

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Feeding the Gulf Coast along with Mobile Sports & Entertainment Group Provide Fresh Produce and Dry Goods to over 750 Families at Hank Aaron Stadium During COVID-19 Pandemic

Mobile, Ala. – On April 24, Feeding the Gulf Coast and the Mobile Sports & Entertainment Group distributed nearly 32,000 pounds of fresh produce and dry goods to individuals and families at Hank Aaron Stadium. The COVID-19 pandemic is creating an added strain on Gulf Coast families struggling with food insecurity and access to healthy foods. Over seven hundred families received a mixture of fresh produce and dry goods thanks to donations provided by the Mobile County Commission and Mobile City Council members Gina Gregory, Fred Richardson, C.J. Small, Joel Daves, Bess Rich, and Levon Manzie. The distribution, which operated in a drive-through style to minimize contact for both clients and workers, was set up by Feeding the Gulf Coast to address the dramatic increase in local need for food assistance.

“In Mobile County, one in six individuals is at risk for hunger, including one in four children. That equates to over 74,000 individuals on an ordinary day impacted by the pain of hunger,” said Dan Emery, President and CEO for Feeding the Gulf Coast. “Many of the clients we serve are high-risk populations, including seniors and individuals with chronic health diseases such as diabetes and hypertension. The COVID-19 pandemic has caused economic disruptions for families of the Gulf Coast at a time when many are already living paycheck to paycheck. This may increase the level of food insecurity in communities for months to come.”

The food bank partnered with the Mobile Sports & Entertainment Group at Hank Aaron Stadium to host the distribution. “We couldn’t be happier to have this important community event at historic Hank Aaron Stadium. We’ve been working closely and quickly with Feeding the Gulf Coast and are very impressed with their organization and professionalism. Mobile Sports & Entertainment Group hopes to serve the Mobile community with partners like Feeding the Gulf Coast for many many years”, said John Hilliard, MSEG Vice President of Sales and Marketing.

As families are faced with an increased need for food due to school closures, inability to work, or facing self-quarantine requirements, the "Find Help" feature available at www.feedingthegulfcoast.org is the best source of information for families and individuals seeking assistance. Individuals can also call (888) 704-FOOD. During this time of uncertainty and crisis, Feeding the Gulf Coast remains dedicated to serving the community. Working with community partners, the food bank will continue to be an organization of hope and support for families facing hunger.

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About Feeding the Gulf Coast

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning the Florida panhandle, south Alabama, and south Mississippi. In 2019, the food bank distributed over 24 million meals to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens, and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple hunger-relief and nutrition programs, including Summer Meals, Afterschool Meal, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Mobile Pantry and Produce Drop Distributions and Nutrition Education. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

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About Mobile Sports & Entertainment Group

We are a new sports management company who manages the daily operations of Hank Aaron Stadium. We also own and operate the Halloween Nights of Lights of Mobile and the Christmas Nights of Lights of Mobile. We provide family friendly sporting events, concerts, and public venues in the city of Mobile, as well as, other community-focused and charity-based events.