



# 2018 FALL NEWSLETTER

A Quarterly Publication of the  
 Community Food Bank of Central Alabama

**corner market**  
 FRESH TO YOU

"It's surprising how many Alabamians do not live near a grocery store, but soon we will bring the store to them!" says Dakota Rhodes, manager of the Community Food Bank's new mobile grocery store called the Corner Market. This unique traveling store operates out of a 24-foot air-conditioned trailer and offers all the foods available at a traditional brick & mortar grocery including fresh produce, lean meats, milk, eggs, yogurt, grains, and other healthy options.



Locally grown collard greens are a big hit in Pratt City.

The Food Bank launched the Corner Market to create access to healthy, affordable foods. It serves families on limited budgets and senior citizens without transportation to reach grocery stores.

"Before we launched the Corner Market, we held listening sessions across many neighborhoods. We heard over and over again that people needed access to healthy foods they could afford," said Kathryn Strickland, Community Food Bank Executive Director.



The Corner Market is a mobile grocery store traveling to towns like Quinton, Pratt City, & Tarrant.

Many families described spending their limited SNAP benefits (formerly known as food stamps) at nearby gas stations because they did not have transportation to reach a full service grocery store. "We wanted to fill this gap," says Strickland.



Ronnie lends a hand to Corner Market shoppers.

The Corner Market accepts SNAP benefits and makes stops in Quinton, Pratt City, and Tarrant. Soon the market will expand its routes thanks to generous support from the Joseph S. Bruno Foundation, Publix Super Markets Charities, ADECA, Appalachian Regional Commission, Walker Area Community Foundation, Alabama Power Foundation Elevate Grant, Junior League of Birmingham Beeson Fund, Hugh Kaul Foundation and the Daniel Foundation.

"By me not having a car, it's more convenient, for one thing," said Glenda

**That's the beauty of the mobile grocery store - we can go where we're needed.**

# Produce, Produce, Produce

When Loren, a mother of two teenage boys, was asked what she would like to see more of in our school pantries, she replied, **“Fruits and vegetables would be great as they are too expensive for us to buy.”**

Loren is not alone; many of our neighbors in need struggle to afford fresh produce. **This year the price of one pound of broccoli was \$1.36 but a cheeseburger only cost \$1.00.** Because most farm subsidies support commodities rather than fruit and vegetable production, we see skewed prices at the grocery store. Sodas, for example, cost much less than apples and oranges. **Often healthy foods are financially out of reach for Alabama families on limited budgets.**

Thanks to the **Morgan Stanley Foundation** and Feeding America, the Community Food Bank is addressing this disparity and finding ways to source more fresh produce than ever before!

Morgan Stanley  
Foundation

**Morgan Stanley is funding a pilot Produce Program that enables the Community Food Bank to buy fresh produce in bulk and split tractor-trailer loads with other food banks across the region.**

“By cooperating and sharing costs, we’re able to source healthier foods for less,” says Robbie Pine, Assistant Director of Operations. **“Last week, we unloaded a half a tractor load of fresh cucumbers, tomatoes, onions, potatoes and apples. We love the variety and quality of the produce we’re able to source now!”** continues Pine.

“We are excited to work with Morgan Stanley to help children, seniors, veterans and families have fresh fruits and vegetables as part of their daily routine,” says Executive Director, Kathryn Strickland. **“We envision a time when everyone in Central Alabama has the nutritious foods they need to live healthy, active lives.”**



## Summer Meals and Summer MOVES!

This summer, we sponsored free summer lunch and snacks for over 1,200 children at 14 sites across the region. Fresh salads with locally grown cherry tomatoes, turkey wraps and fresh blueberries were all on the menu. We partnered with Albert Schweitzer Fellow, Maddie Tomaso, a medical student at UAB, to teach kids why it’s important to get out and MOVE! **“Miss Maddie makes exercise FUN!”** Running, tagging, dancing, bear crawling, and jumping for joy, were just a few of the activities Ms. Tomaso and the kiddos at the United Community Center’s summer day camp did to stay fit this summer.



Campers at United Community Center and our YMCA Summer sites dance, race, tag and stretch to stay active.

Gorgeous cherry tomatoes and cucumbers from local farmer, Wade Whited, on the way to becoming yummy salads for kiddos in our Summer Meals program.

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Williams, a Corner Market shopper. "For another, I like the prices of the food, and everything is so fresh. The people who run the market are so nice and friendly and helpful. That's what I really like about it."



Fresh produce is the Corner Market's most popular item.

"That's the beauty of the mobile grocery store - we can go where we're needed," says Rhodes. "People are so happy to see us when we come out each week, particularly seniors who are uncomfortable driving long distances or don't have reliable transportation."

Special thanks to Carla Davis. This article is adapted from her interviews.



## Alabama Legal Food Frenzy

Each spring, the Alabama Attorney General's Office, the Alabama State Bar, and the Alabama Food Bank Association join



together to help end child hunger through the Alabama Legal Food Frenzy. Firms across the state competed to see who raises the most food and funds for their local food bank. This year Birmingham law firms won three of the top prizes: Carr Allison, MFWalker Law Group, LLC, and Law Office of Desiree Celeste Alexander.

Our heartfelt thanks go out to the 19 firms in Central Alabama who competed. Together, they raised \$17,000 or the equivalent of 136,000 meals for children in Central Alabama this summer!



## Stamp Out Hunger

Each year the National Association of Letter Carriers hosts the Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive. This year mail carriers collected an astounding 115,000 pounds of food donated by generous residents across the region! Because of the hard work of the letters carriers and your generosity, we replenished our food supplies just in time for summer!

## In Honor of...

Mr. Jell Alessio

By Jack M. Boggan

Tracey Roberts

By Bernice M. Chu

Emma Claire Steeley

By Gene & Debbie Garza

Jim and Linda Jones

By Lisa Griffin

Tracey Roberts

By Steve Hearst

My Parents

By Kathryn Kaiser

JoAnn Robinson

By Jane Y. Moore

Eunice Tirado

By Pamela S. Murray

Barbara Parks

By Charlie Parks

Kathryn Strickland

By Edwin A. Strickland

## In Memory of...

Viola Fields Higginbotham

By Keith & Connie Brown

By Celeste & William Knoll

Dear Chotsie

By Jean Duff

Donald Duncan

By Deb Duncan

Drake Holder

By Christopher Todd Holder

Anthony J. Chiappine, Jr.

By Jane Johnston

Ronald Jacques Hatwell

By Jane Johnston

Evelyn W. Washington "Sissy"

By Jane Johnston

Robert Powell

By Donna Kalinkiewicz

Wayne Allen Knipp

By Mike, Genie, Maxwell & Annie Thompson

By Jacob & Lucy Marsh

McArthur Brown

By Linda Murphy

Deborah Capps

By Kelley Polly

Frank Fleming

By Elberta G. Reid

Nancy Schantz

By Mark Schantz

Ella Maude Grant

By Kathryn Strickland

Donnie Stroud

By Gregory Stroud

Ed Odum

By Marion F. Walker

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