



Feeding Hope

Fall 2020

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GEORGIA
MOUNTAIN
FOOD BANK

'til no one is hungry

Partner Distribution Organization of The Atlanta Community Food Bank

www.gamountainfoodbank.org

GEORGIA MOUNTAIN FOOD BANK BOARD OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

Rich White, Chair
Retired Bank Executive

Dennis Stockton, Vice Chair
Lanier Technical College

Kathleen Owen, Immediate Past Chair
HR and Accounting Specialist

Nancy Jo Zimmer, Treasurer
Vice President Business Banking/JP Morgan Chase Bank

Kas Lawson, Secretary
Staff Attorney/Hall County State Court

Brian Bailey
Major Gifts Officer/The Medical Center Foundation

Joy Banks
District Credit Manager- Hajoca Corporation

Julie Knight-Brown
School Nutrition Director/Lumpkin County Schools

Justin Burruss
Senior Auditor/Rushton & Company

Wes Hunt
CEO /Homestar Financial Corporation

Cheryl Jones
Nutrition Director/Hall County Schools

Kyle Lewellen
Lew's Custom Cutting Boards & teXga Farms

Sean Oblisk
Cargill Inc.

Tate O'Rourke
Business Development Manager/Jackson EMC

Richard Riley
Marketing — Creekside Consulting

David Saucedo
Farmers Insurance

Dennis Stockton
Lanier Technical College

George Wangeman
Gainesville City Council

Carl Wagster
Retired

NEW MEMBERS

Chance Jones
Norton Insurance

Gerald Couch
Sheriff, Hall County

Lauren Samples
Partner at Tillman, Bailey, and Associates

Carly Redding, Ph.D.
University of North Georgia

Casey Ryals
Hall County Farm Bureau Insurance

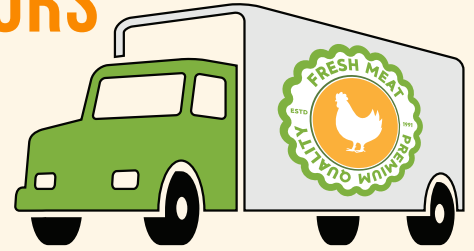
Steven Ellis
Self Employed, Electrician

CORPORATE DONORS FILL THE GAPS

-excerpt from an article written by
Steve Mueller/GMFB Operations Director

As the unsettledness of February gave way to the uncertainty of March, Georgia Mountain Food Bank (GMFB) recognized the significant negative effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic on our inbound food supply. As the pandemic reached more communities in the US and around the world, we witnessed a decline between 40-50% in donated food, especially protein from Retail Partners (Grocery Stores). We were feeling the impact of severe disruptions to the national and global supply chain. We reached out to our friends in the poultry industry and they responded quickly.

GMFB would like to thank **Perdue Farms, Fieldale Farms, Wayne Farms,**



Prime/Pak Foundation Food Group, Country Charm Eggs, Tyson Foods, and Pilgrim's Pride for generous donations during a historic time of need. We would also like to thank **TOMATO THYME** and **Gordon Food Service** for participation in the USDA FARM TO FAMILIES PROGRAM that has delivered over **183,000 pounds of farm fresh produce** to us! These donations provided weekly produce to partner agencies and allowed us to do multiple community food distributions to people effected by the pandemic. Truly, these donors joined us in **FEEDING HOPE TOGETHER!**

GMFB Welcomes 6 New Members to the FY2021

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

-excerpt from an article written by Morgan Lee/Forum Communications

Community leadership is key in GMFB's ability to effectively carry out its mission of addressing hunger, health and quality of life by serving those in need throughout North Georgia. This is why GMFB is excited to announce the addition of six new community leaders to its 2020 board of directors, each dedicated to addressing the challenges faced by the Food Bank during these unique and often difficult times.

Each new board member brings with them a background of commitment to volunteerism and a desire for the continued improvement of north Georgia as evidenced by their previous board and community service. With roots entrenched in the region, each also brings determination of making it a better place for all in the place they have long called home. (see board member list)

GEORGIA LEGAL FOOD FRENZY

The 9th Annual Georgia Legal Food Frenzy

food and funds drive competition raised a record-breaking \$852,090 supporting Food Banks across Georgia! **GMFB would like to thank the**

15 law offices and firms that together raised

over \$25,190 to help feed people in northeast Georgia! For the 5th consecutive year, **Whelchel, Dunlap, Jarrard & Walker LLP took 1st place; Stewart Melvin & Frost, LLP won 2nd place; Jarrard & Davis, LLP, in a close race for 2nd place, ended in 3rd. Regional Per Capita Points winner was the office of R.K. Adams Law.**



THANKS FOR ANOTHER GREAT YEAR!

RESPONDING TO COVID-19

As the Coronavirus continues to spread across our state, nation and the globe, Georgia Mountain Food Bank (GMFB) remains committed to serve people in need. Though our team is small and has had some challenges, we have been able to remain open and in full service operation mode.

We want to offer a special thanks again to the **Georgia Defense Force** and our **A Team volunteers** who have courageously and faithfully served along side of our staff. **Operations Director Steve Mueller**, has filled many rolls during these uncertain days and we offer a special thanks to Steve for his determination that no one should be hungry and "make it happen" spirit. We've partnered with several elementary schools, where administrators and staff volunteered their time to ensure families are connected with healthy and nutritious food through GMFB mobile pantries. Local partners such as **Good News Clinic, Gainesville Housing Authority, SISU, First Baptist Church Gainesville, Georgia Mountain YMCA, St. Vincent de Paul, First Redeemer, John Paul II Mission, and Free Chapel** have offered locations and volunteers for vital community food distributions.

Your support has never been more critical. The most important thing that we can all do is continue to make financial contributions that will make it possible for us to provide the help that is needed. There are many ways to help, just visit www.gamountainfoodbank.org/covid-19-response or call us at (770)534-4111. Also follow us on social media to stay up to date on the latest news, and remember to "SHARE" Georgia Mountain Food Bank with friends. Thank you for joining us in **FEEDING HOPE TOGETHER!**

Hall County Schools go **BEYOND THE BOOKS**



With a strong desire to engage the community to support Georgia Mountain Food Bank, **Brad Brown/Assistant Superintendent For Human Resources** and **Cheryl Jones/Director of Nutrition** joined forces to go "*Beyond the Books*". Securing a donor that agreed to match funds raised up to \$10,000, these two determined folks went to work! **Their hard work and outreach to the Hall county community, not only met the match, but DOUBLED it, raising a total over \$31,000.** From everyone at Georgia Mountain Food Bank, and on behalf of all those fed through the outreach, we want to thank the family of **HALL COUNTY SCHOOLS** for this tremendous support, just when people need us the most!



Georgia Mountain Food Bank has created a fund to ensure that we have the resources to help people in need today and tomorrow. A generous gift from Homestar Financial helped establish the fund.

We are encouraging all friends of Georgia Mountain Food Bank to "round- up" their gifts by just \$2 to the Food For Tomorrow Fund. Your gift today gives assurance that we can fill empty bowls when tomorrow comes.

Call us at (770) 534-4111 or email Robert@gamountainfoodbank.org for more information.

SHOW YOUR SUPPORT! GET your FREE "FOOD FOR TOMORROW" window decal!

Call Ronii at (770)534-4111 or email Ronii@gamountainfoodbank.org

An Easy Way To Stock The Shelves



Are you a regular Kroger customer? If so, you can help Georgia Mountain Food Bank every time you shop! Just link your Kroger digital account/ shopping card to us and your all set!

<https://www.kroger.com/hc/help/faqs/community-rewards/general>

Georgia Mountain Food Bank
1642 Calvary Industrial Drive SW
Gainesville, GA 30507

Visit www.gamountainfoodbank.org/donate-food for our most needed items list.



FIESTA CABS

Goodness has its own reward. A big shout out to Mr. Edwin Aguilar, the owner of Fiesta. Fiesta Cabs is partnering with GMFB to help those in need with limited transportation be able to get to area food agencies. When GMFB calls, Fiesta Cabs transports the individual to the food bank for a PIN (Person In Need) box. The company then returns the individual back to their home at no cost. Truly, we Feed Hope Together.

Feeding Hope Together EMPTY BOWL LUNCHEON

benefiting Georgia Mountain Food Bank

join us for a
VIRTUAL EVENT | SEPTEMBER 22, 2020

EMPTY BOWL 2020 IS ON!

Last year over 1,000 people gathered to support GMFB at the annual **EMPTY BOWL LUNCHEON**, and though we can't gather together again this year, the community tradition of the EMPTY BOWL will go on, **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2020!** Through the technology of virtual meetings and broadcasts, the Empty Bowl Luncheon will feature, the release of a new video, recognition awards and a VIRTUAL auction of celebrity bowls including a tribute to **Healthcare Heroes, Jim Walters, Riley Green, Chase Elliot, Malcolm Mitchell, and another great piece by Frank Norton, Jr.** Boxed lunch meals will be provided by **PERFORMANCE FOOD SERVICE** and delivered by GMFB volunteers! Don't worry, we didn't forget about the signature keepsake bowls, a box of hand-painted bowls will be delivered with the meals to all local sponsors! Remember, your support is more critical this year than ever before! Find out <https://www.gamountainfoodbank.org/emptybowl/> or call us at (770) 534-4111.



A NEW EMPTY BOWL TRADITION

Each year a group of professional designers put together a special t-shirt commemorating the annual EMPTY BOWL LUNCH. In an effort to find even more ways for children and families to be involved, we launched the **EMPTY BOWL T-SHIRT DESIGN CONTEST**. Children across north Georgia submitted designs to be shown on this year's event t-shirt. We are proud to announce that **Alexa Dillion, age 9, from Gainesville**, is the winner and her design "Feeding Hope Together" will be shown on the event t-shirt and she will receive a \$50.00 gift card. Each sponsor will receive event t-shirts as a part of the sponsorship packet. **THANK YOU TO ALL WHO PARTICIPATED! #FEEDINGHOPETOGETHER!**

About the Bowls

Sheltering in place has been so difficult for us all, especially those working from home while educating and entertaining children! Unable to gather for the traditional EMPTY BOWL LUNCH bowl painting parties, we launched **TRAVELING BOWL PAINTING PARTIES** and more than 150 groups and families participated from across north Georgia! Georgia Mountain Food Bank would like to thank all of those that participated and send a special thanks to **Sara and Patrick of The Art Colony** for putting the project together, transporting and firing the bowls! **#FEEDINGHOPETOGETHER!**



Find out more at <https://www.gamountainfoodbank.org/emptybowl/>



Partner Distribution Organization of The Atlanta Community Food Bank

Staff

Kay Blackstock, Executive Director
Ronii Diaz, Administrative Assistant
Colton Donino, Warehouse & Order Management Associate

Clint Frain, Driver
Lydia Johnson, Agency Services Coordinator
Steve Mueller, Operations Director
Robert Shippey, Development Director

Rebecca Thurman, Business Manager
Alec Tipton, Warehouse Supervisor
John Uhely, Driver



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