A year covers a lot of ground. How we spend our minutes and hours becomes how we spend our days and lives. At the end of every fiscal year, I take a moment to reflect on all the family dinners, take-out meals, laughs and conversations I’ve shared with others around tables in my own home, in this community and in other parts of the country. I am grateful for those who have come around a table with me. Breaking bread together and sharing a meal in community is what makes us happier and healthier and stronger.

But then my mind is drawn to those with an empty table. They aren’t able to make their favorite recipes or share a meal “around a table” because their pantry is bare. And I know that’s a reality for 1 in 8 Georgians, including 1 in 5 Children. With the cost of groceries up by 10%, and the cost of eggs, poultry and dairy up 14% in 2022, more and more people had to make some difficult choices this past year—about whether to have food or heat, shelter, or important prescriptions. I see and hear about it everyday.

But do you know what else I see? I see people wanting to make a big impact on hunger, people organizing food drives, children bringing their shelf stable donations to fill barrels at their schools, and companies stepping up to fill the gap and sponsor Empty Bowl or provide matching gifts. In short, I see YOU. Whenever and wherever the need is, you step forward and say, “Here I am to help.” And we couldn’t do this work year after year without your willingness to make a difference and show love in the best ways to vulnerable individuals in our community. The work is hard, but with a community who bands together, with many hands, we help lighten the load for each other and so many we seek to serve.

This past year alone, your donations have provided 5,224,365 meals throughout our five counties. Your support made our return to our first post-pandemic in-person Empty Bowl be one of the most successful events in our history, raising enough to provide 1.1 million meals from that event alone. From Legal Food Frenzy to our School Community Food Drive Challenge, you brought your canned goods and sent words of encouragement and wrote checks knowing that every $1 you give provides 5 meals. There just aren’t enough words to express my gratitude.

I look forward to the day when our work is not necessary—when every person comes to the table with the comfort that they have enough to eat every meal of every day. Can you imagine? A child goes to sleep with the reassurance that they will have breakfast when they wake up in the morning. A senior adult knows they don’t have to choose between their medicine or having dinner. A father has the joy of packing healthy lunches for his preschooler. I want us all to be able to gather around our table with the gratitude that, together, we served “til no one WAS hungry.” It would be easy for me to feel resigned to an impossible task, but I have YOU. Because I know we are in this effort together, I believe we can make this beautiful dream a reality.

Warmly,

Kay Blackstock, Executive Director
Georgia Mountain Food Bank
BY THE NUMBERS
Condensed Statement of Activities

July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

OUR MISSION: To address hunger, health and quality of life by serving those in need throughout North Georgia.

AUDIT COMPLETED BY ALEXANDER ALMAND & BANGS, LLP

EXPENSES

- Program Services: $7,532,980.00
- Management & General: $199,899.00
- Fundraising: $450,026.00
- Total Functional Expenses: $8,182,905.00
- Cost of direct Donor Benefits: $3,399.00
- Non-Cash: $6,126,700.00
- TOTAL EXPENSES: $8,186,304.00

REVENUE AND SUPPORT

- Contributions: $1,712,635.00
- Program Service & Other Revenue: $232,378.00
- In-Kind Contributions of Food & Services: $6,126,700.00
- Grants: $250,446.00
- TOTAL REVENUE AND SUPPORT: $8,322,159.00

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS

- NET ASSETS, BEGINNING OF YEAR: $3,374,358.00
- NET ASSETS, END OF YEAR: $3,510,213.00
- CHANGE IN NET ASSETS: $135,855.00

Full financial statements provided upon request. A complete copy of the audited financial statements for the year ending June 30, 2022 is available for review on our website, gamountainfoodbank.org.

2021-2022 Board of Directors

Cheryl Jones, Board Chair
Steven Ellis, Board Vice Chair
Joy Banks, Secretary
Lauren Samples, Treasurer
Brian Bailey, MBA, CFRE
Julie Knight-Brown
Jennifer L. Herring
Carli Jones
Stacey Jones
Lori Lebow, M.D.
John Pace
Amber Price
Casey Ramsey
Felix Santiago
Reneigh Satterfield
Steven Shockley
George Wangemann
Suzanne Willis

EXPENSES

- 2% ADMINISTRATIVE
- 92% PROGRAMS
- 5% FUNDRAISING

REVENUES

- 3% GRANTS
- 3% HANDLING FEES
- 94% DONATIONS

110,193 Meals from Community Food Drives
270,342 Neighborhood Fresh Lbs
548,793 Mobile Pantry Meals
3,881 Volunteer Hours
64 Feeding Partners
103 RX Box Meals
417,118 Meals provided by corporate donors
3,202 Donors
5,224,365 Total Meals