

# DONOR *report*

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Together we can solve hunger™



*Because of donors like you...*  
**amazing things are happening!**

## Store Donation Program Connects Groceries with Neighbors in Need

Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning, the Food Bank's lead driver Lawrence Hollins pulls behind the Walmart on University Drive in Huntsville. There, store associates help him load more than 1,500 pounds of frozen meat, fresh produce, canned goods, bakery and dairy items into his waiting refrigerated truck. Lawrence thanks the crew and pulls off, heading to the next seven grocery stores on his pickup list for the day. What is Lawrence doing? He's performing an integral part of the Food Bank's Store Donation Program!

Through our Store Donation Program the Food Bank of North Alabama gathers donated food items from grocery stores that do not meet store sale standards but are perfectly safe to eat. **In 2017, the Food Bank gathered more than 4 million pounds of such items, which provided about 3.5 million meals to our neighbors in need.** Each week, Food Bank drivers and representatives from our partner organizations pick up food donations from more than 80 grocery retail locations spread across our 11-county service area. This food is then examined for safety, sorted and distributed to people in communities across North Alabama.

One recent area of growth with this program is in fresh produce donations. In 2017, the Food Bank picked up and distributed more than a million pounds of fruits and vegetables, our largest distribution of produce ever. **This growth area is especially important because of the Food Bank's focus on providing fresher and healthier items to the people we serve, who often are the most vulnerable: the elderly, the ill and the young.**

**The Store Donation Program is a win-win in that it provides over half of the food that the Food Bank receives each year,** while at the same time, enabling the Food Bank to reduce food waste across our service area. This ensures that food that would otherwise be discarded into landfills reaches its intended destination – the kitchens and dinner tables of people in North Alabama. When food waste left in landfills, it breaks down and can emit harmful greenhouse gases, such as methane.

The Food Bank strives to be excellent stewards of our donors' resources, and one of the best ways to do this is through the Store Donation Program. **By connecting perfectly good, donated food with our neighbors in need, we can help eradicate hunger in our community.**

