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Chattanooga Area Food Bank Receives \$60,000 Donation from Publix Super Markets

*Donation supplements 284,949 pounds of fresh produce, 7,920 gallons of milk
donated by Publix since onset of coronavirus pandemic*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – Chattanooga Area Food Bank (“Food Bank”) today announced it received a \$60,000 donation from Publix Super Markets Charities to support the Food Bank’s School Mobile Pantry Program and emergency hunger relief in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The Food Bank serves 20 counties across Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia where nearly 200,000 people overall could face food insecurity as a result of the pandemic.

Publix Charities is a long-time supporter of the School Mobile Pantry Program that provides monthly distributions during the school year of needed, nutritious food to families facing hunger. The Food Bank is working closely with schools to ensure programs like School Mobile Pantries continue regardless of changes to school schedules. The donation will help serve the one in five people overall, including 1 in 4 children, expected to be affected by the economic impact of COVID-19. Publix Charities has given a total of \$674,923 to Chattanooga Area Food Bank since 2008.

“It is a fitting way to kick off Hunger Action Month by hosting Publix which is an inspiring example of how action can help fight hunger,” said Food Bank Interim President & CEO Mark Hilling. “Publix supports our efforts to fight hunger year-round through financial and food donations, giving hope to people across our 20-county service area who are facing hunger.”

Additionally, as the impact of the pandemic took shape, many produce and dairy farmers around the Southeast saw their buying partners dry up and found themselves dumping or plowing over product they could no longer sell. Meanwhile, food banks throughout the region were experiencing substantial increases in need. To bridge the gap, Publix implemented a program to purchase surplus produce and milk from farmers and deliver it directly to food banks. Since then, Publix has purchased and delivered more than 11 million pounds of produce and 500,000 gallons of milk to Feeding America member food banks throughout the Southeast, including 284,949 million pounds of produce and 7,920 gallons of milk to Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

“It has been our privilege to support hunger relief throughout the Southeast for many years now, and this work has never been more important,” said Publix CEO Todd Jones. “We are grateful for the opportunity to support Chattanooga Area Food Bank and to alleviate hunger in the communities we serve and bring hope to those who need it most during these uncertain times.”

The \$60,000 donation from Publix Charities to Chattanooga Area Food Bank is one of several donations made this year to help provide food and other essential support to those hardest hit

by the pandemic. In all, Publix Charities has donated \$5 million to Feeding America member food banks and other nonprofit partners in 2020.

Anyone in need of food can visit chattfoodbank.org/hungry to find help close to where they live. Hamilton County residents may dial 211 or text their zip code to 898-211 to be connected with a voucher for an emergency food box.

Attached photo (left to right): Nick Churillo, Publix Atlanta District Manager, and Mark Hilling, Chattanooga Area Food Bank Interim President & CEO.

About the Chattanooga Area Food Bank

Founded in 1972, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank's mission is to lead a network of partners in eliminating hunger and promoting better nutrition in our region. In its 20-county service area of Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia, up to 1 in 5 people overall and more than 1 in 4 children could face hunger due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Last year, the Food Bank distributed more than 17 million pounds of food through its network of more than 200 partner agencies to serve children, families, seniors, veterans and others who are facing hunger. The Food Bank is a proud member of Feeding America, the largest hunger relief umbrella nonprofit organization in the U.S. For more information about the Food Bank or to how to get involved, visit chattfoodbank.org, follow us on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter or LinkedIn.

About Publix Super Markets Charities

George Jenkins, founder of Publix Super Markets and affectionately known as "Mr. George," believed in giving. From the day he opened his first Publix, he made sure his associates, customers and community were taken care of. In 1966, Mr. George established the Foundation with the vision it would continue giving long after he was gone. Publix Super Markets Charities remains committed to serving the communities in which Publix operates. To learn more, visit www.publixcharities.org.

About Publix Super Markets

Publix, the largest employee-owned company in the U.S. with more than 220,000 associates, currently operates 1,253 stores in Florida, Georgia, Alabama, Tennessee, South Carolina, North Carolina and Virginia. For 23 consecutive years, the company has been recognized by Fortune as a great place to work. In addition, Publix's dedication to superior quality and customer service is recognized among the top in the grocery business. For more information, visit the company's website, corporate.publix.com.

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