



HOUSING



HUNGER



EDUCATION

APRIL 2014

Accountable for Our Actions

## ACTION STATS 2013

### The Hidden Hunger Problem

#### Action Ministries Responds

Hunger is not a problem most of us closely associate with the United States, judged around the world as the “land of plenty.” Few of us know what it’s like to put children to bed hungry or undernourished, and few know the feelings of defeat and hopelessness that come with being unable to provide all of our children’s basic needs.

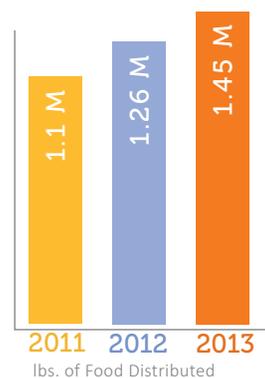
#### Hunger comes back on a daily basis.

Hunger is also a hidden problem. According to Feeding America, food insecurity and poverty, although related, are not the same. Unemployment, rather than poverty, is a stronger predictor of food insecurity, and unemployment has been at an historical high in Georgia since 2009.

The impact of hunger, especially on children, is serious and often long-lasting. The immature immune systems of young children make them especially vulnerable to nutritional deprivation, resulting in deficits in the ability to learn, grow and fight infections. The effect of hunger on academic development is well recognized by public schools, which offer government-funded free and reduced-price meals at school, programs that are utilized by 800,000 children in our state. **What happens, however, when school is out for the summer?**

The USDA offers summer feeding programs to fill in the gap, but families often must travel to designated distribution sites to get the food. Action Ministries, through **Smart Lunch, Smart Kid**, delivers lunches and enrichment activities to children in their neighborhoods, ensuring

Action Ministries  
Hunger Initiatives



lbs. of Food Distributed

#### HUNGER

1,446,368 meals served, with a market value of more than \$8.6 million

#### HOUSING

56 transitional houses in 22 counties with 91 percent of families exiting stable

#### EDUCATION

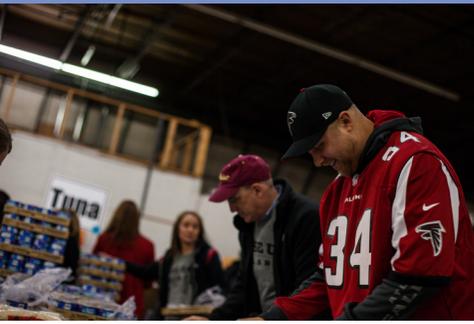
GED classes, employment search support, financial literacy and computer training for hundreds of people across the state trying to break the cycle of poverty

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*“At Bank of North Georgia, we don’t just work in the communities we serve, we strive to be active participants. We live here. We raise our children here. And we work hard to make our communities better. We encourage our team members to be hands-on with the organizations that they support.” --Rob Garcia, President and chief operating officer, of Bank of North Georgia, an AMI partner in hunger relief efforts.*

Action Ministries mobilizes communities to address the challenges of poverty by focusing on hunger relief, housing and education.

[www.ActionMinistries.net](http://www.ActionMinistries.net)



The Atlanta Falcons spent a day packing food boxes in the Feed the Hungry warehouse.



Smart Lunch, Smart Kid volunteers attempt to set the Guinness World Record for most sandwiches made in an hour.



From left to right: AMI CEO John Moeller, Atlanta & Company host Rashan Ali and Bank of North Georgia President and CEO Rob Garcia celebrate the beginning of the food box campaign.

## Action Speaks

### John Moeller, CEO

Yes, hunger does exist in the richest country in the world! It exists in Georgia with 20 percent of Georgians living in hunger-threatened households. It's often times hidden, and it can be insidious, impacting the long-term health and futures of our kids.

Last fall, Bank of North Georgia, a division of Synovus, partnered with Action Ministries to feed people in the communities they serve. Competing against each other for four weeks, 41 Bank of North Georgia branches raised \$28,000 for Feed the Hungry, sponsoring 5,600 boxes or 100,000 meals, which adds up to a huge impact for hunger relief in the bank's local communities.

Toward the end of the campaign, a construction laborer came into one of the bank's branches to cash his year-end bonus check of \$500. After he received his cash, the teller asked if he would like to make a donation to the Feed the Hungry food box program. He was so moved by the program that, on the spot, he returned the entire \$500 to the teller to fund the food box initiative. That's impact!

We value each and every partner in service because the work we do for Georgia's families would not be possible without them.

John R. Moeller, Jr.  
President & CEO

Our feature story continues ...

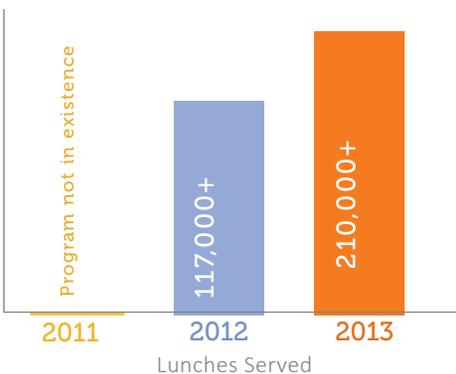
that transportation is not a barrier. Last summer, our donors and volunteers delivered 210,000+ lunches to Georgia's kids, the goal again for 2014.

Action Ministries also provides hunger relief to food-insecure families by offering **Feed the Hungry food boxes** to civic organizations and local North Georgia partners. These food boxes, which can feed a family of four for several days, are distributed by our partners locally to address community needs.

Corporations and civic organizations in Georgia recognize the problem and the impact of hunger on the families they serve. Many have become engaged in the fight to provide hunger relief in their communities.

Action Ministries offers partnerships and "volunteering" days, where we will be bringing SLSK sandwich-making supplies to our partners' locations throughout the summer. **In just an hour, a company's employees can make hundreds of sandwiches to feed local children and lessen the impact of hunger on growing minds and bodies.** Hunger relief partners like 11Alive, Publix, the Atlanta Falcons, Gas South, Walmart Foundation, The Exercise Coach and WellCare of Georgia, Inc. have committed to serving their communities and making a lasting and meaningful impact in Georgia.

### Smart Lunch, Smart Kid Success



### Bank of North Georgia Food Box Campaign Success

