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Food Banking Terms

ACFB – the term the Atlanta Community Food Bank often uses to refer to itself as an organization.

Community Gardening – what we call a community that comes together to start and care for a garden. Community gardens can serve as a catalyst for neighborhood development, beautification, recreation, therapy, and food production. The Atlanta Community Food Bank helps communities start gardens by providing seeds, education and volunteer support.

Community Kitchen – often referred to as a “soup kitchen,” this is a charitable program providing hot meals to homeless and low-income residents of a neighborhood or community. Most community kitchens are housed in churches or community buildings. In Georgia, an estimated one million meals are served each month at community kitchens.

Feeding America – the national network of more than 200 food banks (formerly known as America’s Second Harvest). Feeding America Food Banks have operated in the U.S. for over 30 years. Feeding America headquarters are located in Chicago, IL. http://feedingamerica.org/. The Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) has been affiliated with the national network since it began in 1979.

Food Bank – a private, nonprofit distribution warehouse often affiliated with Feeding America, the national network of food banks. Food banks provide a central location for the receiving of donated food and distribution of food and grocery products to local nonprofits in their communities. (Note: There are some food banks that are not affiliated with the Feeding America network; and some food pantries also use the term “food bank” in their names.)

Food Drive – A food drive is a community-wide effort to collect non-perishable foods for distribution to the hungry. Food drives are organized by groups such as schools, congregations, associations, and businesses. They are sometimes sponsored by a grocery store, TV or radio station, and/or held in conjunction with a special event in the local community.
**Food Pantry** – community-based, nonprofit food assistance program most often found at churches, synagogues, mosques and social service agencies. Food pantries are places where those without food receive a supply of food to take home and prepare. Pantries often acquire a substantial portion of their food supply from food banks. *Food pantries distribute food to an estimated 90,000 people in Georgia each month.*

**Hunger 101** – the Atlanta Community Food Bank’s (ACFB)’s educational project - a series of interactive curricula and educational programming designed by the ACFB to inform a wide range of audiences about hunger and poverty and solutions to these issues such as food banking and government aid.

**Nonprofit Organizations** – refers to those legally constituted, nongovernmental entities, incorporated under state law as charitable or not-for-profit corporations that have been set up to serve some public purpose and are tax-exempt according to the IRS. All food banks and their partner agencies are IRS approved nonprofit agencies.

**Partner Agency** – the term used to describe the nonprofit program that gets food from the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB). The food is distributed by the ACFB through a network of nonprofit organizations. These organizations offer one (or both) of two broad types of food assistance, on-premise meal service and/or grocery distribution. *ACFB works with over 700 partner agencies in a 38 county service area.*

**Prepared Food Recovery Program** – private, nonprofit program based on the food banking model but concentrating on donations of prepared, perishable food from restaurants, hotels, caterers, and others in the hospitality industry. Strict adherence to safe food handling is a prime concern, as is a quick turnaround of product from the donor to the food recovery program to on-site feeding agencies. The ACFB’s Prepared Food Recovery Program is called Atlanta’s Table.

**Service Area** – each Feeding America certified Food Bank has an assigned service area. The ACFB has 38 counties in its service area, which covers the metro Atlanta area and much of north Georgia.

**Share Maintenance Contribution** – refers to the fee that Feeding America affiliated food bank partner agencies pay per pound of product to help defray the costs of product storage, transportation, and distribution. *Currently, the*
Atlanta Community Food Bank and most Feeding America food banks set a "16 cents per pound of product distributed” limit on share contribution.

**Shelter** - A place that temporarily houses homeless people, usually overnight; meals are almost always served. Some shelters are for families, and others for individuals. Some have a limited time that a family or individual can stay, and others will let people stay for extended periods of time.

**SNAP (State Nutrition Assistance Program)** – federally funded program administered by the state of Georgia to provide funds for food banks to purchase high nutrition food products for distribution to partner agencies serving children and families with children. Funding approval comes from the state legislature annually. *Not to be confused with SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) which was formerly called the Food Stamp Program.*

**Hunger Terms**

**Advocacy** – the act of arguing in favor of something; An anti-hunger advocate would be an individual, group, or organization that speaks out about the issues of hunger, and works to enact policies that will provide hunger relief. *The Atlanta Community Food Bank participates in anti-hunger advocacy by educating and empowering the community to be involved in hunger issues, sending out advocacy alerts during the legislative session, and urging citizens to connect with their elected officials.*

**Anemia** – a condition in which the hemoglobin concentration is lower than normal due to disease or as the result of a deficiency of one or more nutrients, such as iron.

**Daily Calorie Requirement** – the average number of calories needed to sustain normal levels of activity and health, taking into account age, gender, body weight, and climate; on average, about 2,350 calories per day.

**Food Insecurity** - refers to the lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times due to lack of financial resources.

   As defined by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA):
• **Low Food Security:** People who make changes in the quality or the quantity of their food in order to deal with a limited budget.

• **Very Low Food Security:** People who struggle with having enough food for the household, including cutting back or skipping meals on a frequent basis for both adults and children.

**Food Security** – assured access to enough nutritious food to sustain an active and healthy life, including: food availability (adequate food supply); food access (people can get to food); and appropriate food use (the body’s absorption of essential nutrients).

As defined by the USDA:

• **High Food Security:** Do not have difficulty securing food.
• **Marginal Food Security:** Have some difficulty securing food.

**Characteristics of a food secure community include:**

• Availability of a variety of foods at a reasonable cost
• Ready access to grocery stores and other food sources
• Enough personal income to purchase adequate food to meet nutritional needs for all household members
• Freedom to choose acceptable foods
• Personal confidence in the safety and quantity of food available
• Easy access to good information about nutrition

**Human Nutrition** - the study of how food affects the health and survival of the human body. ¹

**Hunger** – The USDA determined that while hunger is difficult to measure, it “should refer to a potential consequence of food insecurity that, because of prolonged, involuntary lack of food, results in discomfort, illness, weakness, or pain that goes beyond the usual uneasy sensation.”

**Low Birth Weight** – newborns weighing 2,500 grams (5 pounds, 8 ounces) or less, and are especially vulnerable to illness and death during the first months of life.

**Malnutrition** – a condition resulting from inadequate consumption or excessive consumption of a nutrient; can impair physical and mental health

and contribute to, or result from, infectious diseases; general term that indicates a lack of some or all nutritional elements necessary for human health (Medline Plus Medical Encyclopedia).

**Nutrition** - the study of foods and nutrients and their effect on health, growth, and development of the individual.

**Poverty** – The state or condition of having little or no money, goods, or means of support; condition of being poor.

**Poverty Guideline** – official, federal measure of poverty. The United States instituted the poverty measure in 1967. Module One, Activity 2 of ACFB’s Hunger 101 Curriculum explains the history and function of this measure.

**Vulnerability to Hunger (at Risk)** – a condition of individuals, households, communities or nations which have enough to eat most of the time, but whose poverty status makes them especially susceptible to hunger due to changes in the economy, climate, political conditions or personal circumstances.

**Working Poor** - a term used to describe individuals and families who maintain regular employment, but remain in poverty due to low levels of pay and dependent expenses.

## Hunger and Poverty Programs and Terms

**EITC- Earned Income Tax Credit** – U.S. Federal tax refund for low to medium income working families. *Many households are not aware that they could be eligible for this credit, which can often total more than $1,000. For more information on EITC, visit [www.atlantaprosperity.org](http://www.atlantaprosperity.org) or [www.eitc.irs.gov/central/main](http://www.eitc.irs.gov/central/main).

**Food Stamps** – offered through what used to be called the Food Stamp Program, these federal benefits were given to low income individuals and families to help them purchase food (This is now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program - SNAP). *Food Stamps are no longer provided in the form of stamps, but rather an EBT (electronic benefits transfer) card similar to a debit card.*
Meals on Wheels – food delivery program that delivers one meal a day to elderly people or people unable to leave their homes for medical reasons.

Nutrition Assistance Programs – are funded through the U.S. Farm Bill and administered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Federal nutrition programs like SNAP (Food Stamps) and the Free/ Reduced Breakfast/Lunch Programs help to increase food security for low income individuals and families in the United States. Federal Nutrition Assistance Programs

PeachCare for Kids – a low cost health insurance option for income eligible uninsured children in Georgia. PeachCare for Kids

School/Summer Meals – (National School Breakfast Program, National School Lunch Program, and Summer Food Service Program for Children) are subsidized programs that assist low income students to improve their nutritional status.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) - formerly the Food Stamp Program, SNAP is the nation’s primary food assistance program for low-income families. The program provides purchasing power via EBT (electronic benefits transfer) cards to eligible households, which can be used to purchase food items only. EBT is provided by federal funds through county social service agencies to eligible low income persons. More than half of food stamp recipients are children. SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, formerly Food Stamp Program)

Social Safety Net – government and private charitable programs to assist the needs of low income, disabled, elderly, and other vulnerable people.

Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children (WIC) – federal supplemental feeding program designed to decrease risk for nutritional and medical problems in women, infants, and children. Assistance is provided through local health agencies and health departments to poor pregnant and breast-feeding women, infants, and children up to age 6. Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants & Children

TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families) – federally funded, cash assistance program signed into law in August 1997. This program is often referred to as “welfare.” People must meet income qualifications, have dependent, minor children and begin employment or training in order to
receive TANF benefits. Administered in Georgia by the Department of Family and Children’s Services (DFACS).  

**TANF Information**

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) – Federal food commodities made available to state food banks. TEFAP is administered in Georgia through the Department of Education for USDA.  

**The Emergency Food Assistance Program**
Recommended Websites

Web sites we recommend for information about hunger, poverty, hunger education, nutrition education and advocacy:

Atlanta Community Food Bank  www.acfb.org
Atlanta Prosperity Campaign  www.atlantaprosperity.org
Bread for the World  www.bread.org
Center on Budget & Policy Priorities  www.cbpp.org
Children’s Defense Fund  www.childrensdefense.org
Church World Service  www.churchworldservice.org
Earn Benefits Online  http://atlanta.earnbenefits.org
Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC)  www.eitc.irs.gov/central/main
Edible School Yard  http://www.edibleschoolyard.org/
Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program  http://www.csrees.usda.gov/nea/food/efnep/efnep.html
Families First  www.familiesfirst.org
Farm to School  http://www.farmtoschool.org/
Federal Register  www.gpoaccess.gov/fr
Food Research and Action Center  www.frac.org
Food Security Coalition  http://www.foodsecurity.org/
Georgia Budget and Policy Institute  http://www.gbpi.org
Georgia Compass (Common Point of Access to Social Services)  https://compass.ga.gov/selfservice
Georgia Organics  http://www.georgiaorganics.org
Internal Revenue Service  www.irs.ustreas.gov
Kids Can Make a Difference  www.kidscanmakeadifference.org
Mazon: A Jewish Response to Hunger  http://mazon.org
Medicaid  http://dch.georgia.gov

National Center for Children in Poverty  www.nccp.org

Office of Secretary of State  http://www.sos.georgia.gov

PeachCare  http://www.peachcare.org

Project Vote Smart  www.vote-smart.org


Share our Strength  www.strength.org

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)  http://www.fns.usda.gov/FSP


Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)  http://dfcs.dhr.georgia.org

United States Census Bureau  www.census.gov

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA)  www.usda.gov

USDA Food and Nutrition Services  http://www.fns.usda.gov/fns


United Way  http://liveunited.org

World Hunger Notes  www.worldhunger.org
**Book List**

**STORIES FOR THE YOUNG CHILD**

Brown, Marcia. *Stone Soup*. 1947. Based on an old French tale, this story is about three hungry soldiers who outwit the inhabitants of a village into sharing their food.


Cooper, Melrose. *Gettin’ Through Thursday*. 1998. A young boy in a family that is just making it paycheck to paycheck feels the richness of family love.

De Costa Nunez, Ralph. *Our Wish*. Published by Institute for Children and Poverty, Inc. The workbook can stand by itself as a teaching tool for small children. This book can be ordered from Homes for the Homeless (212) 529-5252. The is a story about a family of rabbits that loses its home. They go to an animal shelter and with help they find another home in an orchard.


Hesse, Karen. *Spuds*. 2008. Ma is working late shifts but there doesn’t ever seem to be enough to eat. So one frosty night Jack and Maybelle put little Eddie in a wagon with some empty sacks and sneak into a farmer's field to liberate the potatoes that are just lying there.

McBrier, Page and Lohstoeter, Lori. *Beatrice’s Goat*. Published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. Page McBrier and Lori Lohstoeter beautifully recount this true story about how one child, given the right tools, is able to lift her family out of poverty. (2% of publisher’s proceeds will be donated to Heifer Project International).

McGovern, Ann. *The Lady in the Box*. 1997. This is the story of two children who help and befriend a homeless woman who lives in a box on
their street. It is a wonderful book to introduce children to the concepts of service and compassion. It is also a wonderful tool to address some of the myths that prevail about who is homeless and why we have homelessness in this country.

Noble, Trinka Hakes. **The Orange Shoes.** 2007. Delly Porter enjoys the feel of soft dirt beneath her feet as she walks to and from school, but after a classmate makes her feel ashamed of having no shoes she learns that her parents and others, too, see value in things that do not cost money.

Nunez, Ralph Costa, and Schrager, Willow. **Cooper’s Tale.** Published by Institute for Children and Poverty, Inc. When two fat cats take over the cheese shop, Cooper the pink mouse suddenly finds himself homeless. The friendship he develops with three homeless children changes all of their lives in ways they never expected.

Rosen, Michael J. **The Greatest Table.** Published by Harcourt Brace and Company. This is a book that unfolds into a 12-foot long accordion book, showing the various ways people eat together and the variety of foods people eat. This book lends itself to a number of art projects for children. This book is out of print but does have limited availability through some book stores and Amazon.com

**FICTION FOR THE OLDER CHILD**

Armstrong, William and Barkley, James. **Sounder.** 1995. This is the story of an African American sharecropper family in the late 19th century south.

Bromley, Anne C. **The Lunch Thief.** 2010. Rafael is angry that a new student is stealing lunches, but he takes time to learn what the real problem is before acting. [NOTE: This is a picture book, but reviews indicate that it is targeted at an older audience and best shared by an adult with a group of listener/readers.]


Curtis, Christopher Paul. **Bud, Not Buddy.** 1999. The story of Bud Caldwell, a ten-year old boy on his own, on a journey to find his unknown father in depression era Michigan.
Fleischman, Paul. **Seedfolks.** 1997. Thirteen very different voices - old, young, Haitian, Hispanic, tough, haunted, and hopeful - tell one amazing story about a garden that transforms a neighborhood.

Mathis, Sharon Bell. **Sidewalk Story.** 1986. A young girl comes to the aide of a friend and her family being evicted from an apartment across the street. Her compassion causes others to sit up and take notice. This is a wonderful introduction to advocacy.


O’Connor, Barbara. **How to Steal a Dog.** 2007. Living in the family car in their small North Carolina town after their father leaves them virtually penniless, Georgina and her younger brother concoct an elaborate scheme to get money by stealing a dog and then claiming the reward.

Voigt, Cynthia. **Homecoming.** 1981. Abandoned by their mother, four children begin to search for a home and an identity.

Wilder, Laura Ingalls. **The Long Winter.** 1940. During an already hard winter, a terrible storm keeps trains from getting through with food/supplies.

**FICTION FOR YOUTH AND TEENS**

Carey, Janet Lee. **The Double Life of Zoe Flynn.** 2004. When Zoe's family has to live in their van for months after moving from California to Oregon so her father can find work, Zoe tries to keep her sixth-grade classmates from discovering that she is homeless.

Fenner, Carol. **The King of Dragons.** 1998. Eleven-year-old Ian and his troubled Vietnam-vet father have been living on the streets by day and sleeping in a deserted courthouse by night. Now, though, the weather is getting cooler, food is becoming scant, and Ian’s father has disappeared.

Flake, Sharon. **Money Hungry.** 2001. All thirteen-year-old Raspberry can think of is making money so that she and her mother never have to worry about living on the streets again.

Haworth-Attard, Barbara. **Theories of Relativity.** 2005. When his volatile mother throws him out of the house, sixteen-year-old Dylan is forced to live on the streets and beg for money, yet through it all, he finds a way to survive.

McDonald, Janet. **Chill Wind.** 2002. Afraid that she will have no where to go when her welfare checks are stopped, nineteen-year-old high school dropout Aisha tries to figure out how she can support herself and her two young children in New York City.

Mulligan, Andy. **Trash.** 2010. Fourteen-year-olds Raphael and Gardo team up with a younger boy, Rat, to figure out the mysteries surrounding a bag Raphael finds during their daily life of sorting through trash in a third-world country's dump.

Shulman, Mark. **Scrawl.** 2010. When eighth-grade school bully Tod gets caught committing a crime on school property, he must stay after school and write in a journal under the eye of the school guidance counselor. As he writes, details of his home life emerge. Tod's house is barely habitable, and he is forced to help his mother in her job as a seamstress to make ends meet. His bullying is often less about wanting to hurt other kids than genuinely needing money.

Strasser, Todd. **Can’t Get There from Here.** 2004. Tired of being hungry, cold, and dirty from living on the streets of New York City with a tribe of other homeless teenagers who are dying, one by one, a girl named Maybe ponders her future and longs for someone to care about her.

White, Ruth. **Little Audrey.** 2008. It's 1948, and 11-year-old Audrey lives in a Virginia coal-mining camp with her father, who drinks; her mother, who is emotionally adrift; and her sisters, the “three little pigs.” A fiercely honest child’s-eye view of what it's like to be poor, hungry, and sometimes happy.
FICTION FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

Allison, Dorothy. *Bastard Out of Carolina*. 1993. A deeply engaging story of a young girl growing up in poverty during the 1950’s and 60’s.

Arnow, Harriet. *The Dollmaker*. 1954. An enormously popular novel from the late 1940’s, *The Dollmaker* is the dramatic story of an Appalachian family’s move from the mountains of Kentucky to wartime Detroit.

Baldwin, James. *Another Country*. 1962. A genius of American fiction, this is one of Baldwin’s most eloquent statements about the intersection of race and class.

Ellison, Ralph. *The Invisible Man*. 1952. A classic novel about the manner in which we refuse to see each other and the effects this has on our lives.


Morrison, Toni. *The Bluest Eye. Beloved. Jazz*. 1972. Any work by Morrison speaks to the soul of our nation’s character, dealing with the issues of race, class, and gender, as well as the basic struggles of human existence.

NON-FICTION FOR TEENS AND ADULTS

Abramsky, Sasha. *Breadline USA: The Hidden Scandal of American Hunger and How to Fix It*. 2009. The author combines an account of his own seven-week experiment in living on a poverty budget with moving vignettes of men and women who have fallen through society's frayed safety net and are suffering from food insecurity.


Berg, Joel. *All You Can Eat: How Hungry Is America?* 2008. Berg, executive director of the *New York City Coalition Against Hunger*, spotlights domestic poverty and hunger in this book that has sharp words for politicians, charities and religious denominations. The author reveals how consistently the federal government has ignored hunger in the United States.

Bloom, Jonathan. *American Wasteland: How America Throws Away Nearly Half of Its Food (And What We Can Do about It)*. 2010. Follows the trajectory of America's food from gathering to garbage bin in this compelling and finely reported study, examining why roughly half of our harvest ends up in landfills or rots in the field. Bloom says, "Current rates of waste and population growth can't coexist much longer," and makes smart suggestions on becoming individually and collectively more food-conscious.

DeGraf, John, and others. *Affluenza*. 2002. Based on the PBS documentary, which is a one-hour television special that explores the high social and environmental costs of materialism and overconsumption.


Kilman, Scott and Thurow, Roger. **Enough: Why the World's Poorest Starve in an Age of Plenty.** 2009. A powerful investigative narrative that shows how, in the past few decades, American, British, and European policies have conspired to keep Africa hungry and unable to feed itself.

Lappe, Frances Moore, Collins, Joseph and Rosset, Peter. **World Hunger: Twelve Myths.** 1998. Addresses the myths about hunger and poverty that keep us from adequately approaching and addressing the problem.

LeBlanc, Adrian Nicole. **Random Family: Love, Drugs, Trouble, and Coming of Age in the Bronx.** 2003. LeBlanc provides a profoundly intimate portrait of a teenager, her family and a community in the Bronx throughout the 90’s. It illuminates the complicated and many layered challenges of poverty. “The lives of teenagers are demonized in the same way that those of children are sentimentalized. When these lives unfold in places exhausted by poverty and its related burdens, the texture of their real experiences is obscured…” Adrian LeBlanc.


Roberts, Paul. **The End of Food.** 2008. The author of *The End of Oil* considers how we make, market, and consume food, which leaves too many people fat and too many others starving.

Russell, Sharman. **Hunger: An Unnatural History.** 2005. Analyzes the psychological and physical consequences of food deprivation and semi-starvation, discussing topics ranging from hunger strikes and religious fasts to cannibalism and anorexia nervosa.

Schlosser, Eric. **Fast Food Nation.** 2001. Schlosser documents the effects of fast food on America's economy, its youth culture, and allied industries, such as meatpacking, that serve this vast food production empire.

who work, but still walk the official poverty line. Poverty is shown to be a “collection of difficulties that magnify one another.”


Winne, Mark. **Closing the Food Gap: Resetting the Table in the Land of Plenty**. 2008. The former executive director of the Hartford Food System offers an insider's view on what it's like to feed our country's hungry citizens. Winne explains Hartford's typical inner-city challenges and the successes he witnessed and helped to create there. The story concludes in our present food-crazed era, where the author gives voice to low-income shoppers and explores where they fit in with such foodie discussions as local vs. organic.
Film List

Most of these are available for rent or streaming

30 Days. 2005. Created by Morgan Spurlock, 30 Days is the innovative TV show that dares the viewer to take a walk in someone else’s shoes. In the season opener, Spurlock and his fiancé try to make ends meet by working minimum-wage jobs. (We recommend parental guidance for children under 13).


Meaning of Food. 2004. PBS. Directors, Karin Williams, Vivian Kleiman, Maria Gargiulo, and Kris Kristensen. A wonderful documentary that explores all the different ways that food creates meaning in our lives. Not Rated.

Sounder. 2003. Director, Kevin Hooks. An African American family struggling during the Great Depression suffers when the father is arrested for stealing a ham. The punishment is five years of hard labor. PG.

The Dollmaker. 1984. Director, Daniel Petrie. A mountain family from Kentucky moves to Detroit during WWII towards the promise of work, a steady paycheck and food on the table. Not rated.

The Garden. 2008. Scott Hamilton Kennedy. “The fourteen-acre community garden at 41st and Alameda in South Central Los Angeles is the largest of its kind in the United States. Started as a form of healing after the devastating L.A. riots in 1992, the South Central Farmers have since created a miracle in one of the country’s most blighted neighborhoods. Growing their own food. Feeding their families. Creating a community.”

Waste Land. 2010. Directors, Lucy Walker, Joao Jardim and Karen Harley. “Film makers follow renowned artist Vik Muniz as he journeys from his home base in Brooklyn to his native Brazil and the world's largest garbage dump, Jardim Gramacho, located on the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro.” PG