

Harvest News

A publication of

Food Bank Initiates Federal Senior Meals Program in 2019

The Food Bank of North Alabama began distributing meals to at-risk seniors through a federal program called Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), which is often called the senior box program.

To qualify for a box, seniors have to be at least 60 years old and live below the poverty line.

Over 100 food banks across the nation participate in CSFP, providing monthly food boxes to over half a million seniors.



The boxes themselves include a balanced selection of shelf-stable protein, dairy, fruit, and vegetables that lines up with federal nutrition guidelines.



Volunteers from Mazda Toyota Manufacturing, USA, INC pack CSFP boxes for the Food Bank of North Alabama.

“Food insecure seniors are such a critically overlooked population,” said Sarah Bensinger, Food Bank of North Alabama

agency and community relations manager. “They are often on a budget or a reduced income, so CSFP fills the gap of other assistance programs and provides critical nutrition that many wouldn’t be able to afford otherwise.”

The Food Bank of North Alabama started signing up seniors and distributing the CSFP boxes to them in Madison County in August 2019 and has ramped up the program to now include Cullman County. The Food Bank is currently expanding into DeKalb County.

Right now, the program serves more than 160 seniors every month and will grow to serve 500 food insecure seniors across North Alabama.

All of the food in the boxes is provided by the USDA and then packaged and distributed through the Food Bank of North Alabama.



New Staff

The Food Bank has undergone many changes in the past year and we’d like to introduce you to some of our new staff members.

Amy Davis,
Finance Director
adavis@fbofna.org

Jonathan Henderson,
Warehouse Tech

John Baker,
SNAP Coordinator

Bobby Bozeman,
Development Director,
bbozeman@fbofna.org

Austin Kusiak, Farm Food Collaborative Assistant

In addition to these changes, **Carol Anne Hopper** has been promoted from SNAP Outreach Coordinator to SNAP Senior Outreach Coordinator and **Ed Ikard** has been promoted from driver to Operations Assistant.

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Warehouse Manager

Rick Cobb

Store Donations Program Coordinator

Allen Evans

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Natalie Bishnoi

Farm Food Collaborative Assistant

Austin Kusiak

Programs Assistant

Chyna Smith

Donor Administrator

Sharyn Meade

Grant Manager

Autumn Linkous

Agency Services Representative

Susan Szczepanski

SNAP Senior Outreach Coordinator

Carol Anne Hopper

SNAP Outreach Coordinator

John Baker

Operations Assistant

Ed Ikard

Food Sorting Captain

Carla Johnston

Warehouse Techs

John Edward Thomas

Jonathan Henderson

Vincent Wilson Jr.

Drivers

Jimbo Beck

Mark McCrary

Frank Mitchell

Ricky Weaver

PO Box 18607

Huntsville, AL 35804

(256) 539-2256 • www.foodbanknorthal.org

Counties served: Colbert, Cullman, DeKalb, Franklin, Jackson, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Limestone, Madison, Marshall, Morgan
The Food Bank of North Alabama is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

Special Recognition Donations

In Honor of...

2019 RCCG Ice Bowl

By Rocket City Chain Gang

All Federal Employees

By Dianne C. Wills

All you did for Alabamians during the Government Shutdown

By Sarah Bang

Amy Kennedy

By Freya and Loch Neely

Anyone in Need

By Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Glasser

Ashley Haraway

By Apple, Inc.

Bauregard Tornado Victims

By Ronald Dewitt

Bernadette Bell's Volunteer Service

By Apple, Inc.

Bill and Elise Goodson

By Ralph and Ginny (Mary) Green

Board of Directors-Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives

By Alabama Rural Electric Association of Cooperatives

Brandon Thrash

By Ms. Eleanor E. Loring

Chad Emerson

By Grace Lutheran Church

Clayton Wills' Birthday

By Dianne C. Wills

Don and Jeanne Rizzardi

By Jennifer Cox

Doris Sundback

By Sundback-Owens Charitable Fund

Dr. Charles Albert

By Gocha Saliashvili

Dr. Jaime Andrews Daza Fawcett

By Gocha Saliashvili

Dr. James Murphy

By Gocha Saliashvili

Dr. Patricia Gurczack

By Gocha Saliashvili

Dr. Sean Groark

By Gocha Saliashvili

Drs. Ken and Rose Opengart

By Tracy Robinson

Earl Todd's 65th Birthday

By Mr. Lawrence Wilde

Elijah McCutchen

By Ms. Elizabeth McCutchen

Elissa and Chris Miller

By Anne Owens

Federal Workers and their Families

By Evelyn Renae Mundt

Gay Sheedy

By Bernard and Susan Bonne

Geneva & Anthony Llewellyn

By April Llewellyn

Gloria Hollins

By Topper and Cheryl Birney

Gordon Cash

By Gocha Saliashvili

Heart Center MDs

By Ross Hunter

Heather Balcerk's Volunteer Service

By Apple, Inc.

Homeless Veterans

By Raymon Zapata

Jim and Sigi Laney

By John Collier

Joe and Susan Still

By Angela Thornberry

John and Amy Sullins

By Mr. Walter Sullins

Joslyn Guton's Volunteer Service

By Apple, Inc.

Katherine Baker

By Kathleen Felker

Laurie and Mike O'Lena

By Julie Hausch

Laurie and Mike O'Lena

By Suzanne Hausch

Lawrence Hollins

By Topper and Cheryl Birney

Leo's Birthday

By Erin Parrill

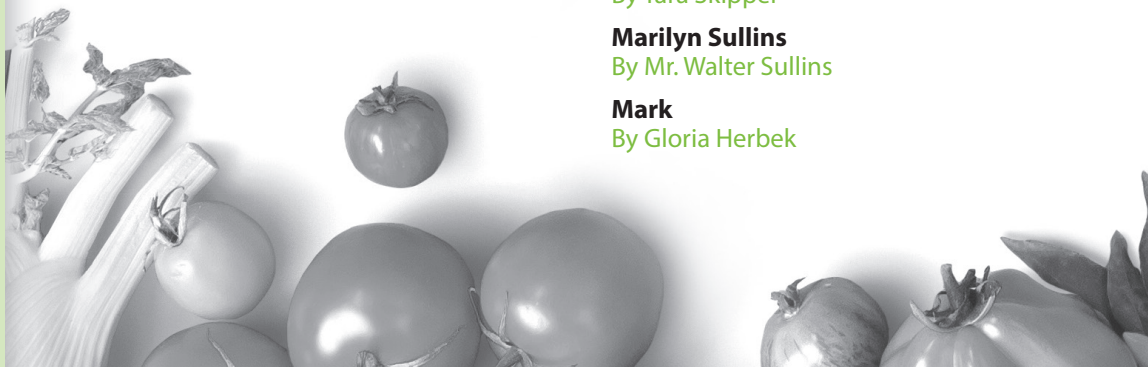
By Tara Skipper

Marilyn Sullins

By Mr. Walter Sullins

Mark

By Gloria Herbek



In Honor of... *(continued)*

Martha Joffrion

By Freya and Loch Neely

Melinda Reese

By Trinity Prichard

Mike and Susan Reif

By Mr. Walter Sullins

Mom, Desiree, Auntie, Uncle Bob, Aunt June, Uncle Jordan, and Uncle Jimmy

By Harry Burlingame

Mrs. Lucy Thrasher

By Ralph and Ginny (Mary) Green

Mrs. Mary Green

By Ralph and Ginny (Mary) Green

Nicholas Pendleton

By Heather Roden

Patricia's Birthday

By Winnie Bailey

Rev Susan Sloan

By Freya and Loch Neely

Rev Worth Stuart

By Freya and Loch Neely

Sasha Dronavalli

By Gocha Saliashvili

Sharyn Meade

By Virginia Long

Shirley Green, my Mom

By Rachel Gentle

Stephen Hollins

By Topper and Cheryl Birney

Those affected by the Government Shutdown

By Rachael Heitner

Those whose patriotism never gets furloughed

By Monica Stevens

Violet Allen

By Ingrid Allen

Whitney King

By Ms. Eleanor E. Loring

Zane and Elaine Troxtel

By Grant Truex

In Memory of...

Ann Marie (Cookie) Bond

By Jane Johnston

Betty J. Webb

By Mr. Raymond Webb

Bill Dickson

By Deborah Dailey

Bill Hadaway

By Charles M. Davis

Billy Condrey

By Kyle Condrey

Billy Joe Allen

By Elda Sherrod

Bull Nettles Smith

By Frank Musso

Carol Wheelock

By Gerald C. Wheelock

Charlie Albert Ferry

By Gerald & Angie Meadows

By Tom Sarah

By Bobbye Bolling

By Elisabeth Smith

By Charles and Brenda Woosley

Chase Carey

By Mr. Michael Innes

Christopher Fronefield

By Marilyn Myers

By Angela Morea

By Elmer and Mary Jane Goss

By Lorraine Finnegan

Clarence Michael Bailey

By William Bailey

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By Robert Watkins

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By Ms. Jane F. Buxton

Emerick Miller

By Avery Harris

Fred D. Wills

By Dianne C. Wills

Functional Federal Government

By Kevin Zagorski

Glen Anderson

By Mildred Nordman

Jackie Jensen

By Helen Bracken

James Harrington, Redstone Arsenal Civil Service

By Susan Ernest

Jerold Thomas Homan

By Susan Adkins

John Paul Leonard

By June Blackwell

By Angela Heick

By Carol Smiddy

By Carl Bayer

By Jennifer Pittman

By Lynn Benigno

By Joe and Frances Byrd

By Wayne Johnson

By Ms. Kathleen Leonard

Logan F. Wilson, Sr.

By Sandra L. Joplin

Lucille Millican

By Jerome Millican

Marilynn Jacobs

By Karen Jacobs

Mary Louise Meyer

By Wayne Meyer

Michael Robles

By Cindy Montgomery

Mildred and Robert Paris

By Ms. June Hoelzle

Mrs. Singhal, Mother of Dr. Surendra Singhal

By Katherine Van Hooser

By Rene Ortega

My mother, Frances Miller who would have turned 100 on 12/17/19

By Avery Harris

Rebecca Jane Tolbert

By Stephanie & Neil Koeniger

By Katherine Beshear

By Jason Kohll

By Lawrence Comardelle

By Constance McCrory

By Michael Eisenzimmer

By J Feldman

By Rachel Hamm

Ruth Pridmore Crabtree

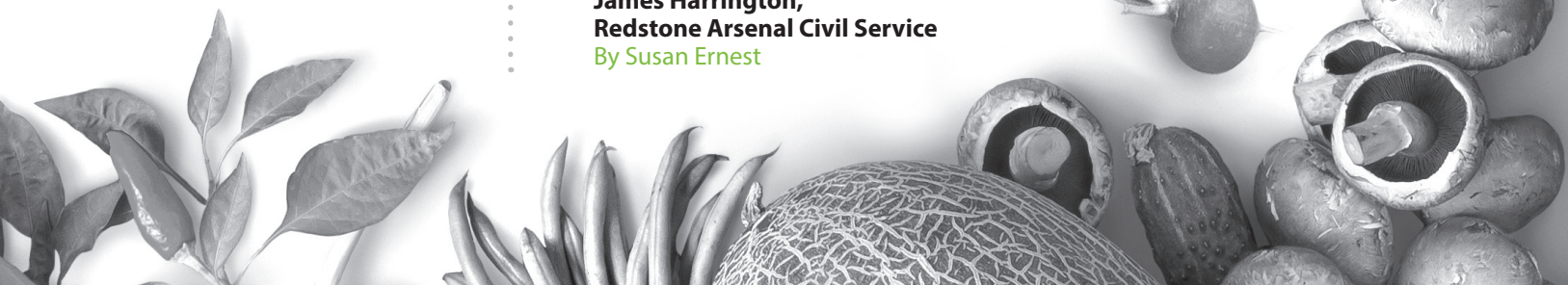
By Naomi Eidson

Sonny Robertson

By Mildred Nordman

Susan Wingard

By Ms. Evelyn J. Kurtz



Trinity S.D.A. Agency Profile

When Renata Drake was growing up, she was the oldest of six children. Her job was going to the grocery store and shopping for everyone.

"I hated grocery shopping" Drake said, laughing. "The first time I came to the Food Bank, I said I don't have to shop do I? I don't want to shop. But this has been a joy."

Three years ago, Trinity S.D.A. restarted their food pantry. Before the restart, things were fairly small scale and eventually went dormant.

"When we first started back, this lady told me 'ain't nobody going to come to this,'" said Drake, who heads up the program now. But when they opened back up, Trinity S.D.A. averaged 45 to 50 families a month. This Thanksgiving they did 76 food baskets and were up to 79 in December.

"I just don't like to see people in need," Drake said. "Not just food, anything I can do to help or as an organization, anything we can."

When the Food Bank of North Alabama moved to using appointments, Drake said she appreciated the change because it saved them enough time that now it only takes them two days, instead of three, to run their pantry every month.



"You know when you're going to go and you're not going to be a long time," Drake said. "We used to have to sit and wait, but now if you're on time you're pretty much in and out."

Drake had talked the previous director Sister Taylor into restarting the program.

"She said for 40 years she'd never held an office, but she was always giving us ideas for what would make a good food pantry," Drake said.

Drake agreed to be her assistant, and when Taylor's husband was called to a different ministry, Drake took over the program. Various members of the church stepped up to help fill the void.

"There's not a month that passes that someone we help doesn't pull me aside and say they wouldn't make it without us, and that makes it all worthwhile," Drake said. "It makes me feel good when I know that families are actually being helped. Sometimes people say 'oh these people go to every different food pantry,' but I say I really don't care because every month someone asks to give me a hug."

Drake continued, "One lady told me one day, 'he stinks,' and I said, you know Jesus helped people that stunk. I said keep a smile, I don't care what they smell like or look like. Treat everybody with dignity. It's a service for us to serve them."

“It makes me feel good when I know that families are actually being helped.”

Corporate and Foundation Donors



Would you like to help the Food Bank by volunteering in our warehouse?
Signing up is easy! • Call 256-382-0296 • Email Sarah Bensinger at communityrelations@fbfna.org