’s food safety capacity, thanks to a **\$75,000 Walmart**  grant for industrial ceiling fans, bug screens, and other operational equipment.

ACTION AGAINST HUNGER: *How You Can Make a Difference*



As September comes to a close, so does Feeding America's nationwide hunger awareness campaign. However, it's never too late to make a difference for one of the 246,000 people in Central Alabama whose plates are often empty.

It's tough to do basic activities on an empty stomach, but it's easy to make a difference. We're asking everyone to come together to help ensure that no child, adult, or senior in our community lacks the nutritional fuel to get through the day.



ADVOCATE

One of the best places to start tackling hunger is with our local representatives. Urge Congress to advance policy solutions that will put struggling families on the road to healthy, hunger-free lives.



EDUCATE

Teach your kids and grandkids about hunger and encourage them to help. Hunger knows no age, and neither does fighting it.



VOLUNTEER

Even the smallest gift of your time can help us make a big difference. Schedule a time together with your family, friends, or coworkers to help our fellow neighbors in need. Contact volunteer@feedingal.org to learn about upcoming opportunities.



DONATE

For every donated dollar, we provide 8 meals to food insecure individuals in Central Alabama. Without help from our donors, we would not be able to do what we do. Visit donate.feedingal.org to make a gift today.

TOP HONORS FOR DEDICATION TO FOOD SAFETY

CFBCA received a "Superior" rating from the American Institute of Baking (AIB) International, the highest and most coveted rating for food safety awarded by AIB. We scored 900 out of a possible 1,000 points, placing us in the top tier of the 200 Feeding America food banks. The award recognizes CFBCA's outstanding performance in product handling, food safety, sanitary working conditions, and exemplary training for employees.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY: WEEKENDERS+ FAMILY MARKET

Our child hunger program is taking things to the next level



This fall marks exciting change for CFBCA programs. A Needs Assessment conducted by our Child Hunger Corps Member showed that more than 90% of our child programming recipients share their food with a family member. With the survey indicating that child hunger is most effectively tackled by stabilizing the entire family, we will be extending services to children's families through the Weekenders+ Family Market. Thanks to grants of \$50,000 and \$28,500 from Morgan Stanley and the Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham, respectively, our monthly school-based pantry will provide families with nutritious food and fresh produce. In its first year the program is expected to provide over 150,000 meals to 320 households of children in nine schools across two counties.

This fall the Weekenders+ Family Market enters its pilot phase as we test and strengthen the program model for success. Indicated as high-priority areas for meeting child hunger needs, Blount and St. Clair counties were selected for participation in the pilot. Led by Child Hunger Corps Member Aoife Dowd, the pilot will operate for one year, accompanied by a 6-month period of program evaluation. Client feedback will be instrumental in shaping the outcome and future of this program, as we create a successful, powerful model.



Child at a school pantry distribution



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: BBVA COMPASS



Saving our mission hundreds of thousands of dollars in labor costs, we appreciate all the hours of hard work our volunteers contribute. We want to recognize this special group who have already donated more than 1,000 hours of time this year. Since their first visit to CFBCA, BBVA employees have deepened their commitment, now also volunteering at our monthly Mobile Pantries.

Thank you BBVA!
We always look forward to seeing your friendly faces.

INTRODUCING:

Kathryn Strickland, Executive Director



We are pleased to introduce Kathryn Strickland as our new Executive Director.

Most recently, Kathryn served as Executive Director for the Food Bank of North Alabama, where she led the organization's efforts to distribute 8 million pounds of food annually and oversaw the strategic expansion of initiatives around local food entrepreneurship. Prior to her tenure in Huntsville, she held the position of Executive Director for the LIFT Housing, a Huntsville nonprofit where she directed affordable housing programs and launched a green homeownership initiative to build energy efficient homes for low income individuals with vocational disabilities.

"Kathryn will bring an extraordinary level of skill, experience and energy to the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama," said David Bell, Chairman of the Board of Directors. "She is the ideal person to help us fully realize the Food Bank's aspirations and engage the community in addressing food insecurity throughout Central Alabama."

A native of Birmingham, Strickland holds a M.A. in Clinical Psychology from the Illinois School of Professional Psychology and a B.A. in English from Davidson College. She was also awarded a scholarship to attend the prestigious Strategic Perspectives Nonprofit Management program at Harvard Business School. "I'm

honored to serve as Executive Director of the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama and thrilled to return to my home town of Birmingham," said Strickland. "With over 80,000 children in Central Alabama at risk of hunger, I'm eager to join the Food Bank's phenomenal staff to further its vital mission. In partnership with such an innovative, generous community, I believe we can meet this challenge."

DONOR HONOR ROLL

Alabama Power Foundation

BBVA Compass Charity

Community Foundation
of Greater Birmingham

Joseph S. Bruno Charitable
Foundation

Morgan Stanley

Publix Supermarket Charities

Susan Mott Webb
Charitable Foundation

Tenet Health

Walmart

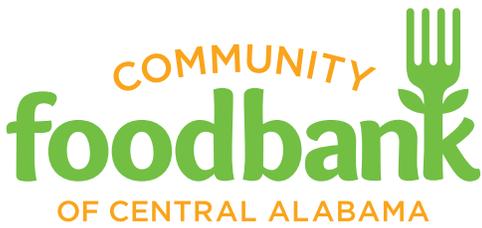
Wells Fargo Foundation

**THANK
YOU!**

DID YOU KNOW?

71% of households with children that receive food assistance have at least 1 family member who is employed.





107 Walter Davis Drive
Birmingham, Alabama 35222

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Birmingham, AL



Three decades of leading Central Alabama's fight against hunger

SAVE THE DATE

Thursday September 29 | 5-7 p.m.

OPEN HOUSE

Stop by to meet our new
Executive Director, Kathryn Strickland,
and enjoy tours and refreshments.

Please call (205) 942-8911 to RSVP



CFBCA has teamed up with the Southern Women's Show Birmingham for a Peanut Butter Drive. From September 29-October 2, attendees bringing jars of peanut butter can purchase tickets for just \$5!

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH!

The month may be almost over, but the reality of hunger in Central Alabama is not. Check out www.feedingal.org or find us on facebook for fun ways to make a lasting impact!

