



CHATTANOOGA AREA
FOOD BANK

2023 Impact Report

Dear friends,

When you hear “food bank,” what sort of images come to mind? Shelves stocked with canned food? Refrigerators filled with fresh milk, eggs, and produce? Providing nutritious groceries to our neighbors is the very core of what we do, and in 2024, we’re going to deliver more food than ever before.

But we’re also challenging ourselves to find innovative solutions that strengthen our local food systems. We’re developing ways to better support our local farmers and increase our food-rescue programs to keep nutritious food out of landfills. We’re working with food banks and nonprofits across the country to better understand food insecurity.

Many people ask me, “What is the difference between food insecurity and hunger?” We all know hunger—that ache in our stomach, often accompanied by a craving for our favorite foods. Hunger happens across a moment, satiated by a meal or midday snack. But food insecurity is a pervasive state of being that affects at least 170,000 of our neighbors here in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia who may not know where their next meal is coming from. It affects all aspects of one’s life, from physical and mental health to success in school. To address the systemic issues that perpetuate food insecurity, we’re expanding our policy efforts and working closely with our key stakeholders. We’re committed to finding solutions so that our neighbors don’t just survive but thrive.

Thank you for being a friend our neighbors can count on. Your support has enabled us to dream big and double down on our hunger relief efforts in the coming year. Whether you donate, volunteer, or advocate, we are grateful for your unwavering commitment to ending hunger with us, for there is no us without you.



Melissa Blevins
President & CEO



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Greater Chattanooga

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Tennessee

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OUR YEAR IN NUMBERS

Provided
Groceries for
**15 Million
Meals**



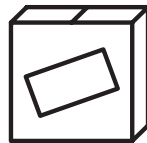
199,173 lbs
for Children's
Programs



734
SNAP Applications
Submitted



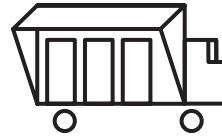
5.7 Million lbs
Food Rescued
from Retail



36,839
Food Boxes
Provided at
Foxwood



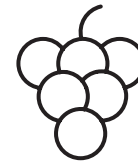
250+
Hunger Relief
Partners



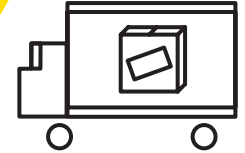
567
Mobile
Distributions



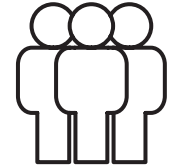
9,907
Gallons
of Milk



5.1 Million lbs
Produce
Distributed



1,823
Deliveries Across
20 Counties



4,426
Volunteers

OUR WORK & PROGRAMS

Our mission is to lead a network of partners and unite the community to eliminate hunger by feeding, nourishing, and empowering those we serve.

FOXWOOD FOOD CENTER

We have a grocery-store-style facility where guests choose the food they receive.

HUNGER RELIEF PARTNERS

We supply food across a wide network of food pantries, senior centers, mobile pantries, and children's programs.

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS

Our Sack Packs and Summer Bags ensure food-insecure children have enough to eat during their weekends and summer breaks.

MOBILE PANTRIES

We help organize massive distributions at schools, community centers, and places of worship to deliver groceries directly to communities in need.

RETAIL RESCUE

Meat, dairy, produce, baked goods, and pantry staples are donated by local grocery stores and distributed to our partners, saving millions of pounds of good food from landfills.

SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) OUTREACH

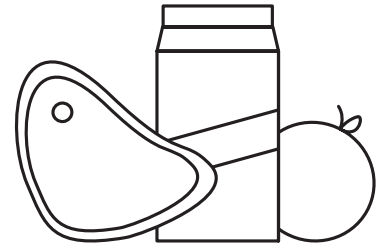
We assist individuals across our service area in Tennessee and Georgia with the SNAP application process.

PRODUCE DELIVERY

Our fleet delivers millions of pounds of fresh produce to our Hunger Relief Partners across 20 counties, reducing barriers to access nourishing food.

TEACHING GARDEN

In our on-site garden, we cultivate crops, start seedlings for local community gardens, and teach about self-sufficiency.



FOXWOOD FOOD CENTER

est. 2021



Our guests are greeted at the door and partnered with a volunteer to assist them through the aisles.



Guests browse for groceries and choose what they like from fresh produce, pantry staples, meat, and dairy products. Shelves are also stocked with dry goods, ingredients, and even some personal items.



Once their cart is full, our guests are accompanied to their cars, and the food is unloaded by the volunteer.



On average, guests receive a week's worth of groceries each time they visit.



Partner Spotlight: Cleveland High School

Lisa Wiley, CHS Learning Support Specialist, manages the on-site pantry and provides additional community resources for students and their families. Across her years in education, she has witnessed students struggle in the classroom because they don't have adequate access to healthy food, housing, or clothes.

"There are so many things going on outside academics," she said, "and we identified first that students needed food." CHS placed their first order from the food bank in February 2022, and major companies like Volkswagen and Mars Wrigley have also contributed to the pantry, donating staples like beans, rice, and mac and cheese. Competitions are held between CHS's RISE classes (homerom-like factions in which the student-teacher pairings last all four years) to see who can collect the most food. "The students really care about one another, and they really work hard on trying to help their peers."

To supplement the work of their pantry, CHS initiated "Crockpots for Christmas" in December 2023. Some CHS families are either unhoused or reside in hotels that act as transitional housing, and many of these hotels are equipped with only a microwave, limiting the size and style of food they can prepare. Crockpots are a simple solution, as they only need an outlet and some patience. The campaign collected over 50 crockpots from CHS students and staff and Cleveland residents, and with every appliance, CHS provided crockpot-friendly food and an English/Spanish recipe book.

"We have a lot of kids and families that do without, who have to bounce around from hotel to hotel. Having this pantry as a resource for them is invaluable for us," said Bob Pritchard, CHS Principal. "We believe in supporting the whole child. If kids are hungry, if families are hungry, they're not going to come to school, but if they have a resource in the building, it's welcoming. They know we love them, and we want what's best for them. Education can come with it, but we have to take care of those needs as best we can."

Though it's currently housed in Lisa's office, she has plans to transplant the pantry into a larger space, install fridges and freezers, and offer fresh produce, dairy, and meats. Ultimately, she wants the pantry to be guest-choice like our Foxwood Food Center. She already encourages students and families to take as much food as they need, whether it's for a quick weeknight meal or a large Sunday lunch.



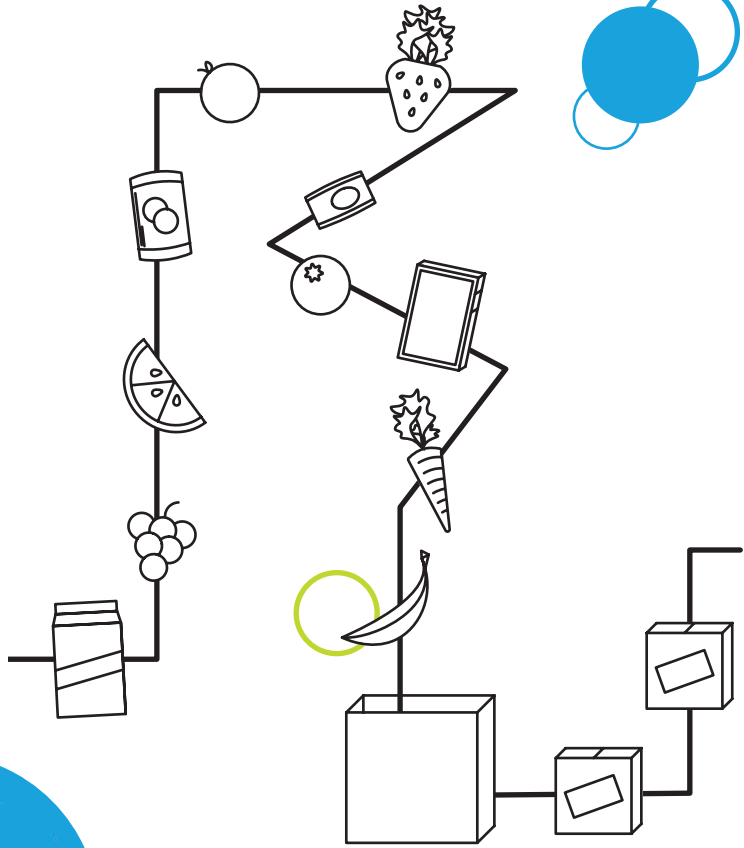
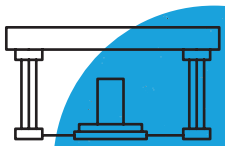
Cleveland High School's fully-stocked on-site food pantry



Ann Krepps and April Morgan during "Crockpots for Christmas"



We source food from retailers, manufacturers, farmers, producers, and government nutrition programs.

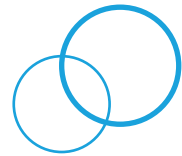
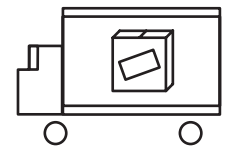


Our staff and volunteers sort and pack food across our three locations.

OUR PROCESS



The food is distributed to our Foxwood Food Center, mobile pantries, and hunger relief partners.



In **2023**,
we
hosted...

3,375
Volunteers
at our Main
Warehouse

4,426
Volunteers
in Total

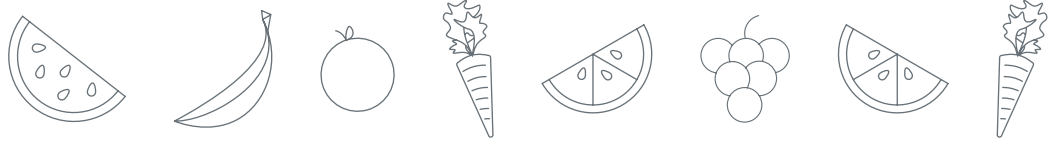
**OUR
VOLUNTEERS**

32,041
Hours
Served
in 2023

1,052
Volunteers
at our
Foxwood Food
Center



NEIGHBOR SPOTLIGHT: NANCY SIRIANNI



In January 2018, Nancy Sirianni relocated from Cleveland, Ohio, to Chattanooga. After a series of medical issues and the subsequent loss of her job, a former high school classmate offered a place to stay while Nancy landed on her feet. Nancy has extensive experience writing grants for nonprofit arts organizations and individual artists. But when she moved to Chattanooga, she had a difficult time replicating the life she had made for herself in Cleveland. She eventually found a job, but her start date was scheduled for early March 2020, and the position never materialized. By August of that year, Nancy was receiving SNAP benefits, had broken her wrist, and had been diagnosed with congestive heart failure. In 2021, she was diagnosed with osteoarthritis of both knees, severely compromising her mobility. A year later, she applied for disability benefits.

“Right now, I can’t afford groceries at all,” she said. Nancy has memorized the operating hours of nearby hunger relief partners and visits them on a rotating basis. She also receives food from Foxwood Food Center once a month. “I’m waiting for disability benefits. I’m in one of those spots where it’s just nice to see a friendly face and get some vegetables.”

Nancy is an avid cook and knows all the tips and tricks to making food last. Her parents lived through the Depression, and they were both great cooks who knew how to make the most of certain ingredients and meals. Some of Nancy’s neighbors receive food assistance as well, and if there’s a question about how to cut or prepare an unknown vegetable, they knock on her door. “I just try to help people. My neighbor comes over and eats and says, ‘How did you make that?’ And I say, ‘Just do this, this, and this.’ Or we’ll make something together.” She has also worked with Chattanooga Food Center to educate SNAP recipients about stretching their benefits at the center’s Gaining Ground grocery store. Utilizing her deep knowledge of food, she also has developed recipes for the store incorporating fruits and vegetables that may be in season but unfamiliar to some shoppers.

“Food, and the ability to give food, and share food, and have a meal with people, is a great thing,” she said. Nancy encourages anyone who needs food to ask for it and to not feel ashamed for asking. “It’s more than just food—it’s about respect, it’s about self-esteem, it’s about people.”



Chattanooga Food Center at Foxwood
L to R: Nancy Sirianni, Cori Tinkham, Holly Martin

THE PIERCE DISTRIBUTION CENTER

Our Home in Georgia



We held the grand opening of the newly named Pierce Distribution Center on August 9, 2023.



In 2011, we leased a space in Dalton to better serve our Northwest Georgia communities. In partnership with Whitfield County, we broke ground on a permanent facility in October 2022.



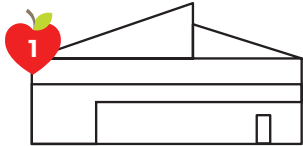
Funding of \$2.3M from the Georgia Department of Community Affairs kicked off the project, and local residents donated to complete the \$4M expansion.



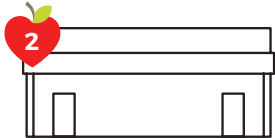
The expansion has increased our capacity to receive and distribute healthier and higher quality foods, doubled our office space, and allowed more volunteer opportunities.



OUR SERVICE AREA



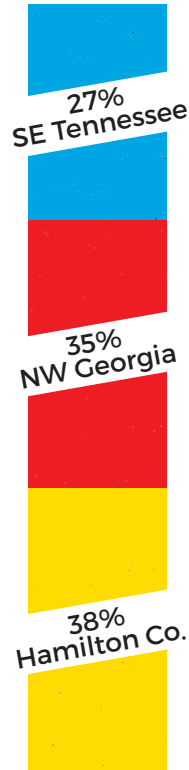
CHATTANOOGA AREA FOOD BANK
2009 Curtain Pole Rd.
Chattanooga, TN 37406



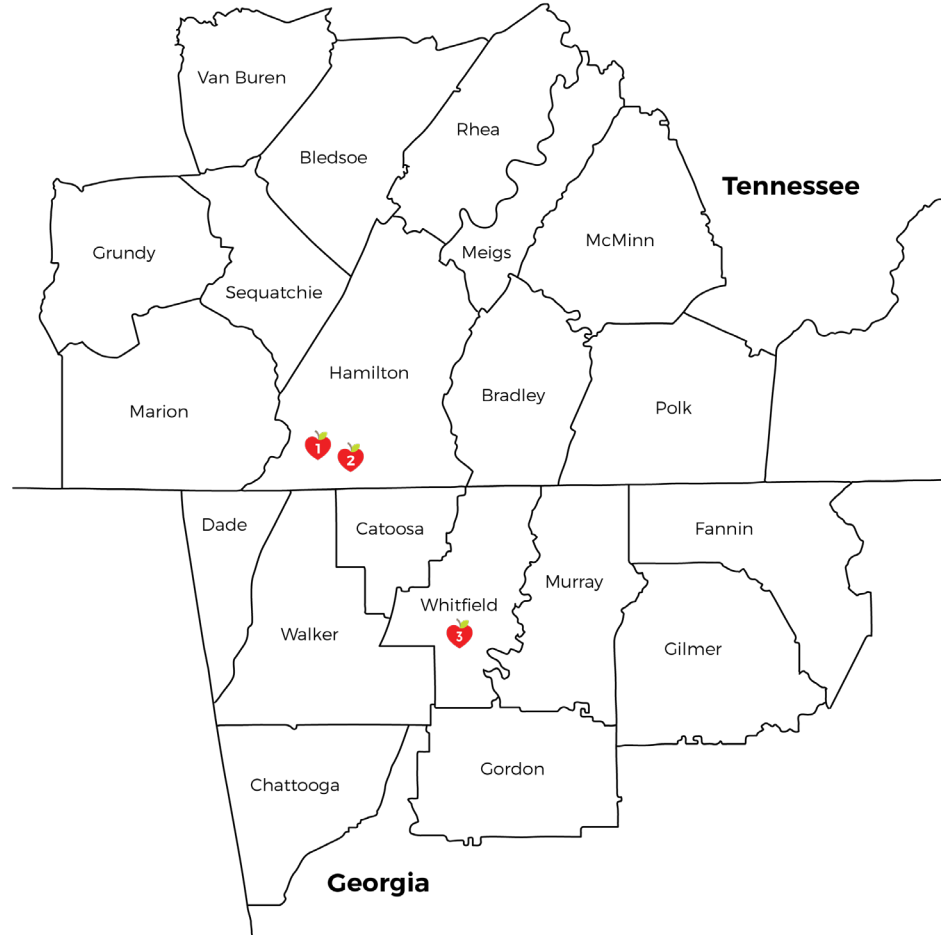
FOXWOOD FOOD CENTER
3209 Wilcox Blvd.
Chattanooga, TN 37411



PIERCE DISTRIBUTION CENTER
1111 S. Hamilton St.
Dalton, GA 30720



SERVICE AREA



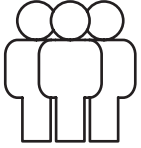




The needs of those we serve guide how we do our work.



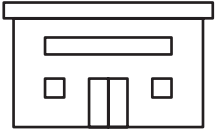
OUR RESOURCES



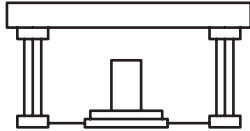
Individuals



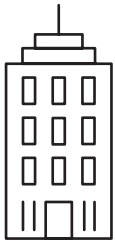
Operational Revenue



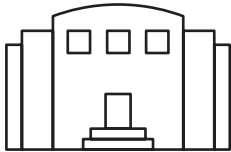
Organizations



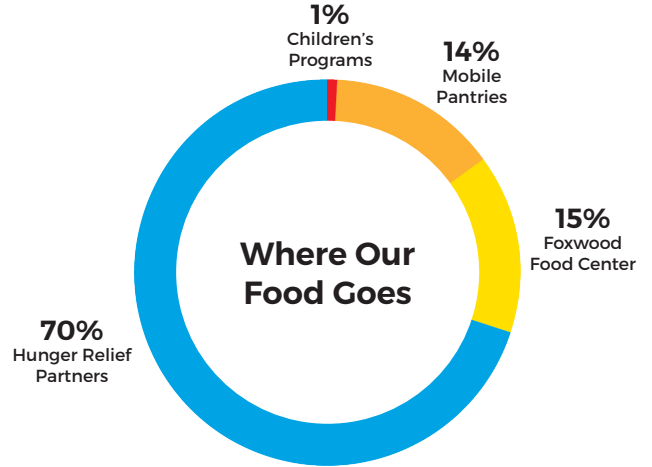
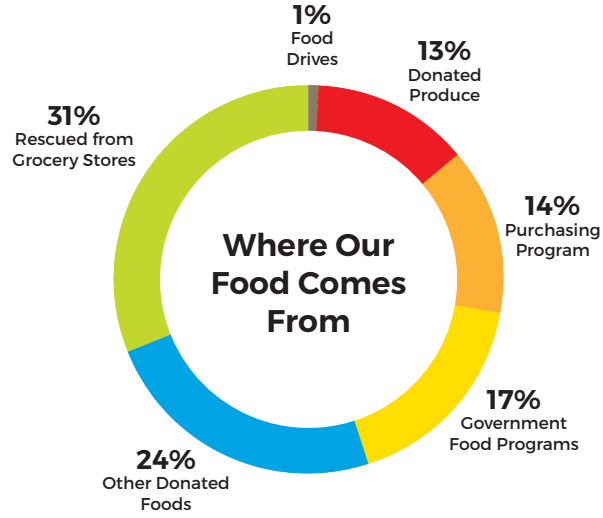
Government



Companies



Foundations



OUR FINANCES

ASSETS

Cash	\$6,527,666
Investments	\$1,847,894
Other Assets	\$136,004
Inventories	\$1,699,106
Accounts Receivable	\$161,417
Contributions Receivable	\$108,940
Grants Receivable	\$423,806
Prepaid Expenses	\$65,702
Land, Building, & Equipment	\$4,709,599
TOTAL ASSETS	\$15,680,133

LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

Accounts Payable	\$480,757
Accrued Liabilities	\$255,754
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$736,511

Unrestricted	\$12,787,246
Temporarily Restricted	\$2,156,376
TOTAL NET ASSETS	\$14,943,622

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$15,680,133
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ANNUAL SUPPORT

Food Donations	\$23,096,248
Contributions	\$6,071,936
Grants	\$1,388,228
TOTAL SUPPORT	\$30,556,412

ANNUAL REVENUE

Operational Revenue	\$2,902,741
Commodity Service Revenue	\$383,662
Agency Fees	\$12,500
Miscellaneous Income	\$101,815
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,400,718

TOTAL REVENUE & SUPPORT	\$33,957,130
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ANNUAL OPERATING EXPENSES

PROGRAM SERVICES

Food Distribution	\$30,951,488
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SUPPORTING SERVICES

Development/Funding	\$1,006,914
Management and General	\$829,699

TOTAL EXPENSES	\$32,788,101
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INCREASE (DECREASE) IN NET ASSETS	\$1,169,030
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OUR CORE BELIEFS

No one should go hungry. Food is a basic human right.

All people are worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect.

**Equitable access to quality food strengthens the community,
empowers self-sufficiency, and fosters hope.**

The greatest impact happens in collaboration.

The needs of those we serve guide how we do our work.

