2009: A Year of Growth

In 2009, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank experienced an incredible increase in demand for food assistance. In turn, our programs and services grew to meet the need.

Last year, the Food Bank distributed 8,839,691 pounds of food—the most ever. Clients received 17,325 Emergency Food Boxes, children were given 60,000 Sack packs, 9,820 meals were served at Kids Café sites, Food Bank trucks delivered 110,000 pounds of food to underserved communities and member agencies purchased 3,000,000 pounds of food at 18 cents per pound.

The Emergency Food Box pantry, which is mostly stocked with food from food drives, was able to handle a 16% increase from the previous year. This demonstrates how our friends in the community provide when we need them. It took 952,875 pounds of food to fill 17,325 boxes. We thank all the churches, businesses and civic groups for their food drives. We are especially grateful to WRCB-TV for conducting the 25th Annual Share Your Christmas, letter carriers for Stamp Out Hunger and our local firefighters, who conducted the Fighters Against Hunger food drive.

Top five individual food drives during 2009 include:

- Sodexo 9465 lbs.
- St. Paul’s Episcopal 8400 lbs.
- Lambda Chi 8300 lbs.
- Worley Parsons 6605 lbs.
- T-Mobile 6568 lbs.

The Sack Pack program has grown by leaps and bounds since its inception in 2004. In that year, the Food Bank sent 220 Sack Packs to eight schools. By 2009, the number of hungry children receiving weekend food bags had grown to 1,600, in 28 schools, each week. This vital program is totally funded through grants and private donations.

The majority of food distributed by the Chattanooga Area Food Bank comes from corporate food producers, such as General Mills, Kelloggs and Quaker Oats. Due to the economy, production at these plants has decreased, which led to a decrease in food available for donation to food banks. In 2008, corporate donations were down 1,000,000 pounds. This has forced the Food Bank to explore other outlets for food, which includes purchasing bulk quantities. A $100,000 grant from the State of Tennessee helped tremendously with this effort.

In May, Feeding America and WalMart reached an agreement in which the giant retailer would donate unsalable, but still nutritious, meat, dairy, produce and other food items to food banks across the country. In the past, this food was sent to the landfill. The Chattanooga Area Food Bank is receiving food from six WalMarts and two Sam’s in southeast Tennessee. Pick ups are made at 12 other stores by member agencies. Last year, the Food Bank and its member agencies received 442,595 pounds of food from WalMarts in Southeast Tennessee.

Many other retail grocers contributed daily to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank in 2009:

- Food Lion 222,119 lbs.
- Publix 67,555 lbs.
- Bi-Lo 35,720 lbs.
- Greenlife 24,547 lbs.
- Fresh Market 16,508 lbs.

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A Year of Growth

Last year, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank completed construction on the Evelyn Navarre Davenport Teaching Garden. The garden will address economic and environmental advantages of vegetable gardening – at home and community gardens.

A partnership with the Hamilton County Master Gardeners, the garden will be utilized as an educational facility, teaching the rewards of vegetable gardening, environmental stewardship, best gardening practices and nutrition. Families, schools, retirement homes, churches and other organizations will be taught best practices for creating and maintaining community gardens. Produce grown at the facility will be given to Emergency Food Box clients. Funding for the garden and facility was received through grants and private donations.

Meeting the needs of the hungry in 2009 was a challenge for the Chattanooga Area Food Bank staff. However, no one was turned away due to lack of food. This is attributed to the Food Bank’s faithful volunteers and donors. Their time and gifts are what allows us to feed more than 19,000 people each week. Without your help, none of this would be possible.

Too Good to be True

We all know to beware of anything that seems too good to be true. But when it comes to supporting the long-term needs of the Food Bank, too good to be true – is REALLY TRUE.

Creating a personal legacy of caring with an estate or planned gift to the Food Bank helps empower our work both today and tomorrow. And these gifts can do some amazing things for you such as:

- Increase lifetime income
- Reduce probate and estate costs
- Eliminate capital gains taxes
- Avoid estate taxes
- Reduce or eliminate income taxes for up to 6 years

Sound too good to be true? It isn’t! The Chattanooga Area Food Bank provides free services to help you learn what benefits a legacy gift would mean for the hungry and needy and you. To learn more, call Gary Paul today at (423) 622-1800.
Hunger in the Tennessee Valley

According to the 2010 Hunger in America Study the Chattanooga Area Food Bank provides food to—an estimated—19,800 clients each week. The Hunger Study is a nation-wide survey of food assistance organizations and clients. The survey was coordinated through Feeding America and designed by Mathmatica Policy Research, Inc.

Last spring, 185 food banks in the Feeding America Network participated in the hunger study. Collectively, they conducted 61,000 face-to-face client interviews, and more than 37,000 agencies in the Network completed the agency survey.

Client data was collected through face-to-face interviews with randomly selected recipients at emergency feeding sites across the country. Approximately 61,000 individuals (77.0% of eligible clients) offered to share their stories with us, including the circumstances that led them to the pantry, kitchen or shelter at which they were interviewed.

In addition, food banks mailed surveys to their member agencies seeking information about the services available to low-income Americans, and the agencies' needs and stability. More than 37,000 agencies responded.

Nationally, the need for food assistance showed a marked increase. One in eight Americans needed food assistance at some time during last year.

- The 37 million Americans served annually by Feeding America include nearly 14 million children and nearly 3 million seniors.
- Each week, approximately 5.7 million people receive emergency food assistance from an agency served by a Feeding America member. This is a 27% percent increase over numbers reported in Hunger in America 2006, which reported that 4.5 million people were served each week.

The Tennessee Valley experienced a similar increase. The 2006 report found that the Chattanooga Area Food Bank served 15,000 people each week.

The Chattanooga Area Food Bank surveyed 398 clients, asking questions on family budgets, health status and food resources. Key findings of the local study include:

**Who receives food from the Chattanooga Area Food Bank?**
- 40% of the members of households served by The Chattanooga Area Food Bank are children under 18 years old
- 9% of the members of households are children age 0 to 5 years
- 5% of the members of households are elderly
- 86% of clients are non-Hispanic white, 8% are non-Hispanic black, 3% are Hispanic, and the rest are from other racial groups
- 31% of households include at least one employed adult
- 88% have incomes below the federal poverty level
- 9% are homeless

**Food Insecurity**
- Among all client households served by emergency food programs of The Chattanooga Area Food Bank, 82% are food insecure, according to the U.S. Government’s official food security scale.
- 40% of the clients have very low food security

**Clients choosing between food and other necessities**
- 52% of clients served by The Chattanooga Area Food Bank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities or heating fuel
- 34% had to choose between paying for food and paying their rent or mortgage
- 41% had to choose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care
- 33% had to choose between paying for food and paying for transportation
- 43% had to choose between paying for food and paying for gas for a car

The Chattanooga Area Food Bank member agencies play a major role in feeding hungry families in our area. These churches, group homes, shelters and human service organizations are the front lines on the war against hunger. Many of the Food Bank’s member agencies reported increases since 2006.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Agency Estimates of Change in Number of Clients</th>
<th>Pantries</th>
<th>Kitchens</th>
<th>Shelters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>More clients</td>
<td>68.5%</td>
<td>78.5%</td>
<td>50.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fewer clients</td>
<td>6.7%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
<td>0.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>About the same</td>
<td>19.3%</td>
<td>11.8%</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New agencies</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
<td>9.6%</td>
<td>36.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(After 2006)
During 2009, the economy began to stabilize. However, jobs were still lost and many families struggled to operate with less money. In 2008, demand increased by 20% over the previous year. In 2009, demand increased 12% more than 2008.

Fortunately, support from the community, through food drives and financial donations increased enough to help the Food Bank maintain its services and provide food to more than 200,000 people throughout the year.

**Chattanooga Area Food Bank**

**Statement of Activities**

For fiscal year ending June 30, 2009

**SUPPORT & REVENUE**

**Support**
- Donations of food* $13,760,549
- Contributions 439,835
- Fundraising 486,123
- Grants 271,511

**Total Support** $14,958,018*

**Revenue**
- Shared Maintenance fees $545,087
- Commodity service revenue 45,628
- Dues and memberships 11,960
- Investment income 5,421
- Miscellaneous income 4,540

**Total Revenue** $612,636

**Total Support & Revenue** $15,570,654

**Expenses & losses**

**Program services**
- Food distribution $14,847,392

**Supporting services**
- Management & general 85,956
- Fundraising 174,047

**Total Expenses** $15,107,395

**Increase (decrease) in net assets** $463,259

**Net assets — beginning of the year** $3,093,975

**Net assets — end of the year** $3,557,234

* For bookkeeping and audit purposes, revenue and support totals include food inventory which is given a monetary value equal to the average national retail price of $1.49 per pound of food.
Our Programs

During the 2009 calendar year, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank distributed 8,839,691 pounds of food.

Sack Pack

According to USDA statistics, 21% of Tennessee children live in poverty — 20% are in households that experience “food insecurity”. During their early years, children need nutritious food to develop — both physically and mentally.

School children are able to receive lunches through the Free or Reduced Lunch Program. This provides children with nutritious meals on school days, but at times there are some children who have no food at home during the weekends. To help eliminate this problem, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank created the Sack Pack program. Sack Packs are bags of food that children take home from school on Friday. These bags contain child-friendly products — easy to open, easy to feed themselves.

During the 2009-10 school year, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is delivering 1,600 Sack Packs to 28 schools, each week.

Second Helpings

This prepared food program received more than 92,000 pounds of food from area restaurants and cafeterias last year. Restaurant staff store food in their freezer to await pick up by the Food Bank. Volunteers deliver prepared food to various community agencies that prepare meals for their clients.

Kid’s Café

Kid’s Café partners with after-school programs to provide meals for their clients. These after-school programs are a safe haven for latch-key children whose parents are at work when the school day ends and there is no one at home. Once a week, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank serves a nutritious meal to children attending the program. In 2009, the Food Bank’s Kid’s Café served 9,820 meals to children from low-income families.

Emergency Food Box

The Food Bank prepares fifty-pound boxes of non-perishable foods which are distributed to families struggling to put food on their tables. Area agencies issue vouchers to the individuals and families. Last year, 17,000 boxes were shared with more than 2,500 families each month.

In November, 1,900 Emergency Food Boxes were given out - our biggest month on record.

Rural Delivery

Some rural communities in the Food Bank’s 20-county service area have few resources for food assistance and other social services.

To better serve these communities, the Food Bank delivers a truckload of staple food items which are distributed to needy families. Each quarter, a Food Bank truck is unloaded at a church where selected families receive as much as 100 pounds of food, plus personal care items and laundry detergent. In 2009, Rural Delivery carried 110,000 pounds of food to sites at Luminary, in Bledsoe County, New Martin, in Van Buren County and Dalton, Georgia.

Agency Shopping

Food Bank member agencies that provide meals or food boxes are able to purchase food at a rate of 18-cents per pound. Some products are cheaper, depending on the type and amount of product. The 18-cents per pound is referred to as our agency Shared Maintenance Fee.

Agencies, from communities located in our 20-county service area visit the Food Bank shopping floor, where they can choose from a variety of donated products from corporate food producers. The national average cost of food purchased at a grocery store is $1.59 per pound. This saving gives the agencies more purchasing power, reducing their food budget and freeing money for other programs.

Community Gardening

We promote the value of growing healthy food and provide support for local community gardening initiatives. The Bill Johnson Community Garden is located off MLK Boulevard at Chattanooga Housing Authority property. Residents living in the low-income apartments grow fresh produce, in raised garden beds, for themselves and their neighbors.

The Evelyn Navarre Davenport Teaching Garden is a joint venture with the Hamilton Master Gardeners. This demonstration garden, located at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, is used to teach the community about the benefits of planting vegetable gardens.
Officers
Chairman
Tonya Gentry
Vice President
Jason Luna
Second Vice President
Bud Jackson
Treasurer
Jerry Lee
Secretary
Mike Andrews
Ex-Officio
Bob Crates
President
Clare Sawyer

Members
Ann Anderson
Suzanne M. Cohn
Sarah Denton
Mike Drew
Phil Harris
Mark Hilling
Maria Kain Matthews
Vanessa Mercer
David Padilla
Stan Porter
Rev. Suzanne Smitherman
Al Tallent
Rev. Roger Vest

The Food Bank is a bridge between America’s food bounty and the hungry.

Our mission is to gather and share groceries and fresh foods with our neighbors in need.

Calendar of Events

Volunteer Picnic       April 15
This event honors our dedicated volunteers. Dinner at Southern Riverboat Company - Pier 2. Food, Fun and Bingo starts at 5 p.m.

Stamp Out Hunger       May 8
This is the annual postal carriers’ food drive. Leave a bag of non-perishable food by your mailbox for pick-up.

Spring Plant Sale      April 30–31
The Chattanooga Area Food Bank Community Garden’s Annual Spring Plant Sale will feature herbs & other edibles, natives & wildflowers, succulents, hardy perennials and colorful annuals.

23rd Garden Tour       June 5–6
Tour five beautiful private flower gardens, kept by the best gardeners in our community. $15 per person, ticket good for both days.