

SUMMER 2024

Spotlight

HUNGER



Morgan Stanley employees volunteer in the SVdP Chamblee food pantry during their Global Volunteer Month in June.

The gifts of your time, talent and treasure bring Help and Hope to Georgia neighbors in need.

From the Director

Friend,

It's summer and thinking back on all the things I always looked forward to as a kid, school being out was always at the top of my list. I didn't think about how to replace the hole that would now appear in my daily schedule. Not a thought was given to the cost of summer camps to keep me out of mischief, the higher utility bills that would result from the sweltering heat, and the increase in household expenses for food. Every time I heard my dad ask, "are we feeding an army?" standing with the refrigerator door open, I assumed he was talking about some imaginary people. I didn't think my sister and I ate that much.

I look at the children running and playing around the Community Support Center and realize they rarely know the worries their parents face regarding their daily care. I can also look at their faces and imagine the pain they would feel today and the lingering developmental effects hunger would have on their lives. The impact of the direct aid St. Vincent de Paul Georgia provides to our neighbors in need is measurable beyond data!

The current needs of our neighbors became more real when I sat down to speak with Adam, Director of Hunger Initiatives. He shared how the Community Support Center Food Pantry is staying open until 7:00 pm one day a week to accommodate the stark rise in neighbors requesting food support. According to Adam, **"Everything is being done to adapt to the rise from 2023, when we were serving 100 households each month, to now serving about 82 households each day."**

There is a reason why along with our peers around the state, we are seeing more neighbors at our doors - **13% of Georgia's population is food insecure**. This means that they are **unable to provide enough food for themselves and their families**. Thousands of children and families in our Georgia neighborhoods do not have enough to eat daily.

- Nearly **1 in 8 Georgians live with food insecurity**, including 1 in 6 children.
- Feeding America estimates **people facing hunger in Georgia need \$1 billion more per year**, to meet their food needs.

St. Vincent de Paul Keys to Decrease Food Insecurity and Increase Food Access

- 40+ Food Pantries
- Teaching Kitchen
- Nutrition Education
- Food Recovery + Distribution Program
- SNAP Benefits Assistance

For Georgia's housing cost-burdened families, increased summer utility bills can mean less available funds to feed their children who accessed free or reduced-priced meals at school. Since the pandemic, thousands of low-income families in Georgia have received \$40 per child in monthly food assistance during the summer months. Georgia and 14 other states chose to end that federal benefit this year. Supporters like you are standing in the breach for our neighbors in need with the gifts of your time, talent, and treasure.

We were excited to partner with Morgan Stanley employees in June to amplify their nonprofit impact during Global Volunteer Month: Employees Give Back. The group donated more than 2,000 pounds of food and personal items and more than twenty-five team members and their executive director volunteered in the food pantry. The donors who have contributed to our Delivery Truck Campaign are getting us closer to the **\$70,000 needed to add a refrigerated truck** to our aging fleet.

Every gift you make, every item you donate, and every hour you give to Hunger Initiatives at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia across our state can mean the difference of a neighbor not having or having the food needed to sustain their family. The Help you give fills an immediate need today and inspires the Hope neighbors need to become self-reliant tomorrow and beyond. We Thank You!



Bea Perdue
Senior Director of Philanthropy

Morgan Stanley Wealth Management

Global Volunteer Month: Employees Give Back at SVdP

Kylia Baker, Market Administrator at Morgan Stanley was responsible for coordinating activities for the local team. That meant everything from sign-up, a food drive, t-shirts and making site visits. *“When I visited St. Vincent de Paul, I was amazed at the work that was being done in a building I pass daily. My colleagues, including our executive director, really stepped up. We ended the day knowing we had made a difference to our community. I should say to our neighbors, because I now love thinking of serving from that perspective.”*

The group delivered more than 2,000 pounds of non-perishable food and personal care supplies. They spent their volunteer time in the pantry, sorting perishable food and assembling personal care kits, that included products their executive director solicited from a local dermatologist.



“We were honored to partner with and serve the St. Vincent de Paul Georgia mission,” said Richard Vaughan, Executive Director and Market Executive. *“Learning about the scope of the work being done in the opening presentation was new for so many of the team members. It really confirmed that we were meeting the intent of Global Volunteer Month. The overarching goal is to make a difference in our local community through volunteerism.”*

Every June since 2006, Morgan Stanley employees make service to their local communities a priority. In the 18 years since Morgan Stanley launched Global Volunteer Month, employees around the world have provided more than 2.8 million hours to local and international nonprofits – during the month’s activities alone.



To learn how your company, civic, or social organization can volunteer to bring Help and Hope to our Georgia neighbors in need, contact Meghan King (mking@svdpgeorgia.org).

The Environmental & Human Impact of Food Recovery



Your next food gift to St. Vincent de Paul will provide support for neighbors lacking the financial resources to adequately feed their households. You could eliminate a neighbor having to choose between making a rent or mortgage payment and putting nutritious food on the table. St. Vincent de Paul ensures that the food you provide is not wasted.

The impact of food waste on our environment is another reason to join St. Vincent de Paul’s food recovery efforts. The methane gas emitted from food waste in landfills is a major contributor to the harmful environmental effects of greenhouse gas emissions. The food you help us recover makes a huge difference in the lives of our neighbors and ensures we have a safe and healthy environment in which we all thrive.

A Conversation with...

Adam Seeley, Director of Hunger Initiatives

For Adam, getting almost 2 million pounds of food onto the tables of neighbors who do not have the resources to provide for their households, **“reliability is our only currency.”** Bea Perdue sat down with Adam to learn how he and his team work to ensure that our Georgia neighbors in need of food support can rely on Help from St. Vincent de Paul Georgia.

Q: Adam, I know this summer has been one of our busiest, how are you managing expectations and ensuring that our neighbors can rely on us?

A: *It has been a busy summer; we never expected the demand for food support to expand so dramatically in twelve months. Low- and moderate-income families are struggling to deal with rising food prices.*

We were serving about 100 neighbors a month last summer. This summer we’re averaging more than 80 a day. The \$40 per child monthly food allowance when school is out that low-income families have accessed since the pandemic ended this year. A family with four children could easily be making the choice between putting food on the table and paying their utility bill.

We’ve also streamlined some processes to get neighbors in and out of the pantry faster and we serve many of our neighbors by appointment. Evening and weekend hours have been added this Summer to better accommodate the schedules of working families.

Q: I know it goes beyond just getting food and distributing it. What are some of the major challenges you and the team face?

A: *There is more food to be had than the world can probably eat, but it is not always easy to get it in the hands of the people who need it. Thousands of pounds of food are disposed of daily that we wish we could get our hands on.*

If we get 10,000 packages of carrots, they have to be checked, sorted, and some will have to be disposed. We need available cold storage and fast distribution. Healthy foods like fresh fruits and vegetables don’t have a long shelf life and making them consistently available is a challenge for our 40+ food pantries in Georgia.

Our goal is to be a best practice model for supporting the food needs of the neighbors we serve. That means effectively and efficiently managing – partner relationships, facilities, transportation, storage, people, in addition to managing the distribution of food.

Q: What are some of your pressing needs to get to that best practice model and to keep up with the growing requests for food support?

A: *One of our largest expenses continues to be storage. The square foot cost for warehouse space in and around Atlanta is almost \$10. Cold storage is even more. The further we get away from the facility to reduce that cost, the more travel time, and there are only so many hours in each day.*

Our aging fleet is an area that needs major investment. We have partnerships with retailers like Kroger and Aldi, that are served by individual stores. That means making pick-ups at dozens of local stores and we don’t know what food or how much until we arrive.

Having mobile pantry units would immediately expand capacity. We serve neighbors across the entire state, and many of the rural and urban areas are food and grocery store deserts. Neighbors, including many seniors without reliable transportation, are relying on convenience and discount stores for their food needs. A mobile pantry would allow us to bring food to their communities regularly.

Q: There are so many days when I pass the warehouse bay and see stacks and stacks of food and wonder how we get it in the hands and homes of all the neighbors we serve...How do you make it happen?

A: *One word...Volunteers. We have a core group that we know will be here like clockwork. They know the ins and outs of the facility, our partners, our processes, and they love our neighbors. We accommodate mandatory community service volunteers from our civic partners, many of whom continue beyond the requirements. The reason they give the most is that the work is so meaningful and they can see the difference their service makes. It’s also a plus that more and more local corporations are making volunteering a part of their funding partnerships with us.*

I go back to the carrots and the same applies to every item that you see on the loading dock. Volunteers help us check every item, record items for weight and type, sort, check dates, dispose of unusable items, stock the shelves multiple times each day, and keep the facility clean. This is not just in the pantry, but also includes the lobby Daily Offering that many unhoused neighbors rely on for daily sustenance. There is no way we could have an impact on the lives of our neighbors in need without our volunteers.

Q: Despite the challenges, the Chamblee location and several other St. Vincent de Paul pantries are among a limited number of “client choice” pantries in Georgia; why is that so important to you?

A: *We start first with a desire to preserve the dignity of every neighbor we serve. Having a clean, safe, and welcoming place to come to at their time of greatest need plants seeds of hope. Neighbors need to know that it’s ok to need help to get through the loss of a job, an illness in the family, or any sudden change in available resources.*

Food is a key cultural and familial influence for most of us. We celebrate, we share the love of certain dishes, and mealtime for so many of us is the time to shut out the worries of the day. It’s hard to do that if you’re making Hamburger Helper with no meat or having no choice in what you must eat. Our communities are diverse and that translates to diverse needs and wants. We work hard to partner with diverse food suppliers, so we have choices for the large number of Hispanic and African American neighbors served here at our Chamblee location. A community in north or middle Georgia may have different demographics, while our Veteran’s Hospital referrals have food needs specific to their health issues. Like everything else in life, food is not a one-bag or box that fits all.

Q: Is there anything you want to be sure our supporters know about Hunger Initiatives at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia?

A: *I have to start with how thankful we are for the generosity of their time, talent, and treasure. I hope they truly know the difference they make in the lives of our Georgia neighbors in need.*

When a neighbor arrives at Chamblee or a Vincentian Chapter seeking help with an eviction or utility disconnection notice, our caseworkers often uncover that they also don’t have resources to keep food on the table. The support of our donors is what makes it possible for our service model to help them with food and so many other needs. It’s how they move from need to sustained self-reliance.

Every gift a donor makes to us, no matter the size, is going to Help a neighbor when they need us most.



Adam joined SVdP Georgia in 2023 as Director of Hunger Initiatives. His non-profit career has included stints with Emmaus House, the Gateway Center, and Central Outreach & Advocacy Center. Other valuable experience includes volunteer service for the Bashor Homeless Men's Night Shelter. He is a graduate of the University of Northern Iowa.

Want to learn how your organization can partner with SVDP to decrease food insecurity?
Contact Adam Seeley (aseeley@svdpgeorgia.org) today!

SVdP Answers Church of Atlanta Lighthouse Call

Helping Neighbors Serve Neighbors

The impact of Hunger Initiatives at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia is highly dependent on our community partners, large and small. There are times when they come about in an emergency. Such was the case with Church of Atlanta Lighthouse that operates a small community food pantry at their Boulevard location. Church member LaMarva Ivory is "grateful for the partnership and generosity of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia."



The Lighthouse Pantry opens on weekends to serve families in the surrounding neighborhood, distributing basic non-perishable staple items to supplement food needs for about thirty families each week. In late May, on a Thursday, pantry coordinators realized they did not have enough food items on hand to accommodate the number of expected visitors for the coming Saturday. Church member LaMarva, who works at our partner organization Georgia Department of Human Services made a phone call to Darrell Hooker, Director of Operations, hoping he might give her a lead for help. "Without hesitation, Darrell asked what we needed."

Within a few hours, Darrell coordinated with Adam (SVdP Director of Hunger Initiatives) the delivery of staple food items that included peanut butter, oatmeal, canned vegetables, along with unexpected fruit, bread, milk, and meat. LaMarva counted it a blessing.

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"We are so grateful to Darrell, Adam and the entire SVdP organization for their partnership and the heart to serve others. Without them, we would not have been able to service those families in need. We certainly could not have served the quantity of people with such an elevated quality of food."
- LaMarva Ivory



Our Biggest Event of the Year Showcases Our Parisian Roots




YOU'RE INVITED!

Join St. Vincent de Paul Georgia for a morning of celebration and generosity that will bring Help and Hope to our Georgia neighbors in need.

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 26, 2024
11:00 AM-1:00 PM
SPRING HALL EVENT VENUE
7130 BUFORD HWY NE | ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30340

[SVDPGEOORGIA.ORG/MOH](https://svdpgeorgia.org/moh)

 **Purchase Your Tickets or Become a Patron!**

For sponsorship information, contact [Debra Roberts](#).

3,000 Sandwiches Make a Difference at SVdP

Thanks to Our Partnership with The Sandwich Project



This summer, neighbors wait in the lobby of the Community Support Center seeking Help and unhoused neighbors stop in to grab some nourishment from the lobby's Daily Offering. Many enjoy delicious sandwiches made possible by the generosity of The Sandwich Project. They have delivered more than 3,000 sandwiches for St. Vincent de Paul to share with neighbors.

Each week, dedicated volunteers at The Sandwich Project produce and distribute thousands of sandwiches supplemented with fresh fruit and protein bars.

Their efforts began in early 2020 when four friends realized the profound impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It became evident to them that many of their neighbors were struggling with food insecurity. Their efforts have continued since the pandemic by donating over a million sandwiches and thousands of pounds of nutritious food to large and small non-profit organizations. They are truly dedicated to assisting individuals needing sustenance and St. Vincent de Paul is equally grateful for their partnership support.

Elevating Community Support

Global HR Team at Otis Volunteers at Chamblee Food Pantry

Thanks to the Global HR Talent Acquisition Leadership Team at Otis for making St. Vincent de Paul Georgia their community service partner during their recent Atlanta meeting. Team members from across the globe, including Singapore, France, South Africa, Belgium, and the U.S., dedicated their time to sort and pack food and assist neighbors in shopping at the pantry.

Every day, 2 billion people use Otis elevators to reach new heights. This commitment to elevating lives perfectly aligns with our mission at St. Vincent de Paul Georgia, to bring Help and Hope to those in need so they may achieve stability and move toward self-sufficiency.

Their local host, Matt Turner, Vice President, Global Social Impact, reflected on the experience. ***"It was a great volunteer experience, thanks to Meghan and Bea. It was equally inspiring to learn more about the staggeringly impactful work of St. Vincent de Paul Georgia. I am looking forward to exploring more ways we can partner to serve the needs of our communities."***



The Otis team's dedication and global perspective brought a unique energy to the pantry, reinforcing the importance of community support and global solidarity. Their efforts ensured that many families will receive the essential food support they need during challenging times.

Thank you, leaders, for your generosity and for helping us uplift the lives of our neighbors in need. Your commitment to service and community made a world of difference.

You made 2024 the best ever.
Thanks for helping us raise \$11,767.20 for our neighbors who struggle to put food on their tables.

Make plans to join us in 2025!

**Nearly
1 in 8
Georgians live
with food
insecurity,
including
1 in 6
children.**

**St. Vincent de Paul Conference
Food Pantry at St. Matthew
Catholic Church**

**GRAND
OPENING**

MAY 4, 2024

We are thrilled for this expanded access to food in SVdP's District 5, serving the community in Tyrone, Georgia!

Cultivating Hope

St. Ann's SVdP Food Pantry Adapts to Changes with Growth



The SVdP Conference at St. Ann's, parishioners and community members gathered on April 11, 2024 for a ribbon cutting of their expanded new space.

For over 35 years, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry at St. Ann's Catholic Church in Marietta has been a vital resource for those in need. Starting in a small storage closet, the pantry initially provided pre-packed food bags. In 2020, embracing the importance of fresh, nutritious food, they sprouted a garden, transforming their operations. Neighbors now receive wholesome, homegrown produce to supplement the non-perishable and frozen food items. To enhance its mission of ensuring everyone has access to nutritious food for their families, it recently opened its doors to a new, client-choice pantry, allowing individuals to select their own items with the help of volunteers.

Interested in joining SVdP as a Vincentian member volunteer? There are many ways to get involved.

Love your Neighbor
Live Vincentian

Learn more at svdppgeorgia.org/join-svdp

This year, the pantry has observed an increase in demand, particularly from families ineligible for SNAP or WIC benefits and those experiencing reduced support. This growing need underscores the pantry's critical role in providing dignified access to food for all who seek help.

You Can Help St. Vincent de Paul Address an Emergency Need with Your Donation to the Delivery Truck Campaign

The increase in summer food costs for low-income families can mean the difficult choice of buying food or meeting other critical household expenses.

Make a Gift to the Delivery Truck Campaign



Want to schedule your end of year gift to support this effort? Contact [Bea Perdue](#).

In 2023, St. Vincent de Paul **Recovered 720,016 lbs. of Food** and **Distributed 1,961,996 lbs. of Food** to Neighbors In Need Across the State

Cooking Matters with Chef Mark

Open Hands & St. Vincent de Paul Serving Our Veterans



Veteran participants of the Cooking Matters program receive their certificates of completion and food boxes at the end of six weeks.

St. Vincent de Paul makes sure Veteran Hospital referrals have the food they need. In the Community Support Center Chef Mark Norwood, Cooking Matters Instructor at Open Hands, instructs them on preparing it to align with their health needs. *“Veterans are my heart on a personal level, and we love the partnership with St. Vincent de Paul.”*

Each six-week cohort member gains valuable information from the Chef on how to shop economically, healthy ways to prepare and cook, introductions to new foods, incorporating 4 to 5 food groups into each meal, and how to align their food and meal choices for improved health.



Chef Mark
Cooking Matters

Some veterans have physical and mental conditions from their time in the military. These conditions can make it hard to work or manage daily life, making it harder to afford food.

Feeding America

Your giving affirms the value of the St. Vincent de Paul Mission... Let your friends, family and neighbors know about the great work you've done.

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