



FOOD BANK OF  
NORTH ALABAMA

# DONOR *report*

● VOLUME 1 | ● WINTER | ● 2017

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## Food Bank Launches First Senior Mobile Pantry in Florence

In October, the Food Bank embarked upon an innovative feeding strategy to deliver more food to hungry people—we piloted our first senior mobile pantry! Mobile pantries are becoming more popular all over the country because it allows homebound residents or those without cars easier access to food assistance. The Food Bank mobile pantry allowed us to take food directly to clients, instead of asking clients come to our warehouse.

During our first senior mobile pantry, we delivered a truckload of 6,463 pounds of food to the Magnolia Gardens Apartments, a low-income senior housing facility in Florence. When our truck arrived, we were greeted by 15 members of the Florence Housing Authority's staff. While we unloaded, 120 residents trickled out of two apartment towers, took their place in line, moved to the serving station, and received multiples of six senior-friendly items like peanut butter, cereal bars, and pudding cups in their buggies.

Food Bank SNAP Outreach Coordinator Kaitlyn Parks was also on hand to help seniors apply for SNAP, the new term for food stamps. Many low-income seniors are eligible for SNAP food assistance, but some have a difficult time understanding or filling out the application. The seniors were grateful for Kaitlyn's help and advice. Fifteen Magnolia Towers residents filled out SNAP applications, a step toward having consistent aid to purchase groceries.

The Food Bank is considering expanding its mobile pantry program in 2017 and is assessing locations in several counties. We also hope to return to Magnolia Gardens again!



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