



FOOD BANK OF
NORTH ALABAMA

Impact

Together we can solve hunger™

VOLUME 7 | WINTER | 2019

In **2018**, volunteers contributed ...



5,438 hours of service
to the Food Bank!



Volunteers Play Integral Role in Feeding Thousands of Alabamians

Each Thursday, Mike and Jeanne Hejmanek arrive at the Food Bank at 1 p.m., wash their hands, and head back to the food sorting room in the warehouse. There, they carefully inspect each donated food item, checking expiration dates and product quality. They sort the items into boxes by type, preparing them to leave with the Food Bank's agency partners within the next week.

Mike and Jeanne recently moved to the Huntsville area and they, "were looking for an opportunity to serve in the community and perhaps even meet people. We have definitely found a great place to spend some time each week. We really enjoy it."

Many of the Food Bank's regular volunteers, like Mike and Jeanne, are retired or have flexible work schedules. Some have spent years in the Huntsville community and others are transplants, looking to get involved as a way to serve their new home.

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Each hour is valued at
\$10 per hour.

Which saved the Food Bank
more than **\$54,380**
of staff expenses.



That allowed those funds
to be diverted into
feeding more people!



Because of volunteers ... ***amazing things are happening!***

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Volunteers assist in the warehouse throughout the week, either sorting food like Mike and Jeanne or by packing produce bags, which are then distributed at mobile food pantries.

During the mobile food pantries, the Food Bank distributes a variety of items, such as produce, milk, and canned foods, to Title I schools or low-income senior housing facilities. These mobile distributions also are supported by volunteers, individuals and corporate groups, such as the staff of GE Appliances in Decatur, or local grocery stores, such as Kroger employees.

Volunteers Rea and Leonard Crain especially like helping with the mobile distributions. They view it as a great way to give back during their retirement, adding, **“We enjoy being face to face with people. Each delivery we look to meet these folks and talk with them. Each one has a different story to tell.”**

Several smaller teams of volunteers assist in other important ways. Four volunteers serve in the office each week, opening mail and processing donations. Others become trained in SNAP Outreach and help those in the community fill out SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) applications at our partner feeding program sites.

Are you interested in signing up to volunteer by yourself or with a group of 4-6 people?

Contact the Food Bank's Community Relations department via phone (256-382-0296) or email at communityrelations@fbfna.org.

Giving a few hours of your time each week can make a huge difference in the lives of those who struggle in our community.

Thank you for your support!



Save the Date: March 14

The Food Bank's free **Spring 2019 Hunger Summit** is March 14 at First Baptist Church in Huntsville. Pre-register at AlabamaHungerSummit.org to save your spot.