

Nourishing Hope

FOR CALHOUN, DOUGHERTY, LEE, RANDOLPH AND TERRELL COUNTIES



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF ALBANY



Feeding
the Valley
FOOD BANK
ALBANY



OUR MISSION

The mission of Feeding the Valley Food Bank is to gather food to feed the hungry with a spirit of compassion, good stewardship, dedication, urgency, and inclusiveness. The heart of our mission is to feed hungry people.

ABOUT US

It began in 1982 when a group of community servant leaders representing all faiths began a discussion about the need for a central source of food for people in the Columbus, Ga. area that needed food assistance. It was the birth of the Interfaith Action Food Bank and the journey to address poverty and food insecurity in the community began. Our name changed to Second Harvest and later Feeding the Valley to be more aligned with the nation's network of food banks now known as Feeding America.

Today, Feeding the Valley Food Bank, headquartered in Columbus, Ga., serves as a central source of food for 17 counties in central and southwest Georgia and one county in Alabama. We are a member of the Feeding America network of food banks and also the Georgia Food Bank Association and a community partner of the United Way. Our service area spans 6,200 square miles with a population of 550,000. In this area, 109,000 people are food insecure with 35,000 under the age of 18. Six of these counties are some of the most impoverished counties in the state and the nation.

In 2017, through a capital campaign, we raised more than \$6 Million to build a state-of-the-art central distribution facility in Midland, Ga. With substantially increased square footage, storage capacity, freezer, and cooler capacity, this facility has become a change-maker for the communities we serve and has greatly increased our capabilities to serve more people. Using a strategic, regional distribution plan, we also have a satellite warehouse in LaGrange.

Food is distributed collaboratively through a core group of more than 350 Partner Agencies, which are churches, non-profit organizations, soup kitchens, shelters, after-school youth programs, and others that provide food assistance. We receive food from the federal and state governments as well as donations from local retailers (Walmart, Publix, Winn Dixie, Kroger, and several others) and from food manufacturers. In our last fiscal year, we distributed more than 15 million pounds of food in our service area.

OUR EXPANSION INTO CALHOUN, DOUGHERTY, LEE, AND TERRELL COUNTIES

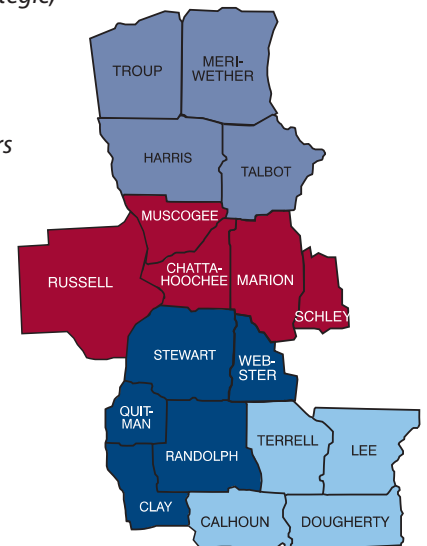


Cheryl Maddox
Site Manager

In October 2019, we expanded our outreach to include Calhoun, Dougherty, Lee, and Terrell counties and established a temporary distribution center at 301 South Slappey Blvd. in Albany. The Albany community has embraced us as their food bank and we are enjoying new relationships with local leadership, and corporate and industrial leaders.

We have a small, dedicated, and passionate team led by our Site Manager, Cheryl Maddox. Our culture is to provide the best service possible and be inclusive of everyone. The needs in these counties are so great that we are establishing a permanent facility in Albany to efficiently serve the families in these four counties.

Working together, we can solve hunger.



OUR FOOD DISTRIBUTION PROGRAMS

Mobile Pantry Program

The Mobile Pantry Program allows us to provide direct food distribution to families in areas where there is limited access to emergency food resources. Volunteers hand-pack food boxes and bags that include a variety of supplemental canned and dry goods for delivery. Frozen meats, fresh produce, dairy, and milk are also provided. We reach thousands of families each month through this program.

Children's Food Programs

Our children's food programs in Albany started at the beginning of 2020 and are still in their infancy. We currently partner with the Boys and Girls Club of Albany, YMCA, and Easterseals. Throughout the Covid-19 lockdown when students were not in school, the Boys and Girls Club and YMCA volunteers delivered food to families in their neighborhoods door to door as well as organize mobile pantries in the areas that were in great need. We also filled the gaps when the schools were not able to provide food for students during the school year. As the pandemic situation stabilizes, we will grow these programs to encompass more organizations and after-school programs.



"Feeding the Valley is a big help, especially for smaller food pantries that want to distribute food in their community, and we have been able to increase our outreach in Calhoun County because of our partnership. During the shutdown from the pandemic, there were a lot of people who were out of work. This is an agricultural region and when there is no work, there is no income and people cannot buy food. So, the monthly food distribution that we organize is a blessing to this community."

– Showanda Brown, Coordinator of the Mobile Pantry in Edison, Georgia



IMPACT IN THE LAST YEAR

Pounds distributed in the last year through our Mobile Pantry Program

Food Insecurity Rate:

Calhoun	283,152	22.4%
Dougherty	2,139,005	26.3%
Lee	825,528	11.6%
Terrell	296,256	26%

TOTAL POUNDS - 3,543,941

Buddy Pack Program

Hunger doesn't take the weekend off. Our weekend Buddy Pack Program serves children who are likely to experience hunger during the weekend when free breakfasts and lunches are not available. Partner agencies and community organizations sponsor this program and volunteers pack bags with nutritious kid-friendly food for the school to distribute to children who have been identified by teachers and counselors.

The Buddy Pack Program is currently implemented in Leesburg schools and about 600 are distributed every month. In Calhoun County, we are facilitating 120 buddy packs a month. Plans are to continue and grow this program throughout the school systems as we secure sponsorships from local community organizations.

"I like to talk about healthier communities and the whole wellness of a person. It's very therapeutic to be outdoors, put your hands to the plow and receive the benefits of a harvest."

"Since 2020, we like to donate whatever we grow. We fill the Feeding the Valley bin with fruits and vegetables and they will pick it up. We're providing healthy, nutritious foods to families in the community."



**– Farmer Fredo,
Executive Director, Flint River Fresh**

Kids Café Program

One in five children is considered food insecure in Georgia. It is our mission to make sure that children receive a nutritious, warm meal every day after school. We prepare and deliver these meals to children at various sites in the community and after-school programs.

We began our Kids Café Program at the beginning of the school year. This program is currently implemented at the Albany YMCA and at EasterSeals, with plans for growth.

School Pantries

Many schools are now creating their own in-house food pantry for students to grab a snack, or a breakfast bar during the day and we are working with them as their food source. Calhoun County schools have coordinated several school pantries with our support.



"The presence of Feeding the Valley is a new beginning for Albany. This partnership is enabling other non-profit organizations to supply the necessary resources needed in all parts of the community. It is empowering us to connect and partner with other organizations in the community that provide assistance services. We have been enlightened by the management style at Feeding the Valley and their commitment to helping our region. It is a blessing and a true partnership."

**– Juanita Nixon, Executive Director,
Cutliff Grove Family Resource Center**

The heart of our mission is to feed hungry people.

This is our calling. This is our purpose. This is our ministry. No one should ever be hungry.

Your Partnership is Vital – Nourishing Hope Together to End Hunger

We value and depend on our partnership with you. Your financial support is needed to help us fund our new facility in Albany to better serve Dougherty, Calhoun, Lee, and Terrell counties.

Hunger is a solvable problem and this facility will allow us to serve more people in need. We will be grateful and good stewards for a gift of any amount, which will be put to immediate use in **Nourishing Hope** in these communities.

Together, let's fill this building with food, with volunteers, with determination, and hope to meet the needs of the greater Albany community.

**For more information, contact Frank Sheppard, President & CEO 706-561-4755, ext. 101
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OUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR \$4 MILLION MAKING ALBANY OUR HOME!

Our Vision for Calhoun, Dougherty, Lee, and Terrell Counties

It's our vision to establish a permanent home in Albany and become the community food bank and serve families who need our help. Our new warehouse, located at 1706 Ledo Road in Albany has ample space, and will have generous freezer, and cooler capacity to grow and enhance our food distribution programs to reach more food insecure families and to become more involved in community outreach.

FACTS ABOUT OUR NEW FACILITY AT 1706 LEDO ROAD IN ALBANY, GEORGIA:

- 3.53 Acres which offers us plenty of expansion for the future
- 35,018 sq. ft.
- 28' ceilings in warehouse space that will allow a four-level racking system to provide a storage capacity of over 3 million pounds of food product
- Refrigeration and freezer space of over 450 pallet spots that will allow for increased capacity for fresh produce and meats
- Covered loading/receiving docks on the side and back of the building for easy access



ALBANY ADVISORY BOARD LIST

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Leslie Lamb | Community Supervision |
| LaKisha Bruce | Dougherty County Schools |
| Ana Baggiano | Boys & Girls Club of Albany |
| David Blackwell | Albany Dougherty Homeless Coalition |
| Danita Wiggins | Albany Housing Authority |
| Todd Davis | Commercial Real Estate Realtor |
| Amy Bearman | Salvation Army |
| Karen McKinney | SunTrust |
| Dan Gillan | YMCA |
| Jennifer Williams | Southwest Georgia Project |
| Juanita Nixon | Worldvision, Cutliff Grove |
| Isiah Thrower | Community Leader |
| Fredando Jackson | Flint River Fresh |