



Dear Supporter of Toco Hills Community Alliance,



As the temperatures rise, and the blooms burst forth, and as we survey the beauty of the "Southland in the springtime," it is natural for the themes of rebirth, renewal, new life, and liberation to be reflected in our religious and cultural celebrations.



At the center of those celebrations, and at the center of what we do here at Toco Hills Community Alliance, is *hospitality*.

Hospitality is often viewed as mere entertainment, but hospitality is more - it is a virtue, a value, a practice, a way of life.

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creating community.

from the heart.

Kirk Kinsell

As Jewish families and friends gather this week at their Passover Seder dinners, and Christians at their Easter brunches, as Muslims gather next month at Eid al-Fitr feasts, and others at the first picnics of the season, that kind of hospitality is at the heart of those meals.

Hospitality is also at the heart of what we do and who we are here at Toco Hills Community Alliance. The food we provide makes celebratory meals possible for those we serve, of course. What we do here is about so much more than food, though.



So many of the people we serve are hesitant and nervous about coming to us, especially so our friends for whom English is a second language. In order to be inviting and put them at ease, our volunteers have learned and use greetings in Spanish. This is just one way we express our genuine welcome of all those who come for service.

When people come for service, we certainly share food, clothing, and referrals with them, but our relationship is not just a transaction, but a mutual one in which those we serve also share with us, often in the form of gratitude, or like the woman last year who made us masks by hand to help keep us safe.



Even in the brief moments of interaction we have with those we serve and our volunteers, community is formed. When someone who is usually there is missing, we know. For example, we have one particular unhoused friend who usually comes on Tuesdays. When

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And you all - everyone who gives time or food or supplies or funds, who sends positive thoughts and prayers our way - you all are part of this community, too. It is only because of you and your generosity that hospitality is possible here at Toco Hill Community Alliance.



When you gather at your celebrations with family and friends, the table filled with food and love, know that throughout our neighborhood, there are others doing the same only because of the work that we do here. Together, we are making a positive impact.

Not only are we serving 250 families a week with over 50 pounds of groceries each, sharing 75 hot lunches each week, giving away nearly 1,000 articles of clothing each time the clothes closet is open,

but, together, we are making hospitality real with

- a warm welcome for all
- building relationships
- a community of care



In this glorious and beautiful springtime, as you celebrate new life and liberation, I hope you take a moment to remember you are part of all that goes on here at Toco Hills Community Alliance, and I hope that brings a little extra joy to your heart in the midst of it all. And may you find joy in both giving and receiving hospitality.

With gratitude for your heart and your hospitality,

Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig, Executive Director

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To keep you up to date on just some of the many things going on at THCA:

- With the addition of our refrigerated van a little over a year ago, our donations from stores have increased quite a bit. So much so that we actually had to hire a part-time driver in the mornings to cover all of them!
- We were the recipient of a grant by the Atlanta Community Food Bank to help us purchase equipment that will help us better move and store our food. The tables and pallets and carts will also make a safer environment.
- Two of our previous interns from Candler School of Theology at Emory University won awards at their recent Honors Day. We are in our third year of having first year students as interns. This upcoming year, one of students will be returning for a second year of a more intensive internship with us.

To keep up with these kinds of THCA news items, please follow us on [Facebook](#). And, now we are also on [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#)!



If you want to donate or coordinate a drive, here are the most needed items.

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- Granola/Breakfast Bars
- Individual size Crackers/Chips
- Canned Fruits or Applesauce
- Healthy Cereals
- Shelf Stable Milk

(PLEASE NO GLASS JARS)

We very much need **clean used cloth shopping bags**, as well as plastic.

We currently have a need for these hygiene supplies:

- Size 5,6,7 Diapers - Urgent Need
- Face Masks
- Lotion
- Lip Balm

We can also use supplies, such as:

- Packing tape
- Non-Latex Gloves (Medium, Large, XLarge)

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.



We always need good volunteers who are fully vaccinated (including booster), are physically fit enough to stand, lift, and withstand weather conditions, and who will abide all of the safety precautions, including COVID protocols. If interested, email volunteer@toco hillsalliance.org

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Toco Hills Community Alliance

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1790 LAVISTA ROAD NE | ATLANTA, GA 30329 | 404.325.0677

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