



Heart of Alabama  
FOOD BANK

Feeding Hope by Fighting Hunger

# THE PALATE

Issue 2- September 2023

## DIFFERENT NAME SAME MISSION!



**Michael Coleman**

CEO of Heart of Alabama Food Bank

We are extremely excited to announce that the Montgomery area Food Bank has officially changed its name to the Heart of Alabama Food Bank! One might ask, "Why the name change?" Excellent question, especially since the organization has been in existence since 1986 under its original name. There are several reasons why the MAFB (now HAFB) Leadership felt that now is the time for a change.

The decision to change was threefold. First, being called the Montgomery Area Food Bank gives the impression that we serve only Montgomery, but our operation goes well beyond the city with a geographical reach spanning throughout the Heart of Alabama. If you look at our service map you will see that we cover a 35-county territory extending east, west, north, and south from Tuscaloosa to the southern part of Dothan.

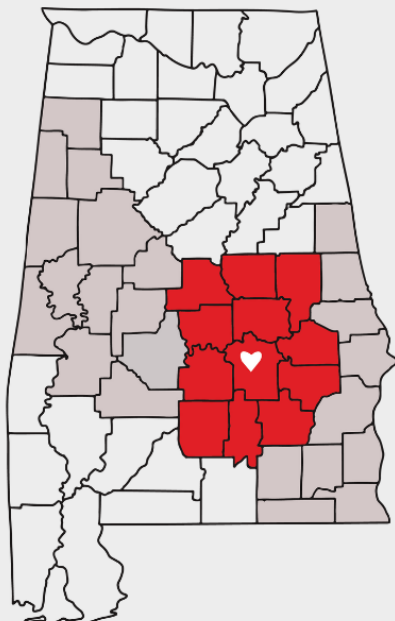
**Affiliated** food banks in Auburn, Tuscaloosa, Selma, and Dothan help serve their respective areas apart from the 12 counties in our more immediate area which are covered solely by our Montgomery facility. Over 200 local pantries are being supplied with fresh produce, protein, and dairy items each month. Last year, over 27 million pounds of food were distributed equating to 22.4 million meals.

**Secondly**, it is our desire to be more welcoming to our entire area of reach. Being slated with Montgomery Area in our name causes confusion and negatively affects our ability to adequately serve outside of the city. Fundraising beyond Montgomery has been a challenge, but those funds and resources are vital to reach those fighting hunger and food insecurity throughout our extended area.

**Lastly**, Heart of Alabama conveys the care and compassion that we feel for our seniors, children, and families in need. Currently, over 217,000 seniors, adults, and children battle hunger and food insecurity in our area. We are fighting every day for our Alabama neighbors in need, but it is a fight we can't win alone.

**There** is enough nutritious food to feed everyone in Alabama. Help us source and distribute this food so that our neighbors who are hungry have one less trauma to overcome on their journey forward.

Blessings to all,



# OUR PROGRAMS

## Mobile Pantry Program



## Senior Supplement Program & Commodity Supplemental Food Program



## SNAP



## Child Nutrition - Summer Feeding-Backpack Programs



## Disaster Relief



## Veteran Hunger



## Campus Hunger



# Food Bank vs. Food Pantry

A food bank and a food pantry are both organizations that aim to help people who are experiencing food insecurity, but they have different functions and roles in the process of providing food assistance. Food banks act as centralized collection and distribution centers that serve multiple food pantries and community organizations, whereas food pantries are local outlets that directly serve individuals and families in need.

| FOOD BANK  | FOOD PANTRY   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receive and store bulk food donations from various sources.</li><li>• Sort and categorize food items for distribution.</li><li>• Distribute food to partner agencies on a regular basis.</li><li>• Provide a centralized hub for coordinating food assistance efforts.</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Receive food supplies from food banks, local donors, and other sources.</li><li>• Distribute food directly to individuals and families in need within the local community.</li><li>• Offer a variety of food items to meet immediate nutritional requirements.</li><li>• Provide a more personal and direct approach to addressing hunger at a local level.</li></ul> |
|    |    |

**Food Banks and food pantries are not the same, but they are partners that share the same commitment: helping to fight hunger!**

Both play a vital role in alleviating hunger and food insecurity in our community, with food banks being the arbitrator to efficiently managing food resources and food pantries providing direct support to those who require immediate assistance; both make ensure that no one has to battle hunger alone.

*The difference...and the partnership!*



# Hunger Action Month

September is

## Hunger Action Month®

September is National Hunger Action Month, and we're excited to share more about how food insecurity affects our neighbors and how we are working together to ensure everyone has access to the nutritious food they need. Millions of people in the United States face hunger every day. The purpose of Hunger Action Month is to raise awareness about the issue of hunger and food insecurity in America. We as a community must get involved in helping to alleviate hunger and provide assistance to those in need.

### GO ORANGE

"It is important to realize that we can make progress against world hunger, that world hunger is not hopeless. The worst enemy is apathy."

- Reverend David Beckmann



*Join the movement to end hunger today.*

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## WAYS TO DONATE

*For more information contact*

**TRACEY GUIDRY**

TGUIDRY@MAFB.ORG OR CALL

334-245-7291



Give Online



Gifts in Kind



Electronic Funds Transfer



Stocks



Corporate and Foundation Giving



Send a Check



# Heart of Alabama FOOD BANK

*Feeding Hope by Fighting Hunger*

521 Trade Center Street, Montgomery, AL, 36108



Click here to donate!



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING AMERICA**

## NEWS & EVENTS

Hunger Action Day

**Friday, September 15th, 2023**

Go Orange!

Alabama National  
Fair Food Bank Night

**Friday, October 6th, 2023**

\$1 Admission with a  
non-perishable food item



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THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
THE HEART OF ALABAMA  
FOOD BANK