

PRESS RELEASE

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Media Contact:

Haley Buchanan

Office: (251) 653-1617 ext. 141

hbuchanan@feedingthegulfcoast.org



Feeding the Gulf Coast | 5248 Mobile South St., Theodore, AL 36582 | (251) 653-1617

Feeding the Gulf Coast Receives \$75,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Fund Infrastructure and Equipment Needed for Handling Fresh Food

Theodore, AL – October 10, 2017 –

Feeding the Gulf Coast today announced a \$75,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund the infrastructure that will ultimately help the food bank's partner agencies secure and distribute more nutritious food to families in need. The grant will support investments in the equipment necessary to handle perishable products, such as refrigerated vehicles; coolers and freezers for transporting, storing and distributing food; thermometers and temperature calibration devices; among other items.

"One in six people struggle with hunger along the central Gulf Coast, including one in four children," said Feeding the Gulf Coast President & CEO, Cathy Pope. "We are thankful to the Walmart Foundation for helping to ensure that people who struggle with hunger have access to nutrient-rich food. This grant will go a long way in helping Feeding the Gulf Coast and our partner agencies serve our 24 counties along south Alabama, south Mississippi, and the Panhandle of Florida."

Feeding the Gulf Coast secures fresh, perishable food from retailers across their service area. The Retail Store Level Pickup Program gives the food bank and its agencies access to a variety of food items including fresh foods such as produce, dairy, meat, and bread. The program partners them with retail grocery chains. When stores have product that is nearing its expiration date, they pull it from the shelves and instead of disposing it, they donate it to the food bank.

The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping food banks rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the United States in a sustainable, cost-effective way. This grant is a part of Walmart and the Walmart Foundation's ongoing commitment to helping families who struggle with hunger by providing four billion meals to people in need in the U.S. by 2020.

Since 2009, the Walmart Foundation has been a leading supporter of infrastructure grants to Feeding America food banks and their member agencies. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Locally, Walmart is the biggest contributor to Feeding the Gulf Coast, giving \$187,000 in grants in 2016 through Walmart State Giving in Florida and

Walmart Foundation grants made available through Feeding America. In addition, area Walmart stores donated more than 7,646,000 pounds of food to Feeding the Gulf Coast in 2016, providing over 6,372,000 meals to families in need along the Central Gulf Coast.

With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to distribute more food is critical for food banks. According to the USDA, more than 42 million people nationwide are food insecure, which means that they may not know where they will find their next meal. Along the central Gulf Coast, nearly 18% of households have low food security and over 26% of children are food insecure. To learn more about what Feeding the Gulf Coast is doing to fight hunger, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

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About Feeding the Gulf Coast:

Feeding the Gulf Coast, formerly Bay Area Food Bank, serves a 24-county area spanning south Alabama, south Mississippi and the Panhandle of Florida. In 2016, the food bank distributed over 22 million pounds of food to over 400 church pantries, soup kitchens and other nonprofit organizations throughout its service area. The food bank also operates multiple nutrition programs, including Summer Feeding, Afterschool Snack, Backpack, Disaster Relief, Community Garden, Mobile Pantry, Produce Drop, Cooking Matters, and SNAP Outreach. Feeding the Gulf Coast is a United Way member agency and a member of Feeding America. For more information, visit www.feedingthegulfcoast.org.

Feeding the Gulf Coast's Non-discrimination Policy

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov.

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