



FOOD BANK OF
NORTH ALABAMA

Impact

Together we can solve hunger™

VOLUME 8

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Meeting The Need Head On

The innocent, wide smile of a child is priceless.

Thanks to our donors and volunteers, the Food Bank of North Alabama has been receiving a lot of smiles over the winter with the start of a pilot mobile pantry at Sonnie Hereford Elementary School in Huntsville.

Impact of Hunger

Hunger in North Alabama for school-age children is more widespread than most people think. Nearly 24.2% don't know where their next meal will come from.

Hunger in children can lead to a multitude of issues, even into adulthood. Children age 6 to 12 need fruits, vegetables, and dairy, specifically milk, to assist in normal growth rate and development. If deficient in calories or certain nutrients, a child can become less focused and unable to concentrate in school.

The Food Bank has several programs, such as weekend backpacks and summer meals, to address child hunger. But we wondered if there was more we could do to address the needs of the children as well as their hard-working families.



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

Meeting The Need Head On

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Your Impact

When the Food Bank learned in the fall that we'd be receiving fresh milk every week, we knew this would be a wonderful opportunity to reach more children who could benefit from such a healthy, nutritious item. We immediately thought of the kids who attend Sonnie Hereford Elementary School. A Title I school, 97 percent of the students qualify for free and reduced-price lunch. Food Bank Executive Director Shirley Schofield had visited Sonnie Hereford with her Leadership of Greater Huntsville class and learned about the school's rich history and the need in that area. **She thought the school would be a great spot to pilot a School Mobile Pantry.**

The Food Bank worked with school officials, and on October of 2018, we started weekly distributions. On Thursday afternoons you'll see the Food Bank's refrigerated van full of milk, fruit, and vegetables in the school parking lot. We distribute the milk and produce to families as they pick up the kids after school. The milk containers and grocery bags of produce are delivered to each car in line to pick up a student. Often the pre-school kids walk up with their parents to carry the food back to their vehicle. **There's a sense of dignity when distributed this way because the food is offered to all. And the food helps the whole family.**

Volunteers help pack up the bags of produce and others help distribute the milk and produce at the school. Donors ensure we have the necessary supplies and food available for the kids.

Impact On The Families

During the distribution we are often welcomed by the families with warm greetings and "thank yous."

"We greatly appreciate y'all doing this. It helps so much!" said one mom.

Another said: **"We are not able to always buy milk. So getting milk from y'all helps tremendously!"**

One child carried milk back to his car exclaiming, "Momma I have milk!" It was as if he had received the best gift.

The Food Bank is happy to be able to provide food to children through all of our programs, and we know we couldn't do it without our many donors, volunteers, and partner agencies. **Thank you for making such an impact on the children in our community. With your help, we can make sure they grow up strong and healthy.**



Together we can ensure that no child goes hungry in our community. **Thank you for your support!**