



*"For when I was hungry, you gave me food; when I was thirsty, you gave me drink; when I was homeless, you gave me a welcome; when I was ill-clad, you clothed me; when I was sick, you cared for me; when I was in prison, you came to see me." Matthew 25:35-36*

**NOVEMBER 13, 2015**

## **NORTHEAST GEORGIA FOOD BANK RECEIVES ECF GRANT**

The Northeast Georgia Food Bank (NEGA Food Bank) was awarded a \$25,000 grant for its Fresh Frozen Initiative. This is a ground-breaking and innovative approach to feeding the hungry, while saving excess produce from disposal from the CHOICE system and South Georgia farms. The Feeding America CHOICE system logs about 100 million pounds of available produce for food banks annually. Much of this produce is not picked up by food banks, as the need to distribute it immediately poses a problem, a problem solved by quick-freezing. The NEGA Food Bank's goal once this system is operational, is to freeze a minimum 2 million pounds of produce per year, or 40,000 pounds per week. The ECF grant will be used to underwrite a portion of the payroll, training costs, and produce purchases associated with the initial ramp-up period. Commented Food Bank CEO John Becker, "The Food Bank of Northeast Georgia is grateful for the support of the Episcopal community through this grant. This funding will help us bring dual Quick Frozen processing online and provide delicious, wholesome fresh frozen veggies to folks who cannot afford to eat."



### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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## **THE WORK OF THE BOARD**

The past two years have been a time of discernment for ECF to re-imagine our mission and then move forward. We propose a new way forward as seen in the resolution submitted to this Annual Council. In summary, the current Board of Directors of ECF intends to build upon the Foundation's 33-year heritage and expand its mission of serving the poor and oppressed in the Diocese of Atlanta by "Drawing the Circle Wider". This new direction for ECF is based on a desire to increase its endowment and annual disbursements, stimulate more Episcopal outreach to the poor and oppressed, and make its grants more effective in support of its mission through:

- an additional annual fundraising event;
- a sustained diocesan-wide planned giving campaign;
- partnerships with parishes and other Episcopal entities throughout the diocese to better serve the poor by working together, rather than ECF awarding small, isolated grants;
- honoring the legacy created by Bishop Sims by renaming our endowment The Rt. Reverend Bennett J. Sims Endowment of Episcopal Charities Foundation.

Additionally, ECF moves forward with a newly designed website, which presents our mission and our commitment to live out the Matthew 25 mandate to serve the least among us.

## THE MATTHEW PROJECT

Named for one of the three founding doctors at Good Samaritan Health & Wellness Center, the Joseph A. Wilber Building was opened for patients and volunteers on Monday, March 16, 2015. ECF partnered with Good Samaritan to oversee and facilitate Parish mission trips to help build the new center. Commenting on the extensive community-wide support throughout the construction of the building, Construction Committee Chair, Brad Herren, said, "Thanks to the dedicated volunteers and donations in kind, the project was completed on time and under budget. Volunteers have logged over 700 hours. One group of Volunteers from the Church of the Epiphany in Atlanta has helped at the site on five occasions!" ECF funded the Matthew Project Volunteer Coordinator to recruit and oversee the mission trips.



The Matthew Project will serve as a model for similar projects in this and other dioceses.

## HUNGER WALK

For twenty-six years, ECF has partnered with the Atlanta Community Food Bank for the annual Hunger Walk/Run. As a *benefiting* partner, ECF realizes 60% of funds raised throughout the Diocese as parishes and diocesan groups form teams to raise funds and then participate in the event. These funds are used to provide grants to food ministries and programs throughout the Diocese. Overall results for the 31st Hunger Walk/Run held in March 2015: Over 15,000 runners and walkers participated, raising \$928,171. Forty-four parishes across our diocese brought teams to the event with over 1,000 walkers, runners and volunteers.



On the morning of the event, the 250 members of the Episcopal Youth Community joined Bishop Wright for worship at Emmaus House Chapel, after which everyone came to Turner Field for the Hunger Walk/Run. ECF teams raised \$41,574.