



# Report Product 2025



CHATTANOOGA AREA  
FOOD BANK

MEMBER OF  
FEEDING  
AMERICA



CHATTANOOGA AREA  
FOOD BANK  
Northwest Georgia Branch

## Core Beliefs OF THE CHATTANOOGA AREA FOOD BANK

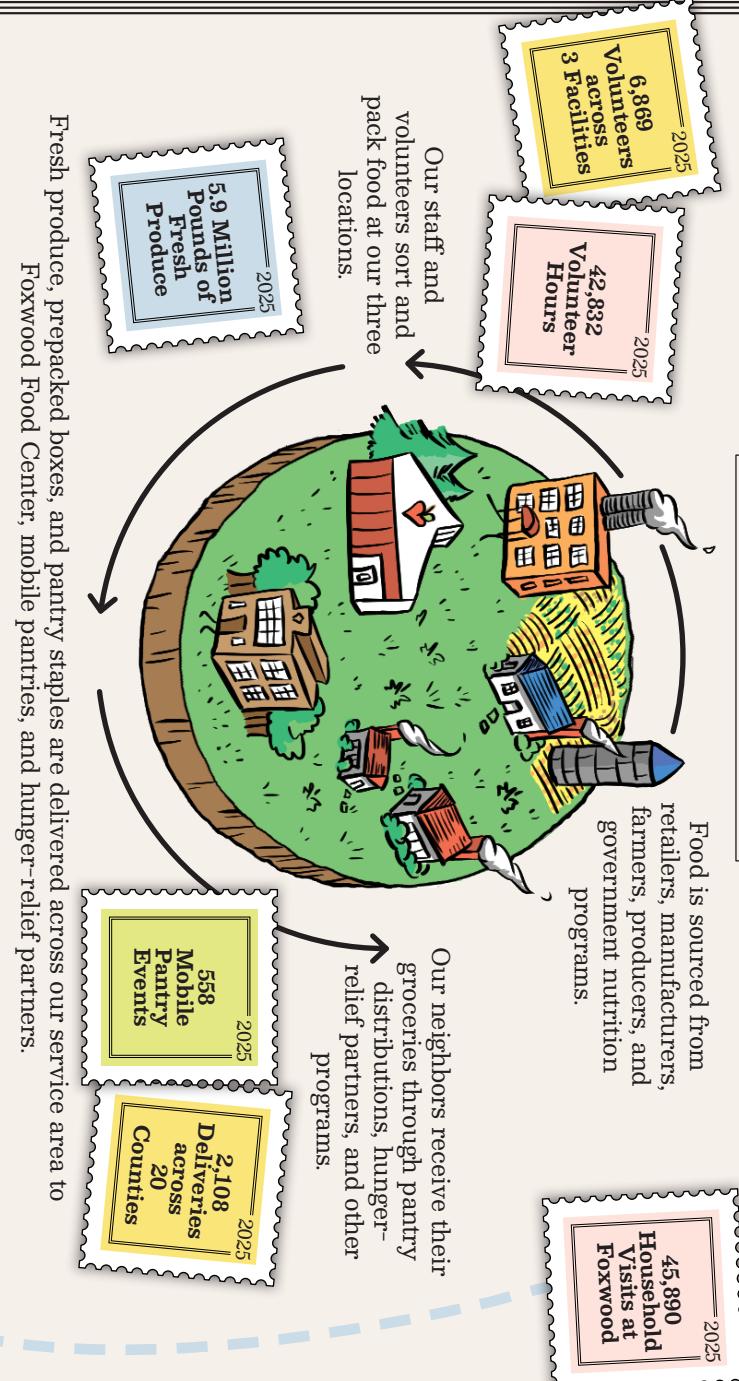
- No one should go hungry. Food is a basic human right.
- All people are worthy of dignity, compassion, and respect.
- Equitable access to quality food strengthens the community, empowers self-sufficiency, and fosters hope.
- The greatest impact happens in collaboration.

The needs of those we serve guide how we do our work.

## Board of Directors

Tracey Smith Chair The Trust Company of Tennessee	Harriette Stokes Vice Chair North Georgia EMC
Murphy Sauceman Treasurer BlueCross BlueShield of Tennessee	Sue Collins Secretary Community Advocate
Alisa Basaraba North Georgia EMC	Carol George Strategic Consultant & Advisor Textile Management Associates
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Justin Grierson Erlanger Foundation	Ken Mitchell Jennifer McIntyre Raymond James & Associates
Elliot & Canton, PLLC	Tamara Steward Spark the Firm, LLC

## Our Process



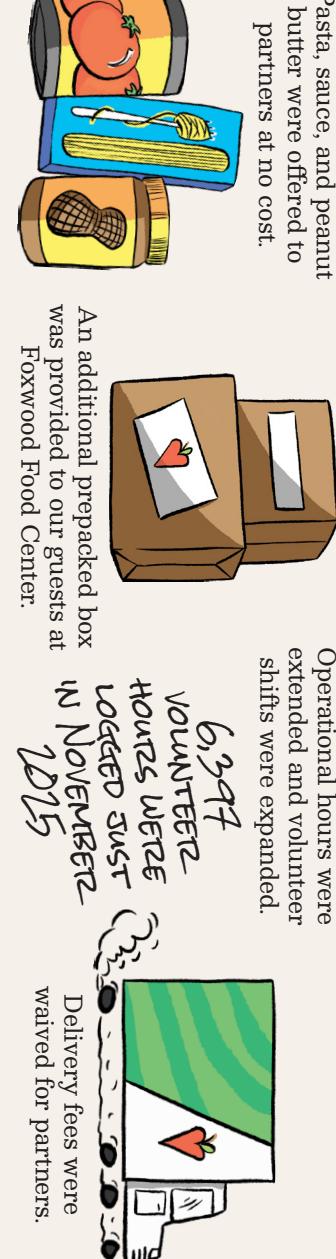
## The 2025 Government Shutdown Crisis

The 43-day federal government shutdown in fall 2025 disrupted SNAP access for over 100,000 families across our region. During November, many neighbors were forced to make difficult choices between basic necessities and food.

When federal systems faltered, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank and our network of partners responded at scale—moving more than 2.3 million pounds of food in a single month to meet an elevated and ongoing level of need.

## Our Emergency Response

Operational hours were extended and volunteer shifts were expanded.



An additional prepacked box was provided to our guests at Foxwood Food Center.

## FROM THE CEO

This past year brought real challenges in the work of ending hunger across our region. Since 2023, food insecurity has continued to rise, affecting more of our neighbors each year. And yet, as I reflect on this year I am drawn to hope.

I feel deep pride in our communities—from Bradley County, Tennessee, to Whitfield County, Georgia, and every county in between. I am grateful for the tireless efforts of our community partners, staff, volunteers, and generous supporters. As need increased, our response rose alongside it. Together, we adapted, strengthened partnerships, adapted to change, and reached more neighbors than ever before. The milestones in this report reflect that shared commitment.

Hope, in this work, is not abstract—it is visible and measurable. It looks like bold steps to provide free staple foods, trusting our community to help fill in the gaps.

Most of all, hope looks like people asking, *What can I do today to make my world better?*

This work requires endurance, and we are committed to the long haul. Thank you for continuing this journey with us.

With deep appreciation,  
Melissa Blevins

Melissa Blevins  
President & CEO

## 2025 Headlines

Raised over \$7.3 million to fund our mission

**16.9 Million Meals**  
— AND —

We provided Fresh Food, Families, and Finance program, funded by Tennessee's Families First grant

Initiated our response to cuts in federal funding for food assistance

**Navigated a 43-day federal government shutdown**

Collected 254,375 lbs from food drives

Served an estimated 180,000 individuals

**Programs**

**Foxwood Food Center**

Our grocery-store-style pantry where guests choose foods to accommodate their personal preferences, allergies, and other dietary restrictions.

**Hunger-Relief Partners**

We supply food across a wide network of food pantries, senior centers, mobile pantries, and children's programs.

**Mobile Pantries**

We help organize massive distributions at schools, community centers, and places of worship to deliver groceries directly to communities in need.

**Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach**

We assist individuals across our service area with the SNAP application and recertification process.

**Retail Rescue**

Meat, dairy, produce, baked goods, and pantry staples are donated by local grocery stores and distributed to our partners, saving millions of pounds of good food from landfills.

**Teaching Garden**

In our on-site garden, we grow produce for Foxwood Food Center, start seedlings for local community gardens, and teach about self-sufficiency and caring for the land.

**Support & Revenue**

Food Donations \$ 28,753,811  
Contributions & Grants 7,339,251  
Government Income 1,875,290  
Operational Revenue 3,362,272  
Miscellaneous Income 380,639

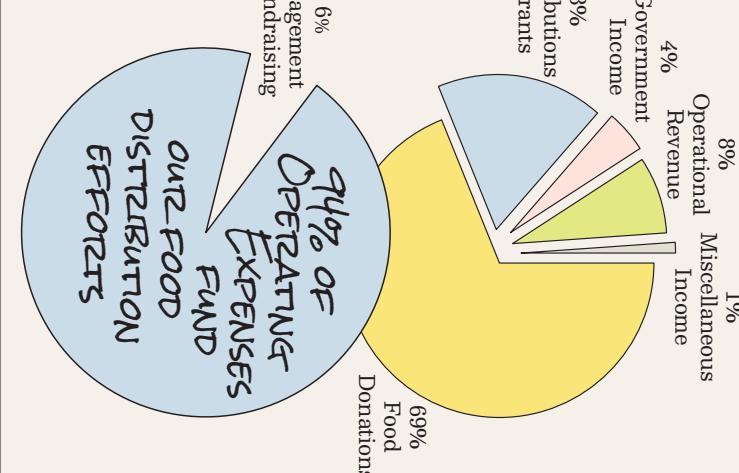
**Operating Expenses**

Food Distribution	\$ 36,754,516	4% Operational Revenue
Development & Fundraising	1,032,688	Government Income
Management & General	1,453,746	18% Contributions
Total Operating Expense	\$ 39,240,950	6% Contributions & Grants

Total Support & Revenue

\$ 41,711,263

**Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets** \$ 2,470,313

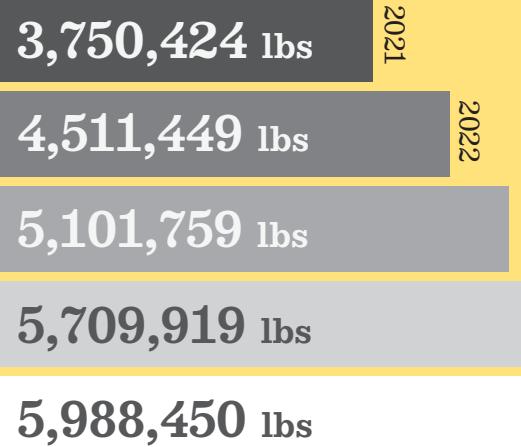


**6.3 Million Pounds of Food**

## Our Service Area The Big Picture

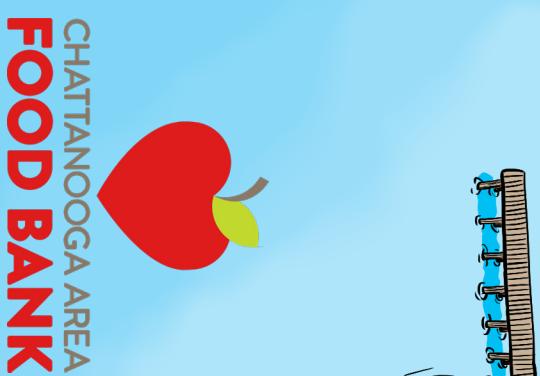
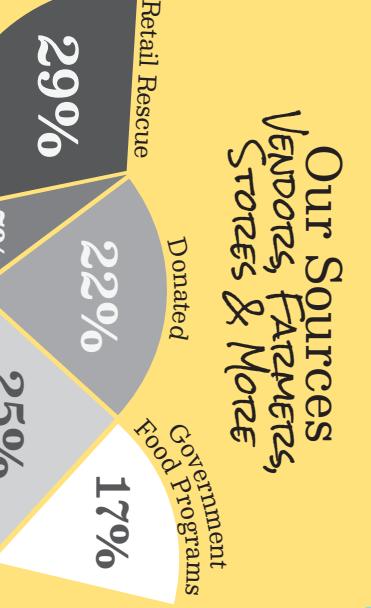
200+ Hunger-Relief Counties  
20 Partners 3 Chattanooga Area Food Bank Facilities  
7,000 mi<sup>2</sup>

### Produce Delivered Fresh



## Where We Serve

### Distribution by Region



The mission of the Chattanooga Area Food Bank is to lead a network of partners and unite the community to eliminate hunger by feeding, nourishing, and empowering those we serve.

## Voices Stories from Our Communities

Aleasha, Foxwood Guest Chattanooga, TN

Y'all have been such a blessing to me and my family the times when we didn't have anything to survive on you guys were there to help us...I'm forever thankful and grateful for everything you guys have done for us.

Anonymous Student Chattanooga, TN

I love getting the snackpack on Fridays. I like the fruit. I would like you to include strawberries.

Janice, The Gathering Guest Chattanooga, TN

[The mobile pantry] helps a whole lot. It saves money, so I can pay other bills.

Esamai, Foxwood Volunteer Chattanooga, TN

I enjoy doing this because [I] was struggling with food and I see how it is.

Lindsay, Foxwood Volunteer Chattanooga, TN

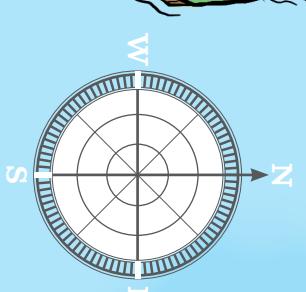
My family was so excited to have the fresh produce. My dad really loves veggies and he was over the moon when I brought them home. God bless you all for helping us.

LaShai, Garden Volunteer Chattanooga, TN

Knowing that I was helping make the garden even healthier for our community warmed my heart. I didn't want to stop. This was a beautiful experience and I will definitely be volunteering again!

Jessica, City of Refuge Guest Dalton, GA

My family was so excited to have the fresh produce. My dad really loves veggies and he was over the moon when I brought them home. God bless you all for helping us.



### Legend

- Distribution to Chattanooga Area Food Bank Facilities
- Distribution to Chattanooga Area Food Bank Hunger-Relief Partners

## Our Destinations Partners & Programs

