




Dear Supporter of Toco Hills Community Alliance,



March here at Toco Hills Community Alliance has come in like a lion, and looks like it will leave like lion, despite what the proverb says. Around here, it has truly been March Madness, and that has nothing to do with basketball! And it has been good madness!



fierce this month!




It's time for a...


PEPPERONI PEP RALLY!

Join us for a Dough-Nations event by placing an order with Donatos Pizza at 2884B N Druid Hills Rd in Druid Hills on Wednesday, March 1st.

10% of our sales for the day will be "Dough-Nated" to the Toco Hills Community Food Alliance! Dine-in, pickup and delivery orders are all eligible.



Order for pickup or delivery at donatos.com



We started the month with a "Dough-Nation" Day with our new friends at [Donato's Pizza](#) in Toco Hills. They pledged 10% of their proceeds for the day to support us in our Hunger Walk efforts. You all turned out and picked up, had delivered, and came to eat their pizza and subs. Their owner, Drew, came by just this week to hand-deliver the check and to personally express their support.

We continued the month at the ShredFest community paper shredding event sponsored by [Marshall Berch Realtors](#). We asked those who came to donate to our Hunger Walk fund and raised \$2,000 that day! Special huge thanks to Joan Kaplan for helping to coordinate this wonderful community event.





SHREDFEST

SATURDAY MARCH 4TH 9-11AM

FREE COMMUNITY PAPER SHREDDING EVENT
VISTA GROVE SHOPPING CENTER
2836 LAVISTA ROAD, DECATUR, GEORGIA 30033
MAXIMUM OF 4 BOXES PER VEHICLE (NO BINDERS OR CLIPS PLEASE)

There will be an opportunity to make a donation to Toco Hills Community Alliance

For more information please contact Realtor® Joan Kaplan 404-281-4106

As March 12, the day of the Hunger Walk, approached Team THCA and the other teams that raised funds for us - Clairmont Presbyterian Church, Spiritual Living Center of Atlanta, St. Martin Lutheran Church, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Atlanta, and Hope Express Community Church - all kept an eye on the weather as rain and cold were predicted. And, while it was not shining sun or great warmth, the rain stopped by walk time and it was not freezing!



All of those from Team THCA who were at the event at Home Depot Backyard are so grateful to Juan Carlos and Wes for bringing a tent and a "few" snacks!

Huge thanks to everyone on every team that walked for THCA - either at the event downtown or in your own neighborhood, as at least two teams did.



Team THCA is very, very close to reaching our goal of \$15,000, and we getting close to our goal for all the teams together to raise \$25,000. This is so important because our participation in the Atlanta Community Food Bank Hunger Walk is one of the primary ways we are able to fund our food purchases throughout the year. With the larger number of people we are serving, we need more funds to purchase more food than ever.

And the good news is that if we all put on a full court press (yes, a basketball metaphor!), we can still get the goal because we have until March 31 to collect donations for the Hunger Walk!

For all of the information, go to <http://engage.acfb.org/goto/TeamTHCA> to give to Team THCA.



In addition to all of the strong support shown for our Hunger Walk efforts, THCA has been chosen to receive a \$5,000 donation from [Whole Foods](#) in recognition of, and to support, the good work we are doing. We regularly receive food donations from them and are



pleased to meet with their managers and thank them in person.

And it is not just about money - or even food - just this month, our friends from Oak Grove United Methodist Church held a diaper drive to replenish our stock of diapers. And, every month, our friends at Intown

Community Church donate toilet paper so every family can receive it with their box of groceries each week.

Truly, we have a powerful community supporting us as we strive to not just provide goods, but offer hope and hospitality, care and compassion. Your help is what enables us to ensure refugees fleeing unimaginable horrors are greeted warmly, those that sleep outside have warm clothing, families have enough healthy food so all can lead active lives, our neighborhood is positively impacted.

This March here at THCA may be mad, it may be wild like a lion, but in the best possible ways. With the fierce support of our community, we are all champions!



Thank you for your tender fierceness!



Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig, Executive Director



Many of you reached out recently when it was announced that SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - what used to be known as "food stamps") benefits were being cut. Thank you all for being so concerned about our neighbors. The SNAP benefits that were cut were a result of states increasing monthly benefit amounts to fight food insecurity during the COVID crisis, then returning it to the amount it was previous to the pandemic.

In Georgia, these enhanced SNAP benefits were actually cut last June in 2022. Guess when we began to see a huge increase in the number of people coming for services at THCA? Yes, June, 2002! The fact is SNAP benefits have a positive effect not just for individuals and families who receive the benefits based on their low income status, but also for the entire community.

SNAP benefits are provided via an EBT card that is used at grocery stores just as any debit card would, though it cannot be used for anything but food and certain foods like hot foods are disallowed. SNAP is proven to help families become more food secure and healthier. Further, SNAP is beneficial to local economies. Each dollar in federally funded SNAP benefits generates \$1.79 in economic activity.

We frequently make referrals for SNAP and other benefits at THCA and are working with community partners to make information about how to apply for benefits more readily accessible to those we serve.

SNAP benefits are federal funds, distributed by states. They are authorized through the federal farm bill that has to be voted on every 5 years. Also included in that bill are other food assistance programs that allow us to provide more and healthier food to our neighbors. The current farm bill expires in September.



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

We are in **URGENT NEED** of **diapers sizes 4,5,6, & 7** and **baby wipes**.

The foods we are most in need of are:

- Canned Fruit
- Canned Vegetables
- Pasta
- Beans
- Shelf Stable Milk - Dairy or Non-Dairy
- "Pop-Top" Cans of Soup/Stew/Chili/Pasta
- Crackers

(PLEASE NO GLASS JARS)

We very much need **clean used cloth and plastic shopping bags**.

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

- Packing tape
- Non-Latex Gloves (XLarge only)

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 physically fit enough to stand, lift, and withstand weather conditions, and who will abide all safety precautions. If interested, Please go to <http://btrr.im/po89m> to start the application process. For any questions, please email volunteer@toco hillsalliance.org

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

1790 LAVISTA ROAD NE | ATLANTA, GA 30329 | 404.325.0677

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