





## Shoals Delivery

On the last Friday morning of each month, two large trucks back up to the Food Bank's dock, where warehouse staff members load a wide variety of produce, frozen meat, vegetables, snacks and canned goods before driving 90 minutes to the parking lot of Christ Chapel: Loaves and Fishes in Florence.

What is going on? The Food Bank's monthly "Shoals Delivery" serves and helps 10-14 charitable feeding partners in Franklin, Colbert and Lauderdale counties. Representatives from area food pantries, residential programs, soup kitchens and child backpack programs meet the trucks in the parking lot, collect the food they pre-ordered, which they will then distribute to neighbors in the communities they serve.

The Food Bank takes its responsibility to serve its entire 11-county region seriously, not just the greater Huntsville area. The Shoals has a large number of individuals and families in need of food, and Colbert County has the greatest need in the entire area served.

The Florence HELP Center, located near the river in downtown Florence, is one of the non-profit organizations that participates each month. Director Louise Tanner says the Food Bank plays a vital role in its food program. "In 2016, the Florence Help Center fed 2,565 families, which totaled 23,478 people," she said. "We are open three mornings each week, and those struggling with hunger can come and pick up a food bag, which varies depending on family size. We are very grateful to the Food Bank for all they do in the Shoals because we feed a lot of families. Without your help, we wouldn't be able to feed the number of people we do."

The Food Bank is testing an expansion of this special delivery program to other areas in 2017. So far, it has scheduled four deliveries to the Fort Payne area, with a goal of serving Jackson, DeKalb and Marshall County partners better.

Every day, the Food Bank stays committed to feeding more neighbors in need and ending hunger in North Alabama, and it is working harder to ensure food gets efficiently to those who need it most.

## Amazing things are happening because of donors like <u>you</u>!