

MISSION AND PROGRAM DESCRIPTION INFORMATION

Middle Georgia Community Food Bank, Inc.

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Program Description: The *Middle Georgia Community Food Bank* solicits, transports, sorts, stores, & distributes food & food products through a network of 501(c)(3) Participating Agencies serving the needy, elderly, children, poverty households, & homeless in 24 Middle Georgia counties. The pre-approved Participating Agencies receive our services based on the total pounds of donated food & food products the Participating Agency receives from the *Middle Georgia Community Food Bank*. The current Service Maintenance Fee for our service (the solicitation, transportation, sorting, storing, & distributing food products) is 18 cents per pound. The *Middle Georgia Community Food Bank* is a certified member of Feeding America, formerly known as America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network.

Mission Statement: "The mission of the MGCFB is to provide the maximum amount of food possible to our Participating Agencies at the lowest possible cost in order to reach the maximum number of needy people."

Administrative Structure: Governance is performed through an all-volunteer diverse Board of Directors. The Executive Director supported by an Office Manager, Operations Director, Warehouse Manager, & Marketing Director manages the daily operation. In addition, the staff is currently made up of 12 full time employees and 2 part time employees. A well-maintained volunteer base with 2,909 individuals working 19,302.5 hours in FY2010 compliments the "workforce" of the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank.

Service Area: Service counties include Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Macon, Monroe, Peach, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Bleckley, Dodge, Dooley, Lamar, Laurens, Pike, Pulaski, Taylor, Telfair, Treutlen, Upson, Wheeler, & Wilcox Counties.

Distribution of food products is accomplished through the network of 300 (+/-) Participating Agencies, other Feeding America Food Banks, and programs funded through our operational budget & United Way dollars. These Operational Programs include:

OPCAR (Operation Partnership/Children at Risk), which is designed to providing snacks & drinks to Partnership organizations that maintain an agenda that involves programs for youth. Programs such as "After school Tutorial" programs, DARE camps & programs, WAVE (Weapons & Violence Education), summer camps, Special Olympics, and other specialty programs for youth. The design is to provide a safe haven with positive supervision for youth to interact, learn, & develop. We supply the snacks & drinks to these Partnership organizations at an internal cost of \$2.00 per 15 youth. Currently we aid OPCAR programs in Bibb, Houston, Jones, Twiggs, Wilkinson, and Laurens Counties. ***FY2010 we distributed 503,030 snacks to 43,246 youth.***

Brown Bags for Senior Citizens distributes "bags" of food products to seniors on a monthly basis. Average distribution is 1,250 "bags" each month through a network of volunteers. Each "bag" is the equivalent of 10 meals depending on the availability of food products. The design is to get food to the seniors; the seniors interact with the volunteers (this may be the only contact the senior has with others), and to "stretch" the senior's limited fixed income providing dollars for other needs. Current distribution includes Baldwin, Bibb, Crawford, Houston, Jones, Monroe, Peach, Pulaski, Putnam, Twiggs, Wilkinson, Laurens, Jasper, Macon, and Upson Counties. ***FY2010 we distributed 18,392 bags to senior citizen households.***

The Hunger Project distributes excess food products to the Macon Housing Authority low-income housing projects and Senior High rises for those families and seniors in need of supplemental food products. The design is to provide food products to help low-income families & seniors. The program enables the *Middle Georgia Community Food Bank* in "shrink/waste" control. Products are used for human consumption instead of being allowed to deteriorate beyond the point that they can be consumed. Current distribution is primarily Bibb County. ***FY2010 we distributed the equivalent of 119,369 meals to 9,744 families.***

Food Product Distribution is the “bottom line” purpose of food banking. We distribute and impact the communities & 300 Participating Agencies we serve with 6,500,000+ pounds of food products annually. Since the inception of food banking in Middle Georgia, we have impacted Middle Georgia’s needy, elderly, families, and homeless with over 110,495,285 pounds of food. This represents over 89,833,565 meals at a retail value of \$ 232,040,098.50 and the savings to the Participating Agencies have been approximately \$221,543,046.43. The Participating Agencies understand the value of utilizing the services of the *Middle Georgia Community Food Bank* thereby increasing available funds for their program agenda’s of helping more individuals, seniors, & families. For every \$1.00 paid in service maintenance fees by Participating Agencies, they receive approximately \$22.10 in food products. Food distribution is available to programs in all the counties in our 24 County Service Area in Middle Georgia. ***FY2010 we distributed 7,803,721 pounds of food – equivalent to 6,344,489 meals at a savings to the Participating Agencies of \$15,646,460.61.***

SNAP (State Nutrition Assistance Program) is a food purchase program funded for product by the State of Georgia. Our share of state funds is based on poverty population numbers. The program is beginning the 9th year of funding and may or may not be approved during future state budgeting. The dollars are a “wash” as the funds provided are for product only with no present administrative funds. Funds are administered to the food banks via the Department of Human Resources on a reimbursement basis. There are no funds available for interest fees, bank costs, or trucking. To date, we have purchased \$ 5,624,576.34 in food not normally donated in quantities that make a difference to the needy population we serve. In terms of pounds and meals, we have distributed 8,414,573 pounds that equivocate to 6,841,116 meals. SNAP foods are available to programs in all of our 24 County Service Area in Middle Georgia.

USDA/TEFAP (USDA/The Emergency Feeding Assistance Program) is that “pot” of food that comes through the Department of Human Resources from USDA. Since 1989 USDA/TEFAP has made a difference in the quality of foods distributed. Though we receive \$.10 per pound from USDA/TEFAP for distributed pounds, only 50% of the incoming USDA/TEFAP pounds are qualified as entitlement pounds that qualify for the administrative reimbursement funds. Therefore 50% of USDA/TEFAP costs in our system are handled through the operational budgeted funding. USDA/TEFAP foods are available to programs in all of our 24 County Service Area in Middle Georgia. Since 1989, we have distributed 17,538,179 pounds of USDA, which equivocates to 14,258,682 meals. ***F2010 we distributed 3,327,871 pounds of USDA/TEFAP food.***

The Mobile Food Pantry is a new program initialized in November 2004. We replicated a similar program developed by the A2H Food Bank of the Chattahoochee Valley (Columbus). With a brand new truck donated from the Ford/Paul Newman’s Own Foundation in partnership with America’s Second Harvest, we began distributing food boxes to families in more rural areas of our operational county service area. Currently we have distributions in Wheeler, Laurens, Jones, Bibb, Houston, Macon, Wilcox, Lamar, Crawford, Dooly, Taylor, Jasper, and Telfair Counties. Our approach is to partner with an organization in the rural county that will be responsible to quantify, qualify, and manage the distribution. Our part of the partnership is to provide the food, trucking, and driver. Base lines are 100 families per county, per month. ***Distribution for FY2010 aided 12,150 rural Georgia families with approximately 25,722 children. The recipient families received 905,975 pounds of food, which equivocates to 736,565 meals, or an average of 60 meals per family.*** We plan to continue growth through other rural Georgia counties for FY2011.

The “Toy Room” at Christmas is one of our “fun” programs. The premise of the “Toy Room” is that all God’s children should have a toy at Christmas. We try to “catch” the families that have Christmas needs but “fall through the cracks” of the more traditional avenues for assistance.

FY2011/2012 BUDGET ISSUES

Several challenges will impact the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank and our ability to serve Middle Georgia's needy families, children, seniors, and homeless in FY2011/2012:

- Feeding America, “formerly known as America’s Second Harvest, the Nation’s Food Bank Network”, changed the methodology by which Food Banks receive nationally donated foods. The change does not benefit the Food Banks in less densely populated rural areas. The larger Food Banks in places like Atlanta with heavy population centers benefit to a greater degree. The result is a decrease in nationally generated product.
- Food solicitation, food drives, state funding, and other food resources – all will impact our ability to best serve Middle Georgia communities through our Participating Agencies in FY2011/2012.
- We work with 300 (+/-) Partnership Agencies throughout 24 Middle Georgia counties. We directly impact participating programs with savings that may be allocated to increase the populations served.
- The general condition of the economy, the level of possible funding sources, and other sources of revenues for FY2010/2011 has dictated that we approach FY2011/2012 with a “flat” maintenance budget with no increase budgeted. We will attempt to maintain our level of commitments without increasing overall costs.
 - An aging vehicle fleet is dictates the cost of maintenance reflected in the maintenance budget for FY2011/2012.
 - Fuel costs remain an unpredictable variable. With changes in “how we pick up food from Wal-Mart locations (change dictated by Feeding America)”, our fuel costs will increase.
- We solicit and utilize volunteers throughout Middle Georgia. We have volunteers in rural areas that identify, and qualify recipient families for food distribution through our Mobile Food Pantry Program, our Hunger Project Program, and our Brown Bag Program. Volunteers bag, sort, pull orders, help Participating Agencies load products, unload trucks, and help with general “warehouse” job tasks. Annually we had 2,909 volunteers performing a multitude of duties while “giving” 19,302.5 hours. Our volunteers come from a variety of sources – the school system, private schools, civic clubs, Wesley Glenn Ministries, Meals on Wheels Title V Program, Star Choices, the “Faith Based Community” youth groups, etc. Keeping the volunteer groups, individuals, etc. engaged is another challenge to which we constantly react.

FY2010/2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

On a positive impact side:

- The Middle Georgia Community Food Bank retired the mortgage and long-term debt.
- Wall-Mart donated a new 2010 Freightliner, 24’ Freezer truck, enhancing our small fleet.
- We were able to “upgrade” the balance of our truck fleet by repairing and/or replacing the freezer/cooler units on the vehicles.
- Distribution was at an all time high.
- Our direct Mail Campaign was very successful.

