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To the supporters of Toco Hills Community Alliance



Dearest Community,

As we enter into our sixth month of dealing with COVID 19 and providing services outside and with increased health precautions, it has become obvious that this is not temporary, but is now our new normal for the next several months. This is no sprint; it is a marathon.

No doubt you have seen the reports of the dire economic straits many of our neighbors are in due to the effects of the virus. Here at Toco Hills Community Alliance, we have definitely seen an increased need. We are currently serving over 400 families a week. By the end of July, we had already served more people in 7 months than in all of 2019.

The need is not letting up, and is only increasing. According to latest research from [Feeding America](#), we are expecting a nearly 40% increase in food insecurity in Dekalb county. That's where you come in: thanks to our amazing community support, Toco Hills Community

Neighbors like

- The senior woman who recently came through the line smiling so much even the mask on her face could not hide it. When I asked why she was so happy, she replied, "Because I am here and know that I will be getting a lot of good food."
- The disabled veteran living on the streets who was delighted that we gave him not only a box of fresh food, including a sandwich and juice, but also hygiene supplies to stay clean.
- The mother of five who received not just one box of food with canned goods, meat, dairy, and bread, but also a large box of produce. When we were also able to give her diapers, she had tears in her eyes as she said, "Gracias. Gracias. Gracias. Dios te bendiga." (Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. God bless you.)

Your support helped all of these families and so many more. You made it possible for us to provide good, healthy food and some supplies. In the middle of this intense time, your support is not only important, but also inspiring.

So, thank you. Thank you. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig, Executive Director



MOVING FORWARD IN MIDST OF CRISIS

Realizing that we will be continuing to provide services outside in the

heat, in the rain, and in a few months, in the cold, we bought a large tent and had it installed.

The tent is making it much more comfortable to register people and distribute food and stay socially distanced. Just the shade from tent makes it several degrees cooler underneath. The tent has also prevented us from getting drenched in the afternoon showers.



We are continuing to follow all of our health precautions stringently, with the building closed to all except our skeleton crew of volunteers, temperatures taken of all who do enter the building, masks required for volunteers and for those we serve, and lots of hand washing and disinfecting surfaces.

We have begun to be able to give out some clothing by taking the clothing out to the parking lot two days a week for an hour. We are continuing to explore how we might safely prepare a hot meal to-go on a limited basis for our homeless friends. It is our hope we will be able to do so by next month.

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As we shift from sprint to marathon mode, with your support, we continue to improve and enhance all we do to better serve our neighbors with compassion and caring.



Every day, multiple times a day, an individual or a group drops a donation of food and supplies at our door. We are so very grateful that our community cares enough to give so generously to help our neighbors in need.

Our support from the National Guard continues, though two of our four soldiers

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One of the best ways you can support is with your financial gifts. Through our partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, we can buy food for cents on the retail dollar. Through that relationship, we just bought cereal for less than 9 cents a box! Financial gifts allow us to be good stewards of our resources.

Make a Gift Now



We are indeed continuing to take donations of unopened, unexpired food. We are finding our needs changing from week to week, but a few things that would be really helpful to have more of would be:

- "Pop-top" cans of pasta/stew/soup
- Cheese and/or peanut butter crackers
- Soup
- Bottled water

We could also use some additional supplies, such as:

- Size 4, 5, and 6 diapers
- Lysol spray

We take donations Monday through Friday from 9am to noon, and other times by appointment via emailing us at info@toco hillsalliance.org.

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We are so pleased to have Danielle Arroliga joining us as our new Volunteer Coordinator. In this part-time position, she will be responsible for the scheduling and training of all volunteers. She will be continuing to work to move all of our volunteer scheduling and records to an online platform.

Danielle is a graduate of Agnes Scott College, where she majored in Spanish and minored in Public Health. She has been working with refugees for the past few years, and is fluent in Spanish, as well as having food service experience. In just her first week with us, she is already making a positive impact.



Due to the need to limit the number of volunteers in our building, we are not taking on new volunteers right now. When we do take on new volunteers, they will need to be able to lift 25 pounds easily, be in a low risk group, follow all protocols, and be flexible. If you are interested in volunteering in the future, please email dani@tcohillsalliance.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

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