

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 29, 2019

Contact: Sadie Crunk
(423) 622-1800 ext. 216
scrunk@chattfoodbank.org



Chattanooga Area Food Bank Receives \$75,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Fund Infrastructure and Equipment Needed for Handling Fresh Food

Chattanooga, TN (July 29, 2019) – The Chattanooga Area Food Bank (Food Bank) today announced a \$75,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund refrigerated vehicles and coolers that will ultimately help the food bank’s partner agencies secure and distribute more nutritious, perishable food to families in need.

“One in 8 people struggle with hunger in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia, including 48,100 children,” said Gina Crumbliss, president and CEO of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. “It is important for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank to help provide our communities with healthy food, and we are thankful to the Walmart Foundation for helping us provide much-needed equipment that helps our partners better serve people who struggle.”

The Chattanooga Area Food Bank secures fresh, perishable food from retailers across Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia area. The Food Bank’s retail store donation program connects 51 Food Bank partner agencies, including Christ’s Chapel Share and Care Mission (Ringgold, GA) and Standifer Gap Seventh-day Adventist Church (Chattanooga, TN), with local retailers for direct donation pick-ups. Partner agencies collect the food and distribute it directly to those they serve through their regularly scheduled food distribution and/or meal services.

The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping food banks rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the United States in a sustainable, cost-effective way.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Locally, they have been committed partners and generous supporters of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. Since 2002, the Walmart Foundation has donated more than \$1 million to the Food Bank through its grants and state giving programs, as well as local community fundraisers. Since 2014, Walmart has further supported our mission by helping to provide nearly 14 million meals to local children, families, seniors, and veterans in our 20-county region.

With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to distribute more food is critical for food banks. According to the USDA, 40 million people nationwide are food insecure, which means that they may not know where they will find their next meal. In Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia, 132,050 people are considered to be food insecure. This translates to 1 in 8 individuals, including 1 in 5 children. To learn more about what the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is doing to fight hunger, visit www.chattfoodbank.org.

About the Chattanooga Area Food Bank Founded in 1972 and renamed in 1983, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, a proud member of Feeding America, 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 [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

###