

WINTER 2025

HARVEST NEWS



GROWING STRONGER TOGETHER: BUILDING ON OUR 2024 ACHIEVEMENTS

There have been many significant years for the Food Bank of North Alabama since it was founded in 1984. But 2024 was a remarkable, record-setting year for the Food Bank.

Some accomplishments include distributing 15.1 million pounds of food – nearly 12.6 million meals. That's three million more pounds of food than the previous year and a record for the Food Bank.

FBNA also rescued more than 6.2 million pounds of food through its partnerships with area grocery stores.

The Food Bank distributed more fresh, healthy produce than ever before, as focus on nourishing foods continues. The Food Bank couldn't reach these hallmarks without its volunteers. The number of volunteers



increased, including 1,183 first-time volunteers. Another highlight was a successful Hunger Summit that educated our partners and honored the history of the Food Bank by including a panel of former board members, long-time partners and the Food Bank's first executive director, Dick Hiatt.

While it's important for the Food Bank to be proud of our accomplishments in 2024, we are also excited at how we can continue to meet the need in North Alabama. Some of our plans for the coming year include:

Increasing Partner Capacity

As the Food Bank has grown, it is vital that our network of partners grows too, ensuring we can meet the need. To assist in that,



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the Food Bank is working to secure grant funds to help our partners in critical areas expand. The Food Bank has provided refrigeration, transportation and storage support when possible and is always looking for more opportunities to help.

Continuing to improve on our agency Hunger Summit

Another way the Food Bank is dedicated to helping its agency partners is by hosting its annual Hunger Summit. This is an opportunity for our partners to learn from experts in the field of food insecurity and share with one another. The Food Bank team also learns how to better strengthen our network of partners. The Food Bank was pleased with the participation in 2024's Hunger Summit despite the rain and is looking forward to building on this foundation for next year.

Food Bank of North Alabama Market

When the Food Bank moved away from the Vernon Avenue warehouse, which had been its home since 1991, we knew it would leave a gap in services in that area. To remedy that, we were able to maintain a portion of our old space for a direct-service pantry. The pantry model allows recipients to choose the food they want in a market-style. The Food



To support the Food Bank of North Alabama as a volunteer or donor, please visit: [foodbanknorthal.org](https://www.foodbanknorthal.org)



In 2024, we had 4,881 recorded volunteer hours, a 4% increase from the previous year.



Bank of North Alabama Market is open weekly on Friday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., with help from volunteers. Manna House, which is located nearby, was instrumental in helping the Food Bank start the market. **The opening of the FBNA Market in September gives us a glimpse into what we can expect in 2025. After one month, we'd served approximately 130 families.**

School pantries

In 2024 the Food Bank's school pantries expanded as we established a new partnership with James Dawson Elementary in Huntsville, and continued our partnerships with schools in DeKalb, Marshall and Madison counties. **Through this program we distributed over 95,000 pounds of food to 750 students.** This program ensures that students and their families have the access to food they need to be successful.

Mobile Pantries

In 2024, we held nearly 100 mobile pantries, and out of those, 34 were Park It Market and farmers' market style distributions, resulting in tripling the number of produce distributions that occurred in 2023.



Through these combined efforts, we distributed 766,282 pounds of food, a 15% increase compared to 2023. In 2025, we are looking forward to continuing to meet the community where they are with our mobile-pantry programs.

Growing volunteers

One of the biggest changes at the Food Bank's new Finney Drive distribution center is the larger, dedicated volunteer areas. In 2024, we had 4,881 recorded volunteer hours, a 4% increase from the previous year. We were also able to bring in new volunteers by hosting weekend shifts every quarter, which also helps with corporate engagement. We are excited to host more volunteers and have more opportunities for the community to engage in our work in 2025.

Shoals branch

In 2024 we added fans and insulation to our Shoals warehouse to improve the temperatures for food storage and staff. We are in the process of moving the generator at the Food Bank's old location on Vernon Avenue, to the Shoals Branch to provide emergency power should it be needed during extreme weather events in 2025 and beyond to protect perishable foods.

If you or your organization are interested in volunteering, please reach out to:

Christi Garris, Volunteer Coordinator:
cgarris@fbofna.org

Together, we can make a difference and spread joy and warmth to those in need.

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DONATIONS

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NORTH ALABAMA**

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