



THE BIG
Leap
EXPANSION
CAMPAIGN
NETworks Cooperative Ministry

A \$750,000 CAMPAIGN TO EXPAND, ENHANCE, AND ENRICH
OUR SERVICES, RELATIONSHIPS, AND IMPACT

MISSION IMPERATIVES

OUR MISSION is to respond with the hospitality of Christ to the food and financial needs of residents and to partner with them to find long-term solutions to poverty.



LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF is

inherent in our identity and a cornerstone commitment of our faith. For us, loving our neighbors as we love ourselves embodies and expresses the essence of our mission to “respond with the hospitality of Christ.”



REPRESENT & REFLECT our community

is both an imperative and an aspiration. We serve a diverse community, and we want everything we do to embody and express Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Access.



LIBERATE POTENTIAL is the

imperative that recognizes poverty is trauma. This trauma affects people’s lives in ways that many do not understand. We value the inherent dignity of every person and desire to help them realize their full potential.



WALK ALONGSIDE focuses on the

mutuality at the heart of who we all are and how we connect. We all share in brokenness and our healing is found in coming together and relating heart-to-heart and person-to-person.

THERE ARE NOW

1,279,310

PEOPLE FACING FOOD INSECURITY IN GEORGIA AND OF THEM

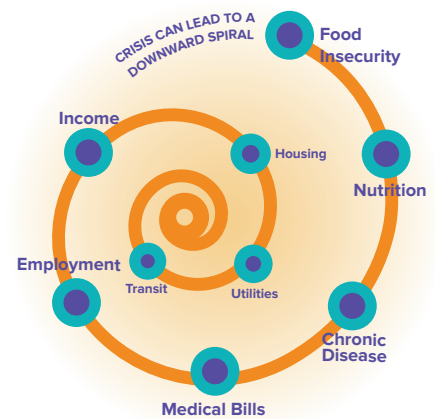
377,400

ARE CHILDREN: **12%** INCREASE OVER 2019.

12,060

RESIDENTS OF OUR SERVICE AREA

13.2% INCREASE OVER 2019.



Source: Feeding America and US Census

Graphic courtesy of Atlanta Community Food Bank



THE FACE OF HUNGER LOOKS LIKE YOU

One in eight Georgians face hunger; one in seven are children. Hunger and food insecurity result in significant stress in families. Hunger impacts physical and mental health outcomes in all age groups. It creates growth and developmental delays in children. Many of our neighbors are forced to make tough choices between paying rent or buying groceries, putting gas in the car to drive to work, making a utility payment, or negotiating childcare costs. Imagine deciding between putting food on the table or filling a prescription. That is a decision too many of our neighbors must make each month.

THE PROBLEM

In 2020, community need spiked. We provided 64% more food (almost 200,000 meals); doubled the number of times we helped a neighbor (over 23,000 instances), with a reduced menu of services; 438% more financial assistance (more than \$160,000) to our neighbors facing eviction, plus selection as the City of Tucker agency to administer federal CARES Act and ARPA funding.

Because our distribution space is so limited, we struggle to move all the fresh food we receive quickly enough and in an environment that is safe for our volunteers and agency representatives. We have outgrown our office, meeting, and training spaces. Our office staff has increased since 2004, and some staff are currently working in tiny stations that have no privacy and adjoin busy walkways. Our training and meeting spaces are also inadequate to accommodate our growing staff, classes, and volunteer workforce.

OPERATIONAL IMPACT

SINCE 2014, NETWORKS COOPERATIVE MINISTRY HAS:

ASSISTED **31,801**  INDIVIDUALS WITH **868,160**  POUNDS OF FOOD

& \$541,565*  IN FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE. WE PROVIDED **63,950**  INSTANCES OF ASSISTANCE.

*excluding CARES and ARPA, another \$1.7M

OUR NEIGHBORS DO NOT HAVE TO BE HUNGRY.

Closing the hunger gap requires collaboration and community support. It requires hard work and dedication, a commitment to work together to help provide access to nutritious foods for our neighbors. Our bold strategic plan will expand, enhance and enrich services, relationships and impact. Together, we can help our neighbors flourish and permanently leave poverty.









EVERY YEAR WE'VE INCREASED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE WE SERVE AND THE NUTRITIONAL VALUE OF THE FOOD WE DISTRIBUTE. THE PANDEMIC CHALLENGED US, PUSHED US TO RETHINK OUR VISION, AND SHOWED US WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN WE COME TOGETHER TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS.

OUR 2,000-SQUARE FOOT FACILITY HAS REACHED ITS LIMIT in both size and suitability. With our new 6,500 square feet of office and warehouse space with room to grow, we'll be able to increase our efficiency, accommodate more nutritious, fresh produce and extend the number of people we serve by 30-40%. These changes will allow us to stay nimble as we emerge from the pandemic and enter a new era of service.



OUR PLAN FOR EXPANSION

-  Expansion and relocation of refrigeration units for more fresh and frozen product
-  Offices to ensure client privacy
-  Space to add staff as we grow our programs
-  Designated space for training and enrichment programs
-  Client choice model/grocery style pantry
-  A truck loading dock which will enable us to efficiently intake and distribute product

THE NEEDS OF OUR COMMUNITY DEMAND THAT WE GROW

Our vision will carry us into the future

THE PLAN

- Offer a grocery store style pantry for clients to choose
- Adequate space for our product storage and delivery
- Add a walk-in cooler/freezer to accommodate more fresh and frozen product
- A building with a loading dock
- Expand food choices and quantities
- Increase size of display cooler
- Add floor scales
- Provide work spaces for additional staff
- Provide designated volunteer work area in the office
- Create more efficient and safer traffic flow

PROJECT BENEFITS

The expansion campaign will resolve NETWorks' current space limitations and position us to meet demand for the next 10 years. It will enable us to increase food donations, distribute product more efficiently, hire the staff we need to keep moving forward, and provide additional training for our neighbors.

PROJECT BUDGET

The total cost of the project is \$750,000. It includes all construction and new shelving, equipment, technology upgrades, and furnishings.

Additionally, the Big Leap includes more staff and expenses for expanded and new programs allowed by our larger space.



"Access to healthy food, WHICH MANY OF US TAKE FOR GRANTED, IS IMPORTANT FOR THE BODY, MIND AND SPIRIT. IT NOT ONLY HELPS WITH OUR OVERALL HEALTH, BUT ALSO WITH MEDICATION COMPLIANCE AND EFFECTIVENESS. CARR'S PHARMACY PARTNERS WITH NETWORKS COOPERATIVE MINISTRY TO ENSURE ACCESS TO HEALTHY FOOD FOR THE *families and individuals we serve."*

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NOW IS THE TIME FOR NETWORKS TO MAKE OUR *Big Leap* FORWARD, TAKING GREAT STRIDES TO REDUCE SHORT-TERM HARDSHIP AND LIBERATE POTENTIAL SO OUR NEIGHBORS CAN FLOURISH. **WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR SUPPORT FOR OUR MISSION.**





NETWorks' expansion campaign isn't just about a larger space. It's about more efficient use of our facility and the ability to distribute more nutritious, fresh foods. And helping our neighbors escape poverty. For good.

IT'S POSSIBLE THROUGH OUR COMMUNITY'S GENEROUS SUPPORT.

WILL YOU HELP US REACH OUR GOAL?

We must raise \$750,000 to complete The Big Leap Expansion Campaign goal. We cannot put our move to a larger facility on hold. With our new 6,500 square feet of office and warehouse space we'll be able to increase our efficiency, accommodate more nutritious, fresh produce and extend the number of people we serve by 30-40%. These changes will allow us to stay nimble as we emerge from the pandemic and enter a new era of service.

TODAY, YOUR HELP IS MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER TO ENSURE ALL OF OUR NEIGHBORS HAVE THE NUTRITIOUS FOOD AND RESOURCES THEY NEED.

GIVE TODAY AT WWW.NETWORKSCOOP.ORG/THEBIGLEAP



For additional information regarding
The Big Leap Expansion Campaign, contact:



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