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Publix Super Market Charities Fights Hunger at Area Schools through a \$75,000 Grant Awarded to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank

Chattanooga, TN – The Chattanooga Area Food Bank (Food Bank) and its School Mobile Pantry program was awarded a \$75,000 grant from Publix Super Market Charities (Publix Charities) to fight hunger in Southeast Tennessee. The School Mobile Pantry program helps to ensure area families with children who are struggling with hunger have access to the nutritious food they need to live an active and healthy lifestyle. Support provided by Publix Charities helped to fund 22 food distributions total during the school year, at three area schools: East Side Elementary School (Hamilton County), Chillhowee Middle School (Polk County) and Copper Basin Elementary (Polk County).

Recognized as a Feeding America Leadership Partner, Publix Super Market Charities serves to give to local food banks and other nonprofits each year. Both the Food Bank and Publix Super Market Charities are committed to meeting the basic needs of the communities they serve. Through its School Mobile Pantry program, the Food Bank is able to reach families with children by delivering nutritious food to their communities. Unreliable or limited access to transportation, public or otherwise, often prevents many from obtaining the necessary food required to live a healthy lifestyle.

“The mobile pantry allows us to take food directly to the communities with the highest need,” said Guy Hamilton, food distribution manager for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

Each pantry is set up farmer’s market style, emphasizing nutrition and health, with the goal of increasing family access to healthy food. During the 2018-2019 school year, 250 families with children received nutritious food at East Side Elementary, 130 families with children at Chillhowee Middle School and 250 families with children at Copper Basin Elementary thanks to support from Publix Charities. A total of 184,980 pounds of nutritious food, such as whole grains, lean proteins and fresh fruits and vegetables, was distributed through these programs, which equates to 154,150 meals. Recipe cards were also given out to ensure well-rounded meals can be created at home.

“Our partnership with Publix Super Market Charities is essential when it comes to meeting our mission! Without their support of our School Mobile Pantry program, many local families with children would go without the nutritious food they need to thrive.” says Gina Crumbliss, president and CEO of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. “Publix Charities provided hope to local families struggling with hunger. We cannot thank them enough.”

Publix Charities has donated nearly \$600,000 in monetary donations since 2008 and millions of pounds of food since 2014 to the Food Bank.

About the Chattanooga Area Food Bank

Founded in 1972 and renamed in 1983, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is committed to leading a network of partners in eliminating hunger and promoting better nutrition in our region. The Food Bank acquires and distributes healthy food across a 20-county service region including Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia with help from its network of over 300 partner agencies. Last year alone, the Food Bank distributed over 15.1 million pounds of food (equal to 12.6 million meals) and served over 25,000 people each week. In addition to food provision, the Food Bank works to engage the public in the fight to end hunger and empower people to take responsibility for their health and their lives. For more information or to find out how you can get involved, visit our [website](#), like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

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