



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Chattanooga Area Food Bank Honors Volunteer Contributions *More than 3,000 Volunteers Donated 27,000 Hours of Service Last Year*

CHATTANOOGA, Tenn. – During National Volunteer Month, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank (Food Bank) thanks the dedicated individuals, families and organizations who generously donate their time and efforts to helping families at risk for hunger across 20 counties in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia.

“Truly, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank would not be able to fulfill our mission of leading a network of partners in eliminating hunger and promoting better nutrition in our region without the power of our volunteers,” said Food Bank Chief Executive Officer Gina Crumbliss. “For many children, volunteering at the Food Bank with their schools is their first introduction to our organization. The same people often return later in life with their families and colleagues. We are proud of the spirit of service our volunteers share across our community.”

Food Bank volunteers make an impressive impact on the Food Bank’s programs and services. Last fiscal year, 3,049 volunteers shared 27,148 hours of labor that made it possible to feed 25,000 people every week.

During that time, volunteers:

- Packed and distributed commodities to more than 2,000 families each quarter.
- Sorted 388,056 pounds of food drive donations.
- Sorted nearly 1,000,000 pounds of product donated by grocers and manufacturers.
- Delivered 56,746 Sack Packs.
- Packed and distributed 13,283 emergency food boxes.
- Produced and harvested thousands of pounds of food from the Evelyn Davenport Navarre Teaching Garden.

The hours volunteers spend helping address hunger in Southeast Tennessee and Northwest Georgia provide important value to the organization which is funded by charitable donations. Volunteer contributions provided a benefit of \$596,713 that otherwise would have to be replaced by additional staff in order to continue the same level of service to the families who depend on the Food Bank.

The Food Bank welcomes individuals, families, churches, schools and companies of varying sizes to volunteer at its Chattanooga and Dalton warehouses. In addition to volunteer opportunities during regular operating hours, the first Thursday evening and Saturday morning of every month are open to families and individuals who wish to share their time. To learn more about volunteer opportunities or sign up, please visit <http://www.chattfoodbank.org/involved>.

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 [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) or [LinkedIn](#).

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