



To the supporters of Toco Hills Community Alliance



Dearest Community,

Uncertain. Trying. Intense. All words that describe the past several weeks here at Toco Hills Community Alliance as we have been providing food to more people than ever with fewer volunteers and many health precautions in place.

Generous. Supportive. Caring. All words that describe our community as you have responded to the increased need of your neighbors in this time of the the COVID 19 crisis and its subsequent negative economic impact.

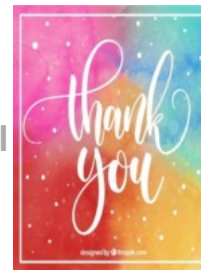
Every day, we are serving more and more families - between 400 and 500 families weekly, which is twice what we were serving last year at this time.

And every day, more and more of you have responded

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necessary supplies like gloves and masks, over \$20,000 in monetary donations, and many, many encouraging messages.

So, we, the staff and volunteers, and all of the hundreds of families we are serving, thank you all so much. With your support, we are Neighbors Helping Neighbors with food - and hope.



CHANGES IN HOW WE OPERATE

We are and will continue to be open. We have necessarily had to implement some significant changes in how we operate so that we can distribute food as safely as possible. Our building is now closed to all but a skeleton crew of volunteers - 10 or less at a time - with pre-packed groceries distributed from the side door as people drive through or walk through. We are not serving hot lunch and the clothing closet is closed.



All volunteers wash their hands immediately upon reporting for duty, have their temperatures taken, and are required to wear gloves. All surfaces are disinfected several times daily. We are all keeping physical distance and washing our hands many, many times throughout the day. These are just a few of the changes we have incorporated and every day, we are adjusting so as to keep up with latest CDC and WHO guidelines.

OFFICIAL EXTRA HELP

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Once a state of emergency was called, the Georgia National Guard was activated to help with, among other things, hunger relief. Through our relationship with the Atlanta Community Food Bank, we have had three National Guard Volunteers with us for several weeks, and they will be with us for at least three more weeks. They have quickly become part of our THCA family and we are grateful for their service.

MOVING FORWARD IN MIDST OF CRISIS

In addition to the many gifts from our community, due to the efforts of Board Chair, Lynn Pasqualetti, we have been able to secure grants. These grants are allowing us, even in the midst of this crisis, to move forward by, among other things, purchasing new equipment and enhancing our infrastructure.

One of the most important ways we are doing this is with our new electronic registration system for those we serve. With this system, we are able to complete registration and documentation of services curbside, as we deliver the groceries to those who need them. This saves hours of work and many trees.



Another way we are moving forward is with an electronic platform for scheduling volunteers. Thanks to our new Volunteer Coordinator, Jacky Segui, this platform is now fully

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[Scheduling volunteers and tracking their hours.](#)

And all of this is to the end of ensuring those facing food insecurity receive food to nourish themselves and their families. This is more important than ever for those we serve. For the kids whose parents are out of work. For the disabled veterans who don't have family support. For our homeless friends whose only shelter is a tent. For those essential workers whose paycheck does not quite stretch far enough. For grandparents caring for grandchildren unexpectedly.

With your continued support, we will be able to keep sharing food and compassion for those in need. Even though we are apart right now, we are together as we live more fully into being Neighbors Helping Neighbors.

Below are some specific ways you can support us.

THANK YOU!



In Gratitude,

Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig,
Executive Director

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. For example, we recently bought several hundred jars of peanut butter, with each jar costing us less than ten cents. Financial gifts allow us to be good stewards of our resources.



We are also 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:

- Canned meats/tuna
- Canned fruit
- Saltine crackers
- Evaporated milk
- Bottled water

We could also use some additional supplies, such as:

- Hand sanitizer
- Lysol spray
- Quart and Gallons size baggies

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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Volunteers have always been the backbone of the operation of THCA. That has never been truer than right now, with fewer volunteers to serve more people, and even with numerous safety protocols, putting themselves at risk to serve the community with care.

If you know or see any of our volunteers, please make sure to thank them for their hard work.

And though many of our regular volunteers are in high risk groups and cannot be with us right now, we miss them immensely, even as we know they are supporting us from wherever they are.

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 lisa@tcohillsalliance.org.

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Ever wonder what kind of food we give and what kind of meals can be made from the groceries we distribute at THCA? Here is a picture of a dish made from ingredients from one of our pre-packed grocery boxes.



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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