



JANUARY

2025



Dear Friends,

Our combined efforts this past year have touched thousands of lives with needed food assistance. Distributing food to more than 30,000 of our neighbors each month is a HUGE task.

How does all of this happen? First of all, it is the hard work of all of you in selecting food for your agency and in getting the food to people in need. We have an amazing network of agencies and you agency representatives are truly our V.I.P.s—Very Important People!

Then there are our volunteers. Last year our volunteers gave 22,380 hours of their time to help at the Food Bank. Without them, what would we possibly do? We've said it before and it remains true—volunteers make it happen! Under Tony's careful supervision, these folks sort, box and prepare an average of 84,000 pounds of food each month (or to say it another way, they prepare 42 TONS of food for distribution!)

Next, it's the generosity of everyone making donations of money. These financial gifts are literally the grease that enables the wheels to turn. It takes a staff of truck drivers, warehouse staff, order entry folks, inventory managers, food solicitors, and volunteer coordinator—and yes, management—to pull off assisting thousands of people every year. Every single donor and every volunteer hour and every single dollar make a difference. Just like the poor widow in the Bible who was able to put only two small coins into the collection basket at the Temple whose gift went a long way and was precious in God's sight.

That brings me to a final point: every human being is precious in God's sight. Each of us is worthy of being treated by others with respect and care, sometimes with tough love but always with kindness. Everyone who participates in the great outpouring of help for those in need also participates in God's love, seeing people as He sees.

May God bless every one of you and your family in the New Year. May you have strength and courage to continue this important work.

DATES TO REMEMBER:

- January 1st - Closed for New Year's Day
- January 20th – Closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
- January 21st – Agency Orientation
- January 31st – Closed for Inventory

UPCOMING MONITOR VISITS

- Abundant Life Church
- Broad Street Church of Christ
- EAMH-Betty's Lane
- EAMH-Griffin Mills Group Home
- EAMH-Northside Group Home
- EAMH-Waverly House
- Eufaula Church of God In Christ
- Greater Faith Deliverance Church
- Lee County Literacy Coalition
- Mount Moriah CHIPP
- Mount Sinai Missionary Baptist Church
- Revolution Church Min Corp.

FOOD SAFETY AND PRODUCT RECALLS

****Important notice to all agencies****

If you pay attention to the news, you have no doubt regularly seen information about a product that is being recalled for safety purposes. The Food Bank has a plan to keep our agencies informed of these product recalls and we have a plan of action to notify our agencies.

This is what happens when we receive notice of a recall:

- ◇ We check our inventory to see if we received any of the product.
- ◇ If it is confirmed that this product was distributed or if there is a high probability that it was distributed in our service area, we contact agencies by email, fax or phone.
- ◇ When contacted, agencies need to check to see if they have any of the product and will be told by the Food Bank what to do with the product (either destroy it or return it to the Food Bank).
- ◇ We update the product recall list on our web page under the Member Agencies section.

It is important that each agency keep Barbara Beck, our Agency Coordinator, informed of any changes in contact information for recall. Each agency must have at least one contact person that can be reached by email, fax or phone.

STAFF CHANGES

We bid a sad farewell to Callie Leaver. Callie has served as the Food Bank's Operations Manager for the past three years. Prior to that, she was the Community Market Coordinator during the difficult period caused by the pandemic. Callie certainly leaves her mark on the overall operations of the Food Bank and while we are sorry to lose her, we wish her well in her future endeavors.

Starting January, we are pleased to introduce Suzanne Rowland as the Food Bank's Operations Manager. Suzanne brings a wealth of experience in food banking. She most recently served as the Grants Manager for Feeding Alabama and prior to that, she served for nine years as the Branch Manager with Feeding the Gulf Coast in Milton, Florida. Suzanne plans to join our staff on January 13th. She can be reached by email at srowland@foodbankofeastalabama.com or by phone at 334-821-9006.



Product Recalls

Guidelines for Agencies

The Food Bank of East Alabama receives recall notices from USDA, FSIS, and FDA through the Heart of Alabama Food Bank and our national office regarding Food Industry recalls nationwide.

The table below is provided as a guide to supplement the Food Bank of East Alabama Product Recall policy. Recalls are divided into the four categories below with corresponding actions.

Recall Category	The Risk is	Action to be Taken
I	<p>Certain. Recall product is confirmed as having been received by and distributed to the Food Bank of East Alabama.</p>	<p>All agencies contacted via e-mail within one business day. Agencies that received product from inventory (not through Market Place) will be contacted via phone call also.</p> <p>Agencies discover how much product is on hand and contact the Food Bank of East Alabama.</p> <p>Agency will either destroy product locally or return recall product to the Food Bank of East Alabama depending on what that particular product recall notice calls for.</p> <p>The Food Bank of East Alabama posts links on the Food Bank of East Alabama website to FDA or FSIS websites that provide product details.</p>
II	<p>High. Recall product <u>may have been</u> received by the Food Bank of East Alabama. Risks include:</p> <p>A significant high quantity of recall product is mass distributed at locations in the Food Bank of East Alabama service area.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>The product is strongly suspected as being distributed through the Market Place during the timeframe that the recall product was distributed by the manufacturers.</p>	<p>All agencies contacted via e-mail within one business day.</p> <p>Agencies find out how much product is on hand and contact the Food Bank of East Alabama.</p> <p>Agency will either destroy product locally or return recall product to the Food Bank of East Alabama depending on what that particular product recall notices calls for.</p> <p>Links to FDA or FSIS website containing product details will be posted on the Food Bank of East Alabama website.</p>
III	<p>Marginal. There is a slight chance that recall products were received by the Food Bank of East Alabama.</p> <p>Product was not on the Food Bank of East Alabama food list or Market Place during “danger” time-frame, but the product was distributed in Alabama.</p>	<p>Links to FDA or FSIS website containing product details will be posted on the Food Bank of East Alabama website.</p> <p>Agency checks the Food Bank of East Alabama website Product Recall page at least twice per week to view all CAT III recalls.</p>
IV	<p>Very Low. Remote chance that recall products were donated to the Food Bank of East Alabama.</p> <p>Product confirmed as not having been in inventory since timeframe recall product was manufactured.</p> <p>Product not distributed in Alabama.</p>	<p>Links to FDA or FSIS website containing product details will be posted on the Food Bank of East Alabama website.</p> <p>Agency checks the Food Bank of East Alabama website Product Recall page at least twice per week to view all CAT III recalls.</p>



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Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 Closed Happy New Year	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20 Closed MLK Dr. Day	21 Agency Orientation	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31 Closed Inventory	

New Year New Savings

November 2024

Number of Agencies Shopping	127
Pounds Distributed	417,130
Retail Value per FA (\$1.93 per lb)	\$805,060.90
Food Bank SMF Cost	\$32,932
Savings to FBFA Agencies	\$772,129

“There are far better things ahead than any we leave behind.”

—C.S. LEWIS, AUTHOR

Civil Rights Assurance

In accordance with Federal law and U.S. Department of Agriculture policy, no person shall, the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, age, or disability, be excluded from participation in or be denied, or otherwise subject to discrimination under this program.