



FOOD BANK OF  
NORTH ALABAMA

# Impact

Together we can solve hunger™

VOLUME 9

SUMMER

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## Competition, Creativity, and Charity Collide During Rocket Chef!

**The annual culinary contest combines two things that are very important to many of us — food and helping others in the community.** Four of the area's top chefs face-off in a three-round cooking event in front of an audience of more than 300 people. They cook and compete in the timed event, using mystery ingredients.

Last year's chefs included Irwanto Fnu of Yoshi Fusion, Phillip Collier of The Ledges, Sebastien Maris of Beast Mode Food Truck, and Jeremy Esterly of Mezza Luna. The winner being Phillip Collier.

### The Impact

Rocket Chef is the only event of its kind in North Alabama and has raised nearly \$200,000 since its inception in 2014. **All proceeds are split equally between the Food Bank of North Alabama and Merrimack Hall's Happy Headquarters.** Last year's Rocket Chef culinary competition raised a whopping \$57,675.50!!

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Phillip Collier - Winner  
of the 2018 Rocket Chef

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



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**The funds have helped the Food Bank expand and implement new programs that give seniors and children better access to healthy food options.** Establishing mobile pantries that deliver food to senior living facilities and increasing the fresh produce offerings at summer meal sites are two examples of how the Rocket Chef proceeds positively impact those struggling with hunger.

## Looking Ahead

This year's competition will take place on Monday, August 12, at the Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center. The tasting reception starts at 5:30 p.m. and the competition starts at 7 p.m. Tickets will be available for purchase online starting June 11.

## Thank You

**Rocket Chef wouldn't be possible without our amazing supporters like you.** It started as a volunteer project, and those core volunteers still see that it happens every year. Sponsors and donors ensure the funds and supplies are available to make this successful event unique and fun. Other donors participate in the fund-raising aspect by either attending the event, or donating to their favorite chef. And of course, the chefs and their home restaurants contribute time, energy, and resources. What amazing support we've experienced, and what an impact these funds will make in our community with the proceeds equally going to the Food Bank of North Alabama and Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center.



## Save the Date: Monday, August 12

**Rocket Chef** tasting reception will take place at the Merrimack Hall Performing Arts Center starting at 5:30 p.m. and the competition starts at 7 p.m. Purchase your tickets at [www.foodbanknorthal.org](http://www.foodbanknorthal.org).