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Empowering Families to Help Themselves

Thanks for Giving

Presented by:



It's finally fall, and you know what that means: **Thanks for Giving is right around the corner!**

This November 16 - 19, we're planning to provide up to **1,200 families** with the means to make a home-cooked Thanksgiving meal, and we'd love for you to be part of this incredible event! Dozens of schools, organizations and individuals across Cobb County have already signed up to participate, either by sponsoring the event, hosting a food drive, collecting funds or coming out to volunteer with us. **But collecting 70,000 food items and feeding 1,200 families is no small task -- we need your help, too!**

To find out how you can become a sponsor, host a food drive, or help out with Thanks for Giving distribution, visit www.thecfr.org/t4g or call 770.428.2601.

Because every family deserves the Thanksgiving tradition. It's more than a meal.

Taking groceries off the shelves

This summer, CFR began taking the food out of the pantry and into the community with a series of five mobile food distributions designed to fill a need in local food deserts.

Together with Sheltering Arms Early Education and Family Center, Marietta YELLS, Junior League of Cobb/Marietta, Master Gardener Volunteers of Cobb County and Harry's Farmers Market, we were able to provide 3,960 pounds of fresh fruits, vegetables and dairy to 373 people (202 of whom were children) comprising 101 families.

The youth at Marietta YELLS put their leadership training skills to good use and were invaluable in helping to identify and recruit dozens of local families in their community who were in need of the extra nutritional boost. Depending on the particular date, all families received some combination of the following items during each distribution: milk, eggs, cheese, yogurt, oranges, apples, corn, onions, potatoes, bananas, strawberries, tomatoes, squash and lettuce.

We had 16 volunteers help during the five distributions to unload the truck, weigh and count the product, and organize all food bags for each family. In addition to helping hands from our current volunteer base in the food pantry, the Junior League of Cobb/Marietta stepped up with volunteers of their own to help make this possible. Thank you to all our volunteers!

And an especially big thank you to the Cobb Community Foundation for making this program possible; their generous Cobb Community Impact grant provided \$5,000 for us to implement this pilot program. We think it was a great success and look forward to continuing to bring food out into the community in the future!

and into the community



Marietta YELLS youth help pass out bags of produce at one of our mobile food distributions this summer.

CFR is now a Kroger Community Rewards recipient!



Looking for an easy way to give to CFR? We now have a Kroger Rewards number! Register your Kroger Plus card to our charitable donation number, and a portion of every purchase with your Kroger Plus card will be donated to us!

Visit www.krogercommunityrewards.com to sign up for a Kroger Plus card or assign CFR to your current one.

Be sure to enter CFR's Rewards #28342 to ensure that the proceeds will come to us!

November 17 is Georgia Gives Day 2016

Ready to maximize your year-end giving? As part of Georgia Gives Day 2016, your donations will go toward helping us earn even more for our financial literacy programs courtesy of the SunTrust Financial Well-Being Challenge. Be sure to support CFR, and spread the word about November 17! You can go ahead and donate today, and start building an impressive total for CFR in the 2016 challenge!

Visit www.givesday.org to learn more and to donate to CFR.

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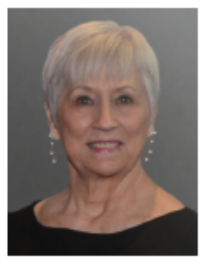
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A Letter From The CEO

2016 has just flown by here at CFR; we can't believe we're already into Thanks for Giving season!

Thanks to the incredible generosity of this community, our second-ever summer annual campaign raised \$80,000 to support our programs and the changes we are making to Cobb County families every day! Thank you to so many of you who donated to this awesome cause; we are counting on you to help spread the word about the good work of CFR so that we can keep the momentum going throughout 2017 and beyond!

We are also looking forward to a fun new version of the Red Carpet Gala in February, and hope that you will join us as we celebrate all the good things we're going to accomplish in 2017!



Where's Niya?
Anywhere she wants to be!

Niya W. is a 20-year old aspiring OB/GYN who loves photography, fashion and helping others. And earlier this year, she also loved hanging out at CFR; more specifically, in the GED classroom.

After joining the GED program in November of 2015, the previously homeschooled student immediately became a favorite in the classroom. Her strong work ethic and organizational skills aided her peers as much as it did her, and they took notice.

"While here she was a favorite of her fellow students because she was open to helping and encouraging them," remarked CFR's GED Instructor Gail Franklin. "If she wasn't here – and those times were few – people would be concerned and ask 'Where's Niya?!'"

After just five months in the program, Niya completed her GED in March of 2016, accumulating 72 hours of instruction in the process, and forming a strong friendship with CobbWorks tutor Kevin Dolan.

This fall, Niya started as a freshman at Georgia State University: Perimeter College – Dunwoody Campus. She's already taking a full caseload of courses this semester: Human Geography, Government, English and Quantitative Reasoning. She hopes to graduate with a Bachelor's of Science degree in human biology, and go on to obtain her medical doctorate as an OB/GYN.



Niya W. in our GED prep classroom with CobbWorks tutor Kevin Dolan.

Mark your calendars; the Red Carpet Gala is shaking things up!

This year, we're going to have the biggest, most fun-filled Oscar® PRE-PARTY in Cobb County! For the first time in 21 years, the Red Carpet Gala will be taking place on Saturday night instead of Sunday!

We'll still have the red carpet with all its glitz and glam, and as always, plenty of entertainment and auction items to benefit the Center for Family Resources. Now, however, attendees will be able to cast their ballots for their favorite movie picks and have a chance to win prizes after the official Academy Awards® winners are announced Sunday evening. And without having to worry about going to work or getting the kids to school the next morning, we can keep the party going as late as we want!

Be sure to block off Saturday, February 25, 2017, and start shopping now for your perfect Red Carpet look. We can't wait to see you there to help us celebrate the ingenuity of the movie industry, and the industry of the ingenious, hardworking people to whom CFR is so privileged to be able to provide life changing services.



Thanks to these generous new grants, we're able to move forward with our programs!

Atlanta Women's Foundation gave \$20,000 to our Employment and Education Programs

The Atlanta Women's Foundation has awarded CFR with a huge grant to help us in our mission to educate and empower local families! In 2015, 96% of our clients who participated in the Employment and Education program were women – making this a perfect opportunity for us to combine goals with the Atlanta Women's Foundation to work toward lifting women and their families out of poverty. Our Employment and Education programs help boost skills and confidence and open the door for better employment and financial stability through instruction in GED preparatory classes, effective job search, resume writing and interviewing acumen. In addition, our Lifeskills programs teach clients how to better budget – both time and money – as well as providing seminars on parenting, relationships and self-care.

Thanks to the Atlanta Women's Foundation, we will be able to help educate and empower more women like our recent star graduate Niya W. (see story to left). We can't wait to see all the future successes that this grant will help us create!

Publix Super Markets Charities donated \$20,000 toward expanding our food pantry

Publix Super Markets Charities has gifted CFR with a huge \$20,000 grant to help us renovate and expand our food pantry and maintain our two food donation trucks! We have been wanting to switch to a 'choice' pantry for some time, and now we are going to be able to move forward with designing what our future pantry is going to look like!

Unlike a traditional food pantry where volunteers pull groceries based on a family's size and needs, a choice pantry feels like a regular grocery store, where families can use tokens or credits to shop for their own items according to their needs, wants and family size. In addition, we will be able to work toward furthering our mobile pantry distributions thanks to the added repair and maintenance on our 14-foot box truck and 24-foot refrigerated truck, which we frequently use to carry and deliver donated food items. We can't wait to see the improvements that are going to be made, and we are so thankful to be able to finally reach this dream for our food pantry!

Yes! I would like to be a Friend of the Feast this holiday season!

- \$325 could provide 5 families with a box of food and a \$15 grocery gift card.
- \$195 could provide 3 families with a box of food and a \$15 grocery gift card.
- \$65 could provide 1 family with a box of food and a \$15 grocery gift card.
- Please use this gift of \$_____ to provide help where it is needed most.
- My company matches gifts. I have included my company's form with this gift.

Enclosed is a check Charge my AMEX DISC MC VISA

Card # _____ Exp. date ____/____/____ Security Code _____
 Name _____ Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____ Phone (____) _____ - _____
 Email _____ Signature _____

If donations exceed expenses, extra funds and food will be used to care for families in need throughout the year. For assistance, call 770.428.2601 or email Alicia Ferguson at aliciaferguson@thecfr.org. Please make checks payable to the Center for Family Resources and mail to 995 Roswell Street, Suite 100, Marietta, GA 30060.

Thanks for Giving



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