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## Dear Supporter of Toco Hills Community Alliance,



Spring has sprung here at Toco Hills Community Alliance, bringing beauty, mild weather, and there is a presence of hope in the air.



After 14 months of intense crisis mode, it appears we have some light on the horizon as the pandemic slows. Even as we continue to be very vigilant with our COVID protocols, we rejoice that all of our staff and most of our

volunteers have now been fully vaccinated, with others in process.

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As our social safety net has begun to work, people are returning to their jobs, the kids are back in school, and closed food pantries have re-opened, demand for our services has decreased. Even as we breathe just a little, we are very aware that hunger and food insecurity and hunger are not going away in our community. For example, last year, 1 in 4 children in Dekalb county experienced food insecurity. This year, the projection is that will be 1 in 5 children - not much of an improvement and not down to the 2019 level of 1 in 6.

Through all of the crisis, you, our community, have stepped up over and over again to ensure that we were able to provide good, quality food to all of our families. We could not have made it through this past year without all of you and your support - **THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

## What is Food Insecurity?

Food insecurity is the **lack** of **consistent access** to **enough food** for **all family members** to lead an **active, healthy life**.



Source: USDA

This crisis is not all the way over, but because of you and your support, people who had never before experienced food insecurity were able to receive free groceries to get through. Because of you and your support, kids who were not in school did not have to worry if there would be food at home. Because of you and your support, our homeless friends with no access to a kitchen were able to have hot meals to take with them. And, it is about so much more than

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Even as hopeful as we may be, we cannot afford to let up and we need your support as much as ever. Your support means that we continue to provide, and even increase and enhance, free groceries to our families. Your support means that we can begin to explore how our services need to evolve for the current needs. Your support means we can plan well for the future - a future that may well include an increase in needs, or even some new crisis.

We are so proud of what we have all done together and so look forward to continuing our relationships with all of you.

In Gratitude for our Beloved Community,

Rev. Dr. Lisa Heilig, Executive Director



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Now that it is spring, with summer just around the corner, the school year has ended for our seven Candler School of Theology interns who



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have been with us through this school year. We are so grateful for all of their hard work they put in. In reflecting on their year, one student said, "THCA has become a place of tremendous growth and healing for me. I now have a better understanding of what it means to be in community." We are so glad these students were part of our community and that some of them will continue on as volunteers over the summer.



Now that the crisis of the pandemic is fading, the orders are ending for our five National Guard who have been with us over the past year helping us. They have also become part of our community and we are so very grateful for all they have done to help us help our neighbors.



Even as we say goodbye to these special people, other special people are coming into our community. We will have a full time intern with us over the summer from Emory's Master of Development Program, and we have new volunteers who are students from varying schools who want to make their summer meaningful by helping others.

We do need a few more volunteers, so if you are at least 16, are fully vaccinated, can lift 50 pounds and withstand outside weather, are available during weekdays, and have an open heart and mind, please email our Volunteer Coordinator at [volunteer@tcohillalliance.org](mailto:volunteer@tcohillalliance.org).



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

We are experiencing a very high need for hygiene supplies:

- Diapers sizes 4,5,6,
- Baby Wipes
- Shaving Cream (Men and Women)

The food we are most in need of is:

- Shelf Stable/Evaporated/Powdered Milk
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- "Pop-top" Soups/Stews/Chilis/Pasta
- Rice
- Crackers

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

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

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.

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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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