2017 ANNUAL REPORT
OUR MISSION
The Community Food Bank of Central Alabama feeds people in need today and fosters collaborative solutions to end hunger tomorrow.
Dear Friends,

In 1982 a small group of committed volunteers worked side by side with the United Way of Central Alabama to open the Community Food Bank’s doors - we were the very first food bank in the state. Since then, we have provided millions of meals to, seniors, veterans, and hardworking families who struggle to pay for food and other basic needs like medicine or rent. Today, the demand for our critical services remains high.

In addition to providing emergency meals, we also work to address hunger’s root causes so there are fewer children, seniors, and families at risk. We will continue to supply millions of meals per year to our network of over 200 food pantries, shelters, and children’s programs in Central Alabama. Where we see a gap in service, we will partner with others to ensure the needs of especially vulnerable populations are met. Our mission is to feed people in need today AND foster collaborative solutions to end hunger tomorrow.

There are nearly a quarter million people in Central Alabama who are food insecure - over 73,000 of whom are children. For many of these children, their school cafeteria meals are the only meal upon which they can rely. Thus, when school is out, these children often go without. The stories of these children inspired the Community Food Bank to extend its Kids Meals Campaign Initiative to include a Summer Meals Program.

This year, our Summer Meals Program provided over 51,000 meals to over 1,100 children at 8 sites across 3 counties. These meals consisted of hearty, nutritious foods as well as locally grown snacks. The kids liked being able to talk about where their fresh blackberries came from and about the farmer who grew them. Their smiles, dripping with purple berry juice, told us that they loved the snack too!

We have also expanded our partnerships to include UAB’s Benevolent Fund who helps us provide a pantry stocked with fresh foods for UAB students and employees in need. We continue looking forward to pursuing proactive strategies aimed at addressing hunger’s root causes through collaboration. In partnership with such an innovative, generous community, we believe we can meet this challenge and ensure everyone in Central Alabama has the nutritious foods they need to lead healthy, active lives. TOGETHER, We Can Solve Hunger!

Sincerely,

George Bradford
President

WWW.FEEDINGAL.ORG
incomes, children struggling to learn on empty stomachs, a father skipping meals so his children can eat. Hunger is not a problem that we can easily see, perhaps because its stigma causes people to hide their need.

Research, however, shows that many families are increasingly relying on food pantries as a part of their long-term strategy to put food on the table. For 35 years we have led community efforts to provide food to these struggling families in Central Alabama.

THE CHALLENGE

Thousands of hardworking Alabamians do not know where their next meal will come from. For the nearly quarter-million food insecure individuals residing in the Community Food Bank of Central Alabama’s 12-county service area, putting food on the table every day is a struggle and often means making impossible choices.

For many of these families it means choosing between paying for utilities or food for their children when money is tight. The true face of hunger is a mother working two jobs, seniors on fixed incomes, children struggling to learn on empty stomachs, a father skipping meals so his children can eat. Hunger is not a problem that we can easily see, perhaps because its stigma causes people to hide their need.
HOW WE HELPED IN 2017

11.1 MILLION MEALS PROVIDED

8 meals can be provided for every dollar $1

72,004 people served each month

$0.95 of every dollar directly supports our programs

We service 12 Central Alabama counties.
In 2017, our agencies distributed 12,685,427 pounds of food and fed over 675,000 neighbors in need.
In a recent survey of our agency network, over 50% of the agencies with a high interest in increasing produce distributions cited lack of refrigerated storage as the chief obstacle to achieving this goal. This same survey revealed that agencies desiring to provide greater quantities of frozen foods were similarly limited by lack of freezer space capacity. In 2017, a Walmart Foundation grant allowed the Food Bank to purchase equipment such as refrigerated trailers for transporting donations, coolers and freezers for storing and distributing fresh product, and scales for weighing food donations. This equipment was loaned to several of our partner agencies so that they could safely collect, transport, and store perishable goods to better serve our neighbors in need with nutritious produce, meats, and dairy products in addition to dry goods.

"Our clients are very happy to be receiving fresh fruit and produce weekly, thanks to the refrigerated cooler that’s able to keep these items fresh,” said Jeanette Walker, Director of Ministries of Deliverance, one of our partner agencies that received equipment provided by the Walmart Foundation grant.

The Equipment Library program provides agencies with the tools needed for the direct pick-up of donations from retail stores, allowing the Food Bank’s limited fleet to pick up additional donated foods from more retailers.
It is estimated that more than 800 million pounds of wholesome food is thrown away by grocery stores in the United States every year. The Community Food Bank of Central Alabama partners with local grocery stores to prevent these fruits, vegetables, meats, and dry goods from being needlessly discarded.

Five days a week our fleet of refrigerated trucks picks up food donations from over 100 local grocers. We work closely with each grocery store’s staff to teach them how to donate close-to-code food that is no longer shelf-worthy but still healthy and wholesome.

Food Bank staff and volunteers then inspect and sort all donations to ensure food safety prior to distribution. The program saves millions of meals from going to waste in landfills and instead feeds thousands of our region’s most vulnerable residents.

This year the Food Bank and our retail grocery store partners saved more than 5.9 million pounds of food from going to waste. Instead these wholesome foods provided over 4.9 million meals to feed neighbors at risk of hunger across Central Alabama.

“As part of our core values, we are delighted to serve and support our local neighborhoods. Ensuring that quality, perishable food doesn’t go to waste and instead gets to Alabamians who need it, is the mission of our perishable recovery program. I am proud and honored our team members have the opportunity to give back to our local community members.”

Left: Jason Stonicher, Whole Foods Store Manager

5.9 MILLION
pounds recovered annually
KIDS MEAL CAMPAIGN
In our region, more than 76,000 children lack sufficient nutritious food to grow, thrive and achieve – more than the population of Homewood, Bessemer and Anniston combined. Food insecurity exposes these children to the risk of delayed cognitive development, behavioral problems, and diet-related diseases. Our Kids Meal Campaign offers a continuum of interconnected services to ensure that all children have year-round access to healthy food choices.

Weekenders Backpack Program
Free and reduced price school meals sustain thousands of children in Central Alabama during the week, but what happens to these students over the weekend? After receiving reports from teachers about children arriving to school hungry on Monday mornings, we launched the Weekenders Backpack program that provides weekend meal kits to children on Fridays so they arrive to school Monday ready to learn without the distraction of hunger.

72,237 weekend meals
served to 1,027 kids

This food really helps me and my family. My younger siblings love the food. My Backpack feels like a full stomach. Never hungry nor thirsty.
Through surveys we discovered 95% of children in the Weekenders Backpack Program were sharing their meal kits with siblings or parents. **Weekenders Family Market program is a food pantry on wheels that delivers fresh fruits, vegetables, and other staples to entire families** referred to the program by school principals. It is open at convenient times when parents are picking up or dropping off their children at school. We piloted **8 school pantries** in St. Clair and Blount Counties. This innovation helped us serve more children with healthier food options and strengthened relationships between parents and school administrators. In our first semester, we provided **97,796 meals to 2,401 individuals.**

**117,355 pounds of food distributed at Family Markets in 2017**
Summer Meals

The Food Bank’s Summer Meals Program provides healthy breakfasts, lunches, and snacks to kids throughout the months of June and July, ensuring they have year-round access to the nutritious foods they need for strong bodies and curious minds. In 2017, we partnered with 8 sites to provide free, wholesome meals to more than 1,100 children in three counties every day. Together, we’re helping to prevent summer learning loss—and making sure kids can focus on just being kids this summer! We are also working with Alabama farmers to include fresh, locally-grown produce such as watermelon, blackberries, and sweet potatoes in the Summer Meals menu. For some kids, this was their first time trying a fresh blackberry, and they LOVED it!
MOBILE FRESH

Our Mobile Pantries deliver fresh fruits, vegetables, and other healthy staples to communities where low-income residents have limited transportation, high rates of diet-related diseases, and no access to charitable feeding programs within the neighborhood’s borders.

This year we provided **142,472 meals** to 4,360 seniors, neighbors, and family members in need through this mobile service to three communities in Tarrant, Montevallo, and Oneonta. This effort would not be possible without the generous support of the Junior League of Greater Birmingham, BBVA Compass, and Mountain Pointe Ministries volunteers.

**3 SITES OPERATED EVERY MONTH IN TARRANT, MONTEVALLO, & ONEONTA**
MOBILE FRESH

The food bank launched the Corner Market last August of 2017 to provide healthy, affordable food to low-income families, disabled people, and senior citizens living in neighborhoods without full-service grocery stores. The market serves as a grocery store on wheels. Customers file through the single aisle of the 24-foot trailer browsing through fresh fruits and vegetables, lean meats, dairy products, pasta, bread, and other food items. Currently, the Corner Market makes twice monthly visits in Pratt City, Quinton, Tarrant, and Sipsey.

While waiting to get inside the trailer to shop for groceries, customers can take advantage of other on-site services. Representatives are on hand to provide health screenings, information about SNAP benefits, Medicare Savings Programs, Farmers’ Market vouchers, and other services. There are also educational cooking demonstrations that offer customers tips on how to prepare nutritious meals for their families.

In a typical month, about 150 people shop at the market, and the food bank plans to extend that reach by adding additional stops as it becomes feasible.

For Glenda Williams, stopping by the local supermarket is not as easy as it sounds. But since a mobile grocery store first rolled into her neighborhood, Williams said it has made all the difference.

“By me not having a car, it’s more convenient, for one thing. For another, I like the prices of the food, and everything is so fresh. The people who run the market are so nice and friendly and helpful. That’s what I really like about it.”
RX HEALTH

In our RX Health program, we partner with medical providers to serve families facing catastrophic illnesses who cannot afford hospital guest meals. For example, we have established charitable food pantries within neonatal intensive care units in order to provide nutritious meals to under-nourished mothers of critically ill infants.

What many people do not realize is that babies born premature spend on average 16 weeks in intensive care. While children are under the hospital’s care, parents are responsible for their own meals. The average cost of a well-balanced meal at a hospital cafeteria is $24.00 a day. Due to these high costs, many mothers often go without eating.

Providing an on-site pantry enables mothers to spend more time with their infants during a critical time of mother-child bonding. The idea to begin a hospital pantry was created after NICU nurses noticed some mothers never left the ward to eat (or couldn’t afford the hospital meals) and many were afraid to leave their children or ask for help. Patients are referred to the pantry by medical professionals and onsite social workers who recognize symptoms of food insecurity.
2017 ANNUAL REPORT

ENDING SENIOR HUNGER

13,064 meals given to our seniors in need

In 2017, over 15,000 pounds of food were distributed through senior-specific programs. Additionally, 2,652 protein packs designed to meet special nutritional needs of seniors were distributed along with pantry staples and produce. Some of our Partner Agencies have also begun setting up pantry distributions just for them.

“I was a geriatric nurse – I visited people in their homes. I saw the need, oh Lord,” says Mary Swain, director of Christ Deliverance Food Pantry. That’s why she started this special senior day. “The seniors love [their special distribution day.] A lot of the seniors use walkers or have oxygen tanks. This way is safer, and we can serve them much faster. They also love getting together and talking. The protein packs are great too! It is easy for them to prepare and healthy for them because they don’t get a lot of protein because they cannot afford it.”
SNAP OUTREACH

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as Food Stamps, ensures access to nutritious foods for our citizens. Our SNAP Outreach Program works with community organizations and volunteers to reach households struggling with hunger who qualify for SNAP but face barriers to beginning the application process. Improving SNAP participation among eligible families allows food bank agencies and community organizations to direct more resources to food insecure households that are just above the SNAP qualification threshold. SNAP Outreach staff coordinate services at local organizations with clients needing food assistance, providing general SNAP information, as well as in-person assistance with the application process. The SNAP Outreach Program uses a variety of avenues for outreach, including health fairs, agency food distributions, direct mail initiatives, and mobile pantries. In 2017 SNAP Outreach held over 183 events throughout 12 counties, collecting 624 SNAP applications for a yield of 546,891 meals to food insecure individuals.

The SNAP Outreach Program expanded its services to provide additional service through a Benefits Enrollment Center (BEC) allowing low-income seniors and persons with disabilities to find and enroll in all the benefits programs for which they are eligible. By helping improve program participation, clients can have the opportunity to supplement their budget and put money towards necessities like prescriptions, insurance, and housing costs. Through the BEC, the SNAP Outreach Team will help seniors navigate the application process for the following benefits programs:

- SNAP, formally known as food stamps
- Medicare Part D Extra Help (or Low-Income Subsidy, LIS)
- Medicare Savings Programs (MSP)
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP)

In 2017 the BEC screened 423 seniors and assisted with 241 enrollments of additional services.
### FINANCIALS: FY 2017

#### SUPPORT AND REVENUE

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GROCERY STORE FOOD DONORS

OVER 150,000 POUNDS
Publix DC
Sam's Club #8247
Sam’s Club #8212
Walmart #809
Sam’s Club #4836
Sam’s Club #4724
Walmart #301
Walmart #3271
Walmart #4817
Walmart #730

OVER 100,000 POUNDS
Walmart #2111
Walmart #562
Walmart #1229
Walmart #4330
Walmart #3386
Walmart #1201
Walmart #315

OVER 50,000 POUNDS
Walmart #287
Walmart #4497
Walmart #5262
Walmart #423
Publix #1508
Walmart #1711
Publix #1476
Walmart #409
Walmart #5113
Walmart #329
Publix #1200
Walmart #4580
Walmart #1207
Walmart #764
Walmart #287
Publix #1069
Publix #1512
Walmart #1482
Publix #1512
Publix #841
Publix #1059
Publix #1082
Publix #838
Publix #1073
Publix #842
Publix #1074
Walmart #1202
Walmart #165
Whole Foods #10629
Publix #1065
Target #2796
Trader Joe’s #737
Winn-Dixie #525
Winn-Dixie #400
Publix #1206
Winn-Dixie #445

Over 10,000 POUNDS
Target – Fultondale
Publix #1207
4th Ave. Supermarket
Winn-Dixie #509
Winn-Dixie #462
Target – Oxford
Target #2375
Publix #839
CORPORATE GROUPS AND FOUNDATION DONORS

$25,000 +
United Way of Central Alabama
Feeding America
Publix Supermarkets, Inc.
Publix SuperMarkets Charities, Inc.
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
Community Foundation of Greater Birmingham
Community Foundation of Northeast Alabama

$10,000 - $24,999
JLB Beeson Community Fund
Wells Fargo Foundation
Alabama Power Foundation, Inc.
Regions Bank
Alabama Business Charitable Trust Fund

$5000 - $9999
Junior League of Birmingham
Norfolk Southern Foundation
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Alabama

$1,000 - $4,999
The Woodforest Charitable Foundation
Tenet Health
The Chicken Salad Chick Foundation, Inc.
Homewood Church of Christ
Macy’s, Inc.
Socius Foundation
Southern Research
Lambda Chi Alpha Sigma-Chi Zeta
Walmart Corporate Giving
Disc Golf Birmingham, Inc.
Baptist Church of the Covenant
Causecast Foundation
DST Systems, Inc.
Princeton Baptist Medical Center
LPL Financial
AAPNA
Vestavia Hills Baptist Church
New Pilgrim Mission
The CarMax Foundation
Discover Financial Services
Morgan Stanley
Aerosol Dynamics NJB Inc.

$100 - $999
Pappas Restaurants, Inc.
Piedmont Benevolence Center
Cory Watson, P.C.
House Consultants, Inc.
Steel City Pops
Quest Diagnostics
Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner, & Smith Inc.
CentiMark
United- Johnson Brothers of Alabama, LLC
Arby’s Foundation, Inc.
DST Health Solutions, LLC
United Way Suncoast
The Frank & Fred Friedman Family Foundation
Alabama Power Service Organization
First Baptist Church of Pinson
PGA Tour Charities, Inc.
Brookwood Baptist Medical Center
Stephen Bradley & Associates
New Directions Behavioral Health
Covenant Sales
United Way of Greater Toledo
Crestline Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Saw’s Street Kitchen LLC
Motion Industries, Inc.
Dreamcakes Bakery
3 Badge Beverage- International Wines
LaPlante, Merritt, Faulkner & Clay, LLC
Cadence Bank
AREA
Law Office of Annette T. Ruff, LLC
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Inventory Control Manager

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Gerald Cumbie  
Warehouse Associate

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Warehouse Associate

Donald Hardwick  
Warehouse Associate

Darrell Paige  
Warehouse Associate

CeDrico Huggins  
Warehouse Associate / Driver

Mike Tall  
Warehouse Associate / Driver

Howard Burnett  
Driver

Rickie Carter  
Driver

Bobbie Delander  
Driver

Mario Dorsey  
Driver

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Driver