**Georgia Mountain Food Bank update May 2020**

The last few months have been challenging and rewarding. There is so much to be grateful for, and each day we work with thankful hearts! To our amazing volunteers and staff, thank you for your courage and commitment to this mission. As always, you are the heroes that provide hope to struggling people. We are especially grateful for the service of the **Georgia State Defense Force** that have answered our call to help process food to send out to our partner agencies and assist with multiple food distributions.

We’ve received community support like never before to help us meet the skyrocketing need for food assistance as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Multiple local donors have contributed poultry, protein, produce and shelf stable food arriving daily. These donations have allowed us to support our partner agencies on the front lines with the volume of healthy, nutritious food they need.

Financial contributions have made it possible for us to purchase extra food to share with the community through safe, drive-through distributions and stock our shelves for the many months of recovery that lie ahead.

**Hall County School System raised over $31,000** in their challenge fundraising campaign!

An anonymous donor offered a $10,000 match and they not only met the match, they more than doubled it!

The **2020 Georgia Legal Food Frenzy** raised record funds for Georgia Food Banks. **Georgia Mountain Food Bank had Fifteen law firms competing this year that raised over $25,000, once again, exceeding last year’s contributions!** Those firms are **Whelchel Dunlap Jarrard & Walker LLP; Stewart Melvin & Frost LLP; R.K. Adams Law; The Law Office of Michelle Hall; Fox Chandler Homans Hicks & McKinnon LLP; Jennifer McCall Attorney at Law LLC; Smith Gilliam Williams & Miles P.A.; Hulsey Oliver & Mahar LLP; Jarrard & Davis LLP; Coleman Chambers & Rogers LLP; Forsyth County Juvenile Bar Association; Rory J. Selwyn Attorney at Law P.C.; District Attorney of the Northeastern Judicial Circuit; The Siemon Law Firm P.C.; Northeastern Judicial Circuit Office of the Public Defender.**

We are very thankful for the **USDA Farmers to Families Food Box** program that supports farmers and sends fresh food to food banks and other nonprofits across the country. **We are receiving 20,000 lbs. of beautiful fresh produce weekly for six consecutive weeks.** This food is flowing from our docks to the doorsteps of families in need through our agencies and programs.

Also, we have served with other community agencies such as **District 2 Public Health**, where hundreds of families were served at 2 separate testing site distributions. It has been our joy to provide groceries to other nonprofit employees struggling through this difficult time.

In the weeks to come, we have several public distributions planned throughout Hall county, and we are working to schedule more in the other counties we serve. Hopefully, we can announce those dates soon. For now, we will distribute food on the following days:

**Saturday, May 30th North Lanier Baptist Church Forsyth Campus 9 – 10 am while supplies last**

**Saturday, June 6th Free Chapel Worship Center 9 am – 1 pm while supplies last**

**Monday, June 8th Jim Walters YMCA 4 – 7 pm while supplies last**

**Saturday, June 13th Montgomery Memorial Baptist Church 9 am – 1 pm while supplies last**

**Thursday, July 16 St. John’s Catholic Church 4 – 6 pm while supplies last**

**Thursday, June 25th New Holland Elementary 4 – 7 pm while supplies last**

Plans are still underway for the annual **EMPTY BOWL LUNCHEON Tuesday, September 22, 2020**. Due to the uncertainty of these times, we are making plans for the possibility of a virtual meeting. However, we are planning the traditional event and a virtual version. Details to come. At-home bowl painting parties have generated over 650 bowls! Our goal is 1000 bowls for the event, so please let us know if you are interested in learning more. Email [paintingcoach@gamountainfoodbank.org](mailto:paintingcoach@gamountainfoodbank.org) for more details