



MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

Finding Resilience Together When Crisis Seeks to Pull Us Apart

Every generation has a defining moment, events that test the strength and resilience of those within its path. Last year tested us all as a nation, as a community, and as an organization. When March rolled around and schools and businesses began to close, the food bank quickly assessed a critical situation: how do we proceed safely and effectively to ensure no one caught in the crosshairs of COVID-19 is without the necessity of food.

A year later, though we all have settled into the normalcy of social distancing, masks and virtual living, our mission is more intertwined in the communities we serve than ever before. We have first-hand experience of how quickly events can transform lives. With overlapping crises, 2020 taught us the necessity of adapting, showing up everyday hand in hand with our partners, and the resilience built through pressing forward together no matter how challenging the situation we face may be.

Reaching a milestone, Feeding the Gulf Coast distributed over 33 million meals last year. This includes over 38 million pounds of food distributed

through more than 800 mobile pantries, over 400 partner agencies, and numerous child nutrition site partners.

COVID-19 presented the perfect storm of increased demand, declined food donations, reduced volunteer support, and a disrupted charitable food assistance operating model, creating an economic crisis unlike anything since the Great Depression. The need has remained elevated, with 1 In 5 of our neighbors here along the Gulf Coast, including 1 in 3 children, facing hunger this year. Many of our neighbors hit hardest by the crisis are working to get back on their feet but are struggling to afford rent, utilities, and food. For some, the recovery will take years.

As challenging as these 12 months have been, we remain hopeful as neighbors help neighbors and communities stand together to ensure the people around them do not have to go without food. We are truly grateful for all who have stepped up to join us in serving the increase in need. Our mission is only possible because of the donors, volunteers, and supporters who give of their time and resources to make a difference for others.

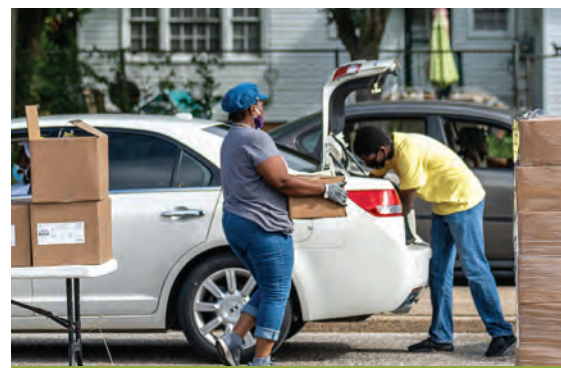
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IN 2020, THE FOOD BANK PROVIDED OVER 33 MILLION meals for people facing hunger in our community.

LEARN HOW YOU CAN HELP

Visit our website
feedingthegulfcoast.org



FROM THE PRESIDENT & CEO

2020 may end up being one of the most covered years in future history books, but those stories are unlikely to truly capture the impact it had on those who were affected across the world and in our corner of it. So much disruption was experienced and at a record pace: job loss, isolation, the loss of loved ones, and so much more.

It will also be equally difficult to describe the care, commitment, and generosity offered by so many in the face of these challenges. At Feeding the Gulf Coast, we often find our neighbors facing some of the most challenging situations in their lives, whether that be from sudden job loss, health crises, the impact of a hurricane or even a pandemic. These moments can be some of the most difficult to endure, but without fail we are encouraged and enabled by those who stand alongside us as we work to ease their burden and set them on a course to recovery.

There is so much hope on the horizon, but still at this time 1 in 5 individuals and a staggering 1 in 3 children face hunger. Though these challenges remain, together through our collective efforts and support of each other we will rise to face them and meet the horizon.

Michael Ledger

MICHAEL LEDGER

PRESIDENT & CEO, FEEDING THE GULF COAST

JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE

40
Years of Hope

1981 - 2021



4 Decades of Vision Because Others Sowed Seeds of HOPE

September 17, 1980, Feeding the Gulf Coast, then known as Bay Area Food Bank, received the green light to open its doors. The food bank was birthed out of a need to invest in those underserved within the Mobile and Eastern Shore communities. Visionaries saw the lack of resources for those struggling to put food on the table every day. The initial facility was set up in downtown Mobile. With a \$5,000 donation from All Saints Episcopal Church, the food bank began operations. Over the years, locations have changed, the service area has grown, and programs have been added. Forty years later, Feeding the Gulf Coast continues to serve over 430,000 individuals facing hunger across 24 counties and three states. We asked Carolyn Feltus, a former board member of 25 years and past board chair, to recount her time of service on the board.

In 1992 my friend and coworker at Alabama Power Company, Billy Lendzy, asked me to join the Bay Area Food Bank board. After listening to his compelling story, I agreed.

During my 25 years on the board, I served in every officer position, including President in 2000 and 2001, on every committee and attended almost every event the food bank hosted.

When I joined the board, we were renting a warehouse on Western Drive in Mobile, which was small and not set up for the food bank's needs. Due to the lack of space, we could not accept all available food donations, which was a big problem.

The board agreed that we needed to find another facility to lease as soon as possible. We purchased property in Theodore, and the building was constructed with the vision to have it serve our operations for years to come. We dedicated it in 2000 when I was Board President.

Our food bank has always been known for not only serving our agencies during normal times, but we are recognized for serving our agencies and communities when hurricanes or other disasters devastate our area and we continue serving to ensure people have food and water. That is who we are and who we will continue to be.

All those years ago, I agreed to join the board because while we were definitely not wealthy when I was growing up, I was never hungry, and I cannot imagine what that would feel like. I was totally committed and focused on helping with the hunger issues in our area. Personally, I felt compelled to try to make a difference by serving on the board because I completely believed in our mission of feeding people who were hungry because it was the right thing to do.

I would like to thank the many members of the board and staff I served with for 25 years. Special thanks to my friend, Billy Lendzy, for asking me to serve on the board all those many years ago. Most of these people I would have never met otherwise. For all the years I was on the board, we had absolutely incredible board members and staff. They were selfless, compassionate, caring, and loving people who truly loved what we were trying to do, and every person that ever served on the board with me made a difference.

For me, it was a real honor to be involved with Feeding the Gulf Coast. Serving on this board truly blessed my life in so many incredible ways, and I am so very grateful that I had the honor. I will always treasure and remember all the wonderful memories I have from the many years I served on the food bank board.

40 Years of Hunger-Relief Mission Moments

We are looking for food bank stories from the past 40 years to share on social media and in our various communication channels. If you would like to share your story of how the food bank has impacted your life in any way, please connect with us at communications@feedingthegulfcoast.org.



A LOOK FORWARD

Throughout this year, as we celebrate 40 years of hope, we will share stories from longtime friends of the food bank like Carolyn. From these stories, we hope you get a collective sense of just how far Feeding the Gulf Coast has come. With four decades of vision and hard work, it is through the strength of our partners and supporters that the organization has become a leading community voice on the importance of addressing food insecurity through both short and long-term capacities.

The spirit of those who began operations at Western Drive carries through to the staff and network of partners today. Every day, the food bank conducts multiple hunger-relief programs, rescues nutritious food from going to waste, and works with partners to create a safe and fun environment for children to learn and receive a healthy meal.

Though 40 years have passed, hunger, unfortunately, remains a widespread issue in our service area. So, we press on, committed to reaching those who need us as they face the crisis and uncertainty of hunger.

As we embark on the next decade of growth, we invite you to join us and help make a difference in your community. Whether through volunteering, donating, or partnering with our mission, your support of the food bank ensures more families in need have meals around their table.

Thank You,

YOUR SUPPORT
LAST YEAR
HELPED US



ASSIST IN TIMES
of natural disaster
and unexpected crisis



ENSURE 17,000+
children had access
to meals this year



CONDUCT 800+
contactless food
distributions through
partner agencies



DISTRIBUTE 39%
more meals during the
COVID-19 Pandemic



DELIVER 3,153,379
pounds of emergency
food and supplies after
Hurricanes Sally and Zeta



Feeding the Gulf Coast works towards the vision of establishing a hunger-free Central Gulf Coast for our neighbors in need throughout 24 counties in Alabama, Mississippi, and the Florida Panhandle.

The food bank distributed over 33 million meals in 2020 through our network of over 400 partners.

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This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

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22ND ANNUAL

Chef Challenge

A CHALLENGE TO END HUNGER
SAVE THE DATE for AUGUST 26, 2021



Join us in **ENDING HUNGER** along the Central Gulf Coast.

GET INVOLVED

APRIL 8 THE TABLE: CALL SERIES

Join us at The Table: A Virtual Call Series to connect our incredible community partners with our President and CEO, Michael Ledger. We are excited for you to pull up a chair and join us as we discuss the impact you are helping to create in our communities along the Central Gulf Coast. Register for the next call on April 8, 2021, at noon. We have exciting news about how you can help fight hunger with your shopping cart and you will learn more about our Store Donation Program.

APRIL 20-MAY 4 AL LEGAL FOOD FRENZY

Attention all lawyers, law firms, law schools, and other legal organizations: Sign up for the 6th Annual Legal Food Frenzy and help end child hunger.

Visit alabamalegalfoodfrenzy.org to learn more and sign up.

APRIL 24 WALKING ON WATER

Join Mississippi Coast Young Professionals for their 14th annual Walking on Water event.

AUGUST 26 22ND ANNUAL CHEF CHALLENGE

Save the date because we are thrilled to bring back our annual signature event this year.

Join us for a culinary experience as some of the area's most celebrated chefs come together to fight hunger in our community, served with a little friendly competition.

Sponsorship and chef participation opportunities are open now. If you would like to get involved, please contact event coordinator, Dana Zwick at dzwick@feedingthegulfcoast.org.

visit FEEDINGTHEGULFSCOAST.ORG | (888) 704-FOOD

MAKE A DIFFERENCE TODAY!

☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ Other: _____

☐ I would like to join the Hope Harvesters **Monthly Giving Club**.

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