



The men and women who make up the staff of the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia are heroes. Since the beginning of the pandemic quarantine in mid-March, they have risked their lives every day to come to work to make sure that their neighbors throughout our 14-county service area have food. And more neighbors than ever need that food support – demand rose more than 40% from early March into the summer. Broadening the scope, from January to June this year, we served 160,420 people – an increase of 80% over the same period in 2019! In May and June, we distributed more than 1.3 million pounds of food, the largest amount during my tenure and some 400,000 pounds more than we distributed in each of the same months last year.

I am proud that I can work every day to provide them the support they need to carry out our vision of creating a community where no neighbor experiences hunger.

We could not create that community without your financial and moral support. I am an English major who has been in love with words since before I learned to read, but I struggle to put into words the magnitude of the support that has flowed our way in recent months. Starting in mid-March, your response far outweighed the hopes of our request for financial support to meet what we knew would be a spike in demand. From mid-March through May, we received a total of almost \$750,000 in gifts from individuals, organizations and corporations. To put that in context, our budgeted fundraising goal for this year was \$535,000; in less than three months, you exceeded our annual goal. Thank you seems insufficient, but it is all I have to offer: Thank you!

When I came to the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia in December of 2018, I anticipated the opportunities that would come wrapped in what first appears to be a challenge. I was eager to learn and excited to wake up every day and try, with the help of a talented and dedicated team, to make the world a little bit better. No one had any idea what was looming . . .

While the past few months have been challenging, they have also been reassuring. More people are good than bad. More people care about their neighbors than don't. More people are generous than selfish. More people want to help us achieve our vision of creating a community where no neighbor experiences hunger than don't.

And that, friends, sustains my hope.



CHUCK TONEY
Executive Director



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Darrell Goodman,
Chair

Adam Lang,
Secretary

John Tebeau,
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Bobby Erwin

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Charlie Maddox

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Leckie Stack

Brock Toole

Robert Wall

Theresa Wright



Vision

Creating a community where no neighbor experiences hunger

Mission

Empowering our community to target the root causes of hunger and malnutrition by providing healthy food, nutrition education, and innovative distribution methods

Values

- **Accessibility** | Making food, education, and resources available to all.
- **Dignity** | Honoring the humanity of all people.
- **Diversity** | Welcoming everyone to our places and programs
- **Generosity** | Caring for and supporting the needs of our community.
- **Integrity** | Being committed to doing the right things the right way.
- **Stewardship** | Managing our resources responsibly and efficiently.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

FOOD 2 KIDS | When schools began closing in March, we coordinated with our school system contacts on how to continue to provide nutritional weekend food bags for the students in the program. Thanks to the good work of our staff, those programs continued uninterrupted. For the year, we delivered 16,970 bags.

SENIOR BROWN BAG | This program provides critical staple food items for seniors in need. With strict protocols in place for the safety of both our staff and our clients, the program has continued through the pandemic. For the year, we delivered 9,372 bags.

AGENCY NETWORK | We temporarily suspended shopping on the agency floor in March and moved all shopping online. To assist agencies who were not familiar with the online ordering system and don't need large quantities of food, we created standardized boxes. Pictures of the boxes were placed on the ordering site and agencies could select the number they wanted. When the US Department of Agriculture Farm to Families program came online and we began receiving free boxes of fresh produce, meat and dairy, those were made available as well.

VOLUNTEERS | Volunteers are essential to supporting our programs. Volunteers contributed more than 16,000 hours of service to the Food Bank this year. But when COVID struck in March, we made the difficult decision to suspend the volunteer program. Thankfully, Governor Brian Kemp authorized Georgia National Guard troops to serve at food banks; since early April, we have had troops on site filling the volunteer gap.



I think our new strategic plan will create an excitement in our service area that will help us be the best a Food Bank can be.

BOBBY ERWIN



FOOD BANK DEVELOPS STRATEGIC PLAN FOR THE NEXT THREE YEARS

During the last half of 2019, a committee of 13 Food Bank board members, staff and donors drafted a strategic plan to guide the operation of the Food Bank through fiscal year 2022. Those are posted on the left side of this page.

“This plan is a great foundation for the Food Bank to build on,” said Bobby Erwin, past chair of the board. “I think our new strategic plan will create an excitement in our service area that will help us be the best a Food Bank can be.”

“I am truly excited about the strategic plan and eager to begin implementation,” said Executive Director Chuck Toney. “I am grateful to the members of the committee for their time and valuable contributions to this process, and to the members of the community and our partner agencies who participated. Great days are ahead for the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia!”

The five goals of the plan are:

1. Enhance programs and services to serve more people
2. Diversify resources and fund development
3. Educate the broader community
4. Build capacity for partner agencies
5. Improve food management

HIGHLIGHTS OF FY20

- No disruption of food distribution as a result of COVID-19
- Completion and board approval of strategic plan
- National Guard troop onsite since April to help fill the volunteer gap
- Bezos/Amazon grant (**\$473,000**) from **\$100 million** gift to Feeding America
 - ▶ Vehicle and equipment purchases:
 - ▶ **Two 53-foot** refrigerated tractor-trailers
 - ▶ **Two** refrigerated box trucks
 - ▶ **Two** forklifts
 - ▶ **One** cargo van
 - ▶ **One** electric pallet jack
 - ▶ Agency Support:
 - ▶ Waived April agency fees
 - ▶ Purchased refrigerator/freezers, coolers and shelving
 - ▶ Purchased multiple loads of food
- The Lake Burton Civic Association created a **\$50,000** challenge grant which raised more than **\$225,000** in support of the Mountain Branch in less than 2 weeks.
- Number of volunteer hours: **16,961**
- **16,970** F2K bags
- **9,372** Senior Brown bags
- Outpouring of financial support for COVID-19 relief
 - ▶ Met a **40%** increase in demand
- Successful AIB (food safety) and Feeding America (contract requirements) site visits
- Distribution:
 - ▶ **12.32** million pounds – 2nd highest in FBNEGA history
 - ▶ **47%** of that food was fresh produce, meat or dairy

2019 FINANCIALS

ACTIVITIES

Revenue & Other Support	\$6,095,100.00
Expenses	\$3,278,373.00
Increase (Decrease) of Net Assets	\$3,147,563.00
Net Assets EOY 2019	\$8,509,413.00
Net Assets EOY 2020	\$11,656,976.00

FINANCIAL POSITION

Current Assets	\$14,284,420.00
Long Term Assets	\$(2,627,445.00)
Total Assets	\$11,656,975.00
Total Liabilities	\$678,783.00
Net Assets	\$3,806,733.00
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$4,485,516.00

FUNCTIONAL EXPENSES

Program Expense	\$1,498,529.00
Management & General	\$1,570,656.00
Fundraising	\$209,188.00

Distribution

FOOD IN POUNDS

FY03 - FY20



FY20 by month



Sponsors



MOUNTAIN BRANCH UPDATE

The Mountain Branch of the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, located in the Covered Bridge shopping center in Clayton, was established to provide efficient and effective service to the five mountain counties in the service area: Rabun, Habersham, Stephens, Towns and White. Located in a former grocery store, the facility is ideally equipped to function as a food bank, with cooler and freezer space, loading docks and a well-lighted shopping floor that serves as the primary warehouse. To help meet the increased demand, the Mountain Branch began a monthly on-site mobile pantry, serving as many as 300 families. The Mountain Branch is managed by James Brim.

In addition to the warehouse space and agency shopping floor, the Mountain Branch is home to a Teaching Kitchen, Commercial Kitchen and Individual Quick Freeze production line. These features create a food hub that is driving economic development in the region.

An advisory board, chaired by longtime FBNEGA supporter Leckie Stack, serves as a link between the Mountain Branch and the governing board of the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia.



At the Food Bank, we believe there is no more fundamentally human act than feeding someone who is hungry.

CHUCK TONEY
Executive Director

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foodbanknega.org