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Dear Supporter of Toco Hills Community Alliance,



As we start this new year of 2021, we reflect back on 2020, a year like no other, full of unexpected challenges. I am proud to say that at each turn, Toco Hills Community Alliance rose to the occasion. We are not merely surviving, but we are thriving, even in the midst of the COVID 19 pandemic.

First, just a snapshot of a few mind-boggling numbers to highlight the extreme nature of the year past:

- We served over twice as many people in 2020 as we did in 2019. In 2019, we served almost 30,000 people; in 2020, we served over 63,000 people.
- We served over 22,000 families in 2020.
- Those families were given almost 900,000 pounds of groceries.

The shadow of COVID required us to quickly and completely change our model of food distribution. In less than a week, we transitioned fully from distributing food basically like a grocery store to pre-packing nutritionally balanced boxes of 40-50 pounds we distribute outside and directly into trunks of cars.

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We also implemented rigorous safety protocols that we continue to refine as needed, including:

- The building is shut down to everyone except staff and volunteers on duty
- Everyone on the premises is required to be masked at all times
- Number of people on duty reduced to be able to maintain social distance
- Screenings of all staff and volunteers at the door
- Washing hands – a lot!



When the pandemic first hit, we also shut down both our Clothes Closet and hot lunches. We now hold the Clothes Closet on two Fridays a month, outside, weather permitting. We also now have a very small kitchen crew that cooks “to-go” meals for our volunteers and homeless friends.

In 2020, we saw improvements in our infrastructure to serve more effectively and efficiently, including:

- An electronic registration system for those we serve
- Upgrading of equipment
 - Electronic tablets so we can register people outside
 - Ten burner stove and all new kitchen utensils
 - Refrigerated van to pick up frozen and refrigerated foods
- Addition of a full time Operations Coordinator staff



The majority of these improvements were made possible with grants, among those, from the Atlanta Community Food Bank, the Glenn Foundation, the Episcopal Community Foundation, the United Way, and the Dekalb County Commissioners.

And, then there is the miracle in the midst of it all: YOU, our

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community have shown up, over and over, with money, food, supplies, love, and support

- We held our first Annual Campaign, expecting that we might raise \$20,000; because of you all, we are on track to raise about three times that much.
- We saw a 75% increase in the amount of privately donated food – over 127,000 pounds!
- We have had support from more organizations than ever: faith communities, schools, Scout troops, private businesses.



I am so very amazed and humbled, that, in midst of a pandemic and all the associated economic fallout, we were able to meet the needs of our neighbors. We have continued to provide not just food and clothes, but also hope and hospitality, care and compassion, to hundreds of families, thousands of people, every single week.

To be clear: YOU have made this possible. Without your faithful support, we could not have done any of this. All of us together are truly living into our mission of being neighbors helping neighbors. And, this pandemic and its economic effects are not going away. There will continue to be high need for our services. Because we know we have your support, we will face the challenges of 2021 with courage.

Thank you for your continued support.

Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig, Executive Director

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March 7, 2021

The Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk Run is going virtual this year! And, once again, Toco Hills Community Alliance will have a team. While we will not be together physically, this will be a way for us to come together virtually to fight food insecurity.

The Hunger Walk Run is an excellent way to support Toco Hills Community Alliance. Funds that our team raises are applied to our account with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, which allows us to purchase food from them at extremely reduced prices. So, join Team THCA, get others to join, make a donation, and share widely.

www.hungerwalkrun.org

Link to [THCA Team](#)



If you want to donate food or coordinate a food drive, the food we need most includes:

- Peanut Butter
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruits
- "Pop-top" Soups/Stews/Chilis/Pasta
- Shelf Stable/Evaporated/Powdered Milk

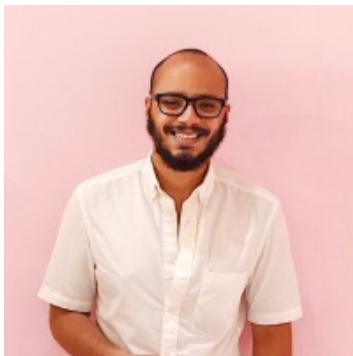
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We can also use cleaning/office supplies, such as:

- Quart baggies
- Gallon baggies
- Packing tape

And we will always take clean used shopping bags, both plastic and cloth.

Someone is available to take donations at Toco Hills Community Alliance building on Monday through Friday from 9am until noon. Drive up under the white tent and our volunteers will retrieve the items from your car.



Back in October, we were able to hire Many Soto as a part time Operations Coordinator to coordinate the many day to day activities involved to run our services smoothly. A recent transplant from New York experienced in retail management, Many has quickly become a valuable team member. Starting January 1, we were able to fund the position full time. Many says of his work here at THCA, "I am excited to work for an organization that is doing so much to help the community and a make real impact."

Did you know Toco Hills Community Alliance has a Facebook page?
Please "like" us at the link below so you can follow our activities.
[Toco Hills Community Alliance Facebook Page](#)

Toco Hills Community Alliance

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS

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