

If Hosea Feed the
Hungry isn't able to
help...

who will?



Engaging, Investing and Empowering our Community for 40 years.

“A year ago, I lost my job in Birmingham and was evicted from my home. After six months of looking for work, wearing out my welcome with friends, hitting bottom financially and emotionally, I packed my car and drove to Atlanta thinking I would have a better chance in a bigger city. Eventually I wound up staying at the Gateway Center shelter. Someone there told me about Hosea and thank God I took his advice. Hosea Feed the Hungry helped me find a job, a place to live and took care of my first month’s rent. I may not be completely back to normal, but thanks to Hosea, I’m on my way.”

Tymberli, new employee with a new beginning

A crisis we cant ignore.

The face of homelessness and hunger has changed in America and in Georgia.

Today, one out of every 10 people eligible to work in Georgia is unemployed. Some ethnic groups are reaching devastating unemployment levels of 18 to 25 percent.

In the past two years, many who’ve appeared to be on solid financial footing are now fighting to survive. Teachers, policemen, engineers, retail workers, bank tellers, construction workers and accountants – people are struggling daily to get enough to eat. Currently, one out of every 8 Americans, or 37 million people, requires emergency food assistance. Unfortunately, our children are being hit particularly hard. It’s predicted that one child in four will receive food from a soup kitchen or food pantry this year.

People who qualify for state aid are being hit hard due to cuts in state funded programs as Georgia attempts to control its growing budget deficit. For those who do find work, the average income is under \$950 per month, below the \$1,214 federal poverty level for a two-person household.

The largest population we see at Hosea Feed the Hungry are the “working poor.” They’re individuals fortunate enough to have work, but make just enough money to exceed the federal poverty level, disqualifying them for state and/or federal assistance. The working poor make up 60 percent of the people who show up at Hosea Feed the Hungry for assistance. These people typically live under tremendous stress, working hard, but constantly teetering on the financial and emotional edge of disaster. After struggling to pay rent (often as much as 50 percent of their income), utilities and transportation, they often don’t have enough money left over to feed their families.

Sadly, these are the facts we deal with and the issues we face each day. Unfortunately, we don’t see a positive change coming over the horizon any time soon. But we do feel these facts underscore the context in which our organization operates and provide backdrop for us to present our capabilities, highlight just a few of our remarkable accomplishments and make our case for why your support is so critical.

“Even as the economy pulls out of recession, [we] are going to see jobs emerging only at the end of that process rather than at the beginning.”

“My Administration is committed to reversing the trend of rising hunger.”

– President Barack Obama



“Early Saturday, September 19, 2009, my young daughter and I woke up to three feet of water in our house. We spent that weekend looking for help and trying to find some place we could afford to stay. By Monday night we spent the night in our car because the smell in the house was so bad I was afraid for my little girl’s health. By Tuesday morning most businesses were still closed, but we contacted Hosea Feed the Hungry and found a few of their people were able to make it in to work. Hosea found a place for us to stay and loaded us up with two weeks of food. I really feel the people at Hosea saved us from being on the street not to mention saved our hope.”

Charlotte – actress and mother

Dire situation. If we can’t help... who will?

Many people who never thought they would be asking for help are now in desperate need.

Between January and October 2009, Hosea Feed the Hungry received over 6,500 requests for services, nearly a 400 percent increase over the same time period in 2008.

Concurrently, donations coming in to Hosea Feed the Hungry fell more than 35 percent, leaving us no other option than to turn away more than 700 individual pleas for food and financial assistance due to a lack of resources.


Many people in desperate need had nowhere to turn because the same dilemma was happening at all relief agencies across the country. We were just the first to experience the shortfall because Hosea Feed the Hungry has become literally “the front line” for this type of relief work.

Fortunately, our situation has improved some. People and companies are continuing to understand how

vital our organization is in the face of major adversity and are providing more support. We are able to meet the immediate needs of many more individuals and families and, fortunately, are turning away fewer people in need. But the lessons and the experiences we encountered are reshaping the way we are approaching future planning.

It’s no longer enough to maintain operations and attempt to predict people’s needs in a shifting economy, which is how most nonprofit organizations operate. To be effective in the future, we have to do a better job of securing partnerships so that we’re prepared not only for economic downturns, but also for the 100-year flood or the earthquake that occurs just when you think things can’t get any worse. People deserve that level of responsiveness when it comes to emergency assistance. We are eradicating front line issues by initiating front line thinking.





“Other people who got so much look at me and my granddaughter like we’re nothing. It’s wrong. Everything looks so easy for them. I don’t see them waking up beside us in the Target parking lot pretending they didn’t just spend a cold night in a old car that barely runs. I pray that we get a break and when we do, I’m going to help others. We go to Hosea for help and they make us feel like people. They only want to help us and they do.”

Samantha – grandmother

What’s needed.

Hosea Feed the Hungry has become the organization Atlantans go to when they need help.

Hosea Feed the Hungry is one of only a few organizations in the southeast equipped to help people who do not qualify for government assistance. But we can only do it if we continue to receive funding.

Unfortunately, as the demand for our services continues to grow, we will have to turn away even more families unless we can create more mutually beneficial partnerships within the Atlanta community.

Hosea Feed the Hungry has become one of the longest-running, most efficient nonprofits serving the Atlanta community. We maintain an average administrative overhead of only 21 percent—ensuring that 79 percent of all donations go directly to people who are in need of our assistance.

We are asking you for assistance to help us to meet urgent needs that fall outside the parameters of our grant funding requirements. For example, many

or our grants require that a recipient of service be employed. With high jobless rates across Georgia, this excludes many of the people who need help the most.

We continually assist people not eligible for government or grant funding the only way we can—by utilizing operating funds. Our service to this population makes us unique in the Atlanta area.

Hosea Feed the Hungry also needs financial assistance to provide affordable, quality childcare and to expand job counseling and training programs. This will allow parents to find and keep full-time jobs. Quality, affordable childcare is often the biggest roadblock to self-sufficiency.

Your participation can greatly assist us in fulfilling the unmet needs of Atlanta’s hungry and homeless. Please consider partnering with us.



“For the past two years I’ve had to work three jobs to keep up with my bills. It’s a struggle and so far there’s no end in sight. But thanks to Hosea Feed the Hungry, I’ve managed to stay off of government assistance. Hosea’s been there for me and my family with food in the times when I couldn’t put food on the table. They outfitted my kids with school clothes and supplies when there was no way I could have paid for it. I feel blessed for their help and that I’ve been able to keep working through these hard times. Like I said, it’s not easy, but for me it’s the right thing to do, and I feel it’s the right example I need to set for my kids.”

Robert – husband and father of four children

Partnering with **Hosea Feed the Hungry.**

Meeting the needs of the Atlanta community depends on support from Atlanta’s philanthropic community.

Hosea Feed the Hungry has a rich history with over 40 years of respectfully attending to people with critical and urgent needs. We are an organization of people shaped by Christian values and grounded in human rights. We believe these core elements have made Hosea Feed the Hungry the, strongest brands in the Southeast when it comes to directly providing at-risk individuals with the resources they need to re-stabilize their lives.

We have stood the test of time and are now stronger than ever. With each economic downturn, natural disaster or personal tragedy we have gained strength and have become more effective and efficient. Hosea’s foundation is solid, our programs produce results and our belief in a healthy future for all is unwavering.

We are, however, an organization that depends on the financial support of others. In order for Hosea Feed the Hungry to continue the rate of assistance we currently provide and grow to meet rapidly mounting future demands, we need your support.

We wish to partner with people and organizations that understand the value of helping people who are genuinely in need. We are looking for community and business leaders who share our mission: to rescue, restore and re-stabilize individuals so they can thrive and become self-sufficient... those willing to place their support on the front line to provide immediate assistance where the needs are urgent and great.

Affiliating yourself with our brand positions you with one of the only nonprofit relief organizations in the Southeast that can offer immediate food and financial assistance on a large scale... without the bureaucratic limitations other organizations experience, which can limit or hinder their capabilities.

We would, very much, like to work with you in developing a sponsorship package that will enhance your organization’s brand associations, marketing, community involvement and philanthropic efforts and get us closer to providing a healthy future for all.

Hosea Feed the Hungry was founded in 1970 by civil rights leaders Hosea and Juanita T. Williams. The free holiday dinners they started for the hungry and homeless have become signature events in Atlanta and have helped establish Hosea Feed the Hungry as one of the city's most respected community service organizations.

In 2000, the Williams' daughter and son-in-law, Elisabeth and Afemo Omilami, assumed leadership and expanded the highly successful holiday meal program into a year-round human service agency that provides assistance to more than 60,000 people annually. Our mission is to rescue, restore and re-stabilize at-risk and homeless individuals and families so they can thrive and become self-sufficient.

Our outreach encompasses metro Atlanta, 37 counties in Georgia, Alabama and international projects in Haiti, the Philippines, the Ivory Coast and Uganda. In the aftermath of the Gulf Coast Hurricanes in 2005, Hosea Feed the Hungry provided relief for 6,000? individuals who were relocated to the Atlanta area.

Hosea Feed the Hungry was established to help families and individuals by offering dignity and respect. Without fear of judgment or obligation, those who are desperate can come to Hosea to receive a helping hand. You come, Hosea helps.

That's what we do.

Fast Facts about Hosea Feed the Hungry

- Operates the largest food bank in Georgia serving individuals and families directly
- Feeds over 60,000 people annually with Thanksgiving, Christmas, MLK Holiday and Easter dinner events
- Prevents homelessness for working poor families
- Provides funds for temporary housing and utility restoration services
- Enlists volunteers who deliver more than 25,000 meals to senior citizens annually
- Provides case management and 90-day follow-up services
- Teaches personal financial literacy classes and provides job placement services
- Offers quarterly medical clinics for the working poor and homeless
- Provides 3,000 children with backpacks, school supplies, and other tools for success at the annual "Back to School Jamboree"
- Distributes toys to 1,500 children at our annual Christmas party
- Meets the basic needs of 75 working poor families each week
- Has served hundreds of families who were victims of Atlanta's 2009 floods with housing assistance, food, gift cards and transportation
- Serves individuals 37 Georgia counties
- Provides international relief aid and educational funding in areas that includes Haiti, Uganda and the Philippines

Hosea Feed the Hungry's History.

A trusted name in assisting the hungry and homeless for 40 years.

“So many people ask me, ‘What are you doing to solve the problem of homelessness and hunger in Atlanta?’ Hosea offers a full range of “hand up” programs which were created to help solve the systemic issues relating to hunger and homelessness. But sometimes, it is simply enough to provide a helping hand to a family in crisis.... a family who has lost steady employment and income... a family in which children are going hungry... a family living in their car... a family dislocated due to a natural disaster. Sometimes it is okay to say, “Here is some money to pay your rent this month, so you don’t become homeless.” Sometimes it is okay to say, “Here is some food so your children have enough to eat, can sleep through the night, and can focus on school tomorrow.” Sometimes it is okay to simply provide a hand out. It’s becoming a practice we’re finding essential in these tough times. Wouldn’t you want the same kindness if you were hungry or on the verge of homelessness?”

Elisabeth Omilami – Executive Director, Hosea Feed the Hungry





HOSEA

Feed The Hungry

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our Community for 40 years.

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