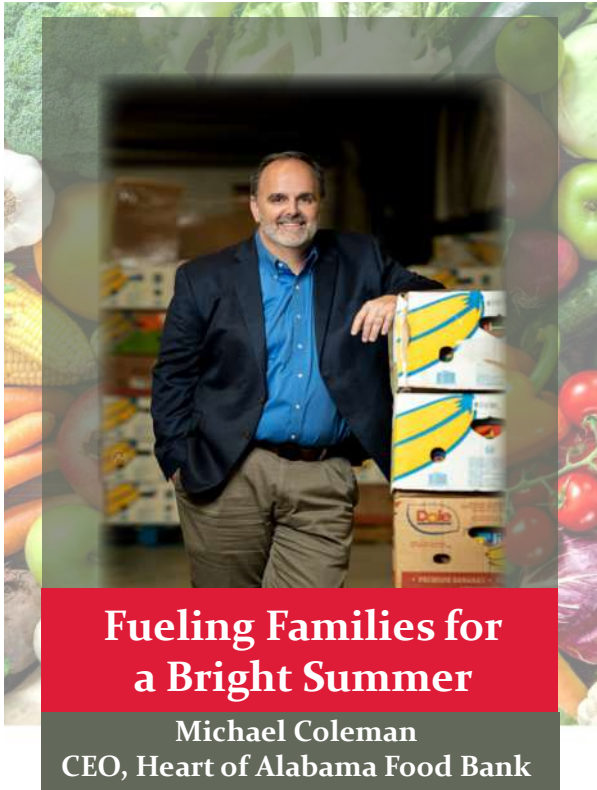


The Palate



Issue 12 - July 2025



A Heartfelt Thank You for an Incredible Start to Summer!

I'm thrilled to share the overwhelming success of our WSFA Summer Fund and Food Drive. Thanks to your generosity, we collected over **\$77,000** and **8,000 pounds** of food. Every can donated, every dollar given, and every moment shared brought us closer to meeting our goals. A special thank you goes to WSFA, Dixie Electric Cooperative, Renfro's Market, our incredible volunteers, and our partner organizations for making this event possible.

The start of Summer is always a critical time for food banks due to increased demand from children being out of school. However, this year is even more challenging for us since we are still reeling from recent USDA reductions in food and funding and the uncertainty of future cuts to SNAP and other programs that combat hunger and food insecurity.

On a brighter note, we are so excited about the community's interest in our upcoming Family Action Day. We are planning a fun and educational time where families can participate, teach their children the importance of caring about others, and become a vital part of our mission to feed hope and fight hunger. They can even bring some friends to add to the fun!

Please remember that summertime is full of challenges, especially ensuring children have enough food to meet their needs. Your continued support is vital to ensure that no child goes to bed hungry during these warm months.

From all of us at the food bank, thank you for showing up, stepping up, and lifting up our neighbors in need.

With sincere gratitude,



Michael Coleman
CEO, Heart of Alabama Food Bank





Bringing Art to Life at the Heart of Alabama Food Bank

Visitors to the Heart of Alabama Food Bank are now welcomed by bold, vibrant murals which have brought new life to Building 1 thanks to a powerful partnership with the Visual Arts program at Booker T. Washington Magnet High School.

Over the school year, Level 3 and 4 Visual Art students have worked from the ground up, designing, planning, and executing murals that reflect their creativity and commitment to the community. The project gave students a unique, hands-on opportunity to take their work beyond the classroom and into a space serving thousands of people across Alabama.

From early sketches to the final brushstrokes, the students approached the work with professionalism, collaboration, and determination. Their artistic vision now serves as a permanent fixture, welcoming volunteers, staff, and guests with color, energy, and inspiration.

This collaboration reflects the core values of the Heart of Alabama Food Bank: creativity, service, and community engagement. We are proud to have supported these young artists in a project that enhances our campus and celebrates partnership, purpose, and the transformative power of art.

Saniya Chames is the designer for the "Feed Our Community" mural, and Finn McKenney and Emily Xie are the designers for the "Welcome" mural.

Summer Fund and Food Drive Recap

Feeding Hope by Fighting Hunger

As we kicked off the summer with our annual Summer Fund and Food Drive, we're filled with gratitude reflecting on the incredible generosity shown by the community! Thanks to your support, we made a significant impact during a critical time of year when food insecurity often increases.

8,000 pounds of food collected — enough to provide 6,700 meals to families in need.

Over \$77,000 raised — every dollar stretching to support vital programs and fresh, nutritious food.

From canned goods to online gifts, every contribution made a difference. Special thanks to our amazing volunteers and donors — especially WSFA, Renfro's Market, Dixie Electric Cooperative, for their vital support. You are the heart of our mission!



Food As Medicine Launch: Three Initiatives, One Mission



In light of a season marked by reduced resources and an increasing demand for assistance within our communities, the Heart of Alabama Food Bank is proud to announce the launch of three impactful direct-service initiatives: Food as Medicine, Hero's Harvest, and the Park-It Market. These thoughtfully developed programs are designed to deliver nutritious food, dignity, compassion, and support to individuals and families experiencing the most significant barriers to access. Through these efforts, we remain steadfast in our mission to nourish lives and strengthen communities across our region.

Photo (Left to Right): Shannon Morrell, Heather Logan, Amanda Senn, Bob Plaster, John Lucas, Dr. Steven Davidson, Susan Reed, Michael Coleman, Mayor Steven Reed, Stacia Robinson, Cindy Pate, Leslie Sanders.

Photo by Nick Drollette Photography



Food as Medicine

Food as Medicine is a nutrition-focused program that provides medically tailored food to patients managing diabetes, cancer, and other chronic illnesses. HAFB partners with hospitals and clinics to screen patients for food insecurity while nutritionists develop customized food boxes that emphasize the role of proper nutrition in managing health conditions.



Hero's Harvest

Hero's Harvest is a food assistance program for active-duty military personnel and their families. These families often face financial hardships that lead to food insecurity. This initiative ensures that no service member or their family goes hungry. HAFB partners with local military bases to distribute food to identified military families.

Park-It Market

Park-It Market is a custom trailer designed as a mobile pantry that brings fresh produce, dairy, and shelf-stable foods to rural and underserved communities. Everyone who accesses the market can select the foods they need, similar to the experience in a grocery store, preserving dignity and improving access to nutritious options.



These initiatives mark a meaningful start in expanding direct service across our 12-county footprint—meeting people where they are, when they need it most!



Heart of Alabama FOOD BANK


Feeding Hope by Fighting Hunger



Scan here to Donate!



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