



NORTH GWINNETT CO-OP
One Thousand Five Hundred

THANK YOU

FRESH MARKET

SUGAR HILL ELEMENTARY
LOVES
NORTH GWINNETT CO-OP

Faith at the Farm



north gwinnett
CO-OP

2021 ANNUAL REPORT

Dear Friends:

To say 2021 was another challenging year would be an understatement. The COVID pandemic continued to bring illness, loss and economic hardship to so many families and the demand for support remained high. Just like last year, the Co-Op faced many challenges. However, the Lord continued to put blessings in front of each challenge.

For example:

- We have not been able to kick off our Some Buddy volunteer program (our senior citizen volunteer program) because of ongoing pandemic concerns. Despite that, the number of senior home deliveries are at an all-time high and the good news – we have plenty of volunteers helping with those home deliveries.

- In 2020, most of our regular volunteers were senior citizens. When COVID hit, we lost 98% of our volunteer base. The blessing in the pandemic was that we had access to volunteers we would not normally have access to. We had student volunteers, we had people who were working from home who could spare a couple of hours to help, and we had brand new volunteers fill in the gaps. As of today, we have a great new volunteer base. We miss our senior volunteers and hope to have them back soon.

- Our thrift store renovations were supposed to have been completed in 2020. All renovation plans were

put on hold as it was literally “all hands on deck” in the pantry. In 2021, the Lord sent us a wonderful volunteer that offered his professional services at no charge to help with the store renovations. The store renovations were completed, under budget, in May of 2021. I am proud to announce that the Co-Op completed all renovations, paid off the loan for the original building and is now **DEBT FREE!!!**

We are proud of how we - through collaborations with amazing partners, the generosity of donors and our staff and volunteers' dedication - developed new and better ways to support our neighbors in need. We will highlight some of those ways in this report. Because of our partners and supporters like you, the North Gwinnett Co-Op is stronger and more prepared than ever for the months and years ahead as so many of our neighbors move from crisis to recovery. We thank you, and we hope you enjoy reading about all you have helped us to accomplish.



Fighting Hunger and
Building Hope with you,

Kim Phillips
Executive Director

FOOD INSECURITY in Georgia



Food insecurity means that people are unable to provide enough food for themselves and their families. Families living with food insecurity often have to choose between paying bills or buying food.

Food insecurity can impact many aspects of someone's life. Hunger and related stress make it difficult to perform well in school or at a job. Food insecurity is linked with numerous health conditions including diabetes, hypertension, and depression. The cost of managing these conditions places additional stress on families. Living with food insecurity impacts many aspects of everyday life which makes it a complex problem to solve.

HEART HEALTHY FOOD PROGRAM

ANOTHER PANDEMIC BLESSING

Food pantries are not generally known for having nutritious food and we wanted to change that. In February 2020, we began our HEART HEALTHY FOOD PROGRAM. The goal of the program is to bring nutritious foods to our neighbors on a daily basis. Then the pandemic started. At the beginning of the pandemic, we could no longer purchase food from our suppliers, as everyone was having a hard time with inventory. At that time, restaurants were also closed and suppliers were looking for new partnerships. In 2020, we were able to collaborate with some restaurant suppliers to purchase fruits, vegetables, meats and dry goods. In 2021, we transferred that partnership to local suppliers for fresh fruits, vegetables and milk. We now receive weekly deliveries for our neighbors. Because of your generous support, we are able to budget just over \$1,000 a week for this initiative. If you are interested in supporting this initiative, please indicate the Heart Healthy Food Program on your donation.



442,476 POUNDS

OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED IN 2021

2020 - 546,805 LBS. (PANDEMIC) • 2019 - 171,953 LBS.



WE NEED YOU!

92% of the food that is distributed to our neighbors is donated.

We are dependent on donations from the public to keep our pantry stocked.

Children facing hunger are more likely to:

Repeat a grade in elementary school

Experience developmental impairments

Develop health conditions such as anemia



MOBILE FOOD PANTRY



In attempt to reach those who are unable to reach us, our Mobile Food Pantry Program launched in October of 2021. The pantry goes out 6-8 times a month to different communities to bring fresh fruits, vegetables, milk and pantry basics to our neighbors in need. In 2021, the Mobile Food Pantry Program served over 300 individuals. Service dates are listed on our website and through social media. We are seeking volunteers, especially bilingual English/Spanish speaking volunteers, to assist with pantry distributions. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our website for more information.

A LOOK BACK AT 2021



2021 Book Bag Bash

Thanks to your tremendous support, we prepared 762 children for the 2021/2022 school year!



September Is Hunger Action Month

How can you participate? Visit a participating restaurant or host a food drive in your community or place of work. Details coming in August.



Thrift Store Grand Re-Opening May 2021 DID YOU KNOW?

Our thrift store is open to the public! Proceeds from the store go towards paying for medication assistance for our neighbors. In 2021, we provided medication assistance to **342 people**.



Our first golf tournament...

We held our first golf tournament in November. Thank you to Peoples Bank and Trust for being our platinum event sponsor. We appreciate all of our sponsors and players. Together you raised over **\$30,000!**

Together We Make a Difference!



NORTHGWINNETTVOICE.COM

Fatality confirmed in overnight house fire | North Gwinnett Voice

More than a food bank...

Unfortunately, our community experienced a lot of loss in 2021. Through your generosity, we were able to assist five families with emergency assistance. Assistance included housing, the passing on of gift cards, supplies, and funeral expenses. We are truly blessed to be part of such a caring community.



Chick-fil-A Feeds 5,000

Because of your tremendous support – we, in partnership with the Moore Road and Sugarloaf Chick-fil-A stores, were able to reach our goal in feeding 5,000 meals to our neighbors.



Thank you to Classic Auto Rides for including us as one of your charities.

Not only do they support us financially, they also sponsored several children for Christmas.



Mobile Food Pantry...

Thanks to a grant from Gwinnett County Development Block Program, we were able to purchase two mobile pantry vans. One van is refrigerated; the other van is for dry goods. These vans enable us to bring food to communities in need as well as pick up food drives and refrigerated foods. We look forward to increasing the impact of the Mobile Food Pantry in 2022.

The Numbers for 2021

24,795

people served in 2021

46% Children **40%** Adults **14%** Seniors

Medication Assistance

181 households, serving 342 people

Utility Assistance

99 households, serving 299 people

Housing Assistance

37 households, serving 104 people

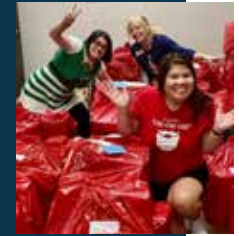
\$197,498.60 total funds distributed to assist our neighbors.



THANK YOU S&S ACE HARDWARE!

S&S Ace Hardware hosted their 21st Annual Classic Cruise In and Show for us in November. Despite the impact COVID has had on small businesses, our friends at S&S Ace Hardware still found a way to support us! We are so thankful for all the hard work, time and energy that goes into such a great event. Thank you to the vendors who attend the event, the people that bring their beautiful cars and all the visitors. We can't say it enough - we appreciate all you have done to support us for 21 years!

Don't miss this year's car show! Mark your calendars for **Saturday, November 5, 2022** And remember to **SHOP LOCAL!!!**



2021 Holidays

Our 2021 Holiday season was one of our best! Businesses, civic groups, churches, schools and individuals all collected toys for our Susan Roebuck Santa Shop and provided holiday meal boxes!

- Set a new record: sponsored **184** senior citizens
- Volunteers **delivered** Thanksgiving and Christmas meals and Christmas gifts to each senior citizen.
- The community sponsored **474 children for Christmas.**
- Distributed over **10,000 toys** to children in need.
- Distributed over **1,500** holiday meals and over **\$30,000** in gift cards to people in our communities.

The holidays are a great example of what an impact we can make on our community when we all come together. Thank you to everyone who participated in the 2021 holiday programs. Together We Make A Difference!

Looking forward to 2022

Despite the hurdles, 2021 enabled us to improve and increase our impact in our community. We are hopeful that we can return to having clients in the building and beginning on-site classes and volunteer programs soon.

GOALS FOR 2022

- Begin our Senior Some Buddy Program
- Offer on-site job fairs and resume assistance
- Increase mobile food pantry locations
- Continue to increase our impact on our community

We look forward to serving our community WITH YOU!



How You Can Help

VOLUNTEER

your time - volunteers needed in the thrift store and for the mobile food pantry.

DONATE

food or conduct a food drive in your community or place of work.

PROVIDE

an Easter meal to a family in need.

Visit ngcoop.org to learn how you can get involved.

facebook.com/northgwinnett.cooperative
instagram.com/northgwinnettcoop

For upcoming initiatives & ways you can help, please visit ngcoop.org

TOP 5 ITEMS ALWAYS NEEDED:



CANNED
FRUIT



LAUNDRY
DETERGENT



DISH
SOAP



PAPER
TOWELS



TOILET
PAPER