



MUST
MINISTRIES

SUMMER
2026

IMPACTreport

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE CHANGING LIVES



THE COOLEST THING THIS SUMMER: **MUST'S SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM**

ON JUNE 1, MUST KICKED OFF ITS 31ST YEAR OF THE SUMMER LUNCH PROGRAM, WHICH WILL FEED THOUSANDS OF LOCAL CHILDREN THROUGH JULY 31.

But Summer Lunch is more than just lunch – each child receives five breakfasts, five lunches, snacks and drinks. Last year, MUST provided more than 538,000 meals to nearly 7,000 children each week. We hope to do even more this year through food and financial donations, but the high cost of food and groceries has put a significant financial strain on the program and the families it serves.

“This year, we’re seeing that our food costs for Summer Lunch have gone up 50% from last year, which makes feeding nearly 7,000 children each week for nine weeks an enormous challenge,” said MUST President & CEO Dr. Ike Reighard. “But feeding these hungry children isn’t an option – it’s a MUST. For many children, free and reduced lunches at their schools are the only meals they receive, so we try to fill that gap and keep them fed and healthy in the summer

months. With one in five children in Georgia facing food insecurity, this is certainly a problem. With the community’s help, we can all be the solution.”

MUST feeds children through “Kids’ Kits.” Each child receives breakfast, lunch and snack items, as well as drinks or drink packets. Last year, the cost to feed one child for the entire program was \$100. This year, that has jumped to \$150.

We encourage donors and groups to gather and put together the Kids’ Kits as a fun activity that will also make a difference in these children’s lives, or to donate online so that MUST can purchase the food. You can also donate items through MUST’s Amazon Wish List or deliver the items to the MUST Donation Center, located at 1280 Field Parkway, Marietta, Ga. 30066. The Donation Center is open Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Donations for the program should be labeled “MUST Summer Lunch.”

For more information on food items, how to put together the Kids’ Kits or to volunteer for Summer Lunch, visit mustministries.org/summerlunch.



Food for all

MUST's Summer Lunch program is one of our most robust and well-known feeding programs, but did you know that MUST provides food throughout the year to anyone in need? On average, MUST gives out **3.5 tons of food a day** through our various programs. Some of those include:

- Three **MUST Client Services food pantries** (located in Canton, Marietta and Smyrna), where clients can “shop” for food to feed their families, including babies.
- **MUST Mobile Pantry**, which travels to the areas where people are in the most need of food and provides 40 pounds of fresh and healthy food to each client.
- **Neighborhood Pantries** serving students from 70 schools, where children can feed themselves and their families on a monthly basis from a school pantry.
- **Loaves and Fishes Kitchen** at the MUST Hope House emergency shelter, which provides three meals a day to Hope House residents and lunch to anyone in need of a meal.
- **Senior Smiles**, which provides seniors in need with more than 200 monthly food boxes.

If you would like to help, financial donations are the greatest need, so we can purchase food for pennies on the dollar. You can also purchase the food we need through our Amazon Wish List, which sends the food directly to our Donation Center, or purchase food in bulk and bring it to our Donation Center. **To donate, visit mustministries.org/donate.**



A Home Run

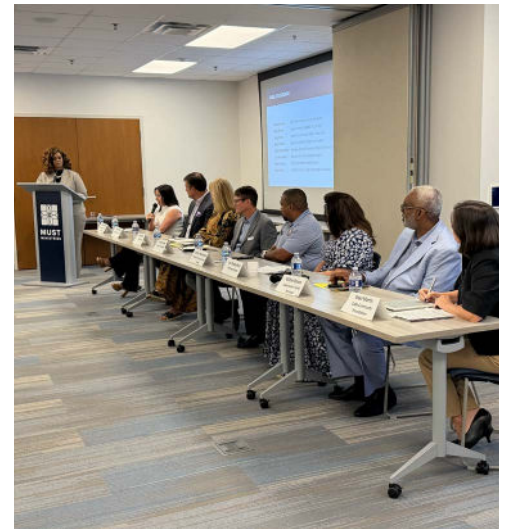
MUST and Kroger open first Neighborhood Pantry in Atlanta Public Schools

Kroger's Atlanta Division, MUST Ministries and Henry Louis “Hank” Aaron New Beginnings Academy recently unveiled a new school-based pantry, expanding access to groceries for students and families in the Atlanta Public Schools system. The pantry is expected to support approximately 150 families each month and is MUST's first pantry in the Atlanta Public Schools system.

Making an Impact

MUST Impact Summit brings leaders together for solutions

In April, we hosted our first **MUST Ministries Impact Summit**, bringing together leaders from across the region to discuss how we can all better serve our neighbors facing homelessness, housing insecurity, and poverty. The conversation centered on long-term solutions and helping people sustain independence in our community through partnerships and collaboration. The summit was led by leaders in education, nonprofit work, business, and government, and the conversation was facilitated by MUST leadership. The results of the summit are already tangible, as the event has led to ongoing conversations about solutions.



MUST Cooling Center provides safety from the heat

The Georgian heat is upon us, which means MUST is beginning to open its much-needed **Cooling Center at the MUST Hope House** emergency shelter. Our Cooling Center provides often life-saving respite from the dangerous heat and opens any time the heat reaches 90 degrees or above. It is open from 12:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Cooling Center clients can receive lunch and dinner as well as other resources the Hope House continuously offers, such as workforce development to help them find a job, case management resources, showers, laundry, pharmaceutical storage, and more. Special thanks to the Cobb County Government for its ongoing support of the Cooling Center.





MUST MINISTRIES

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For more information, volunteer application,
online financial donations and a lists of needs:

www.mustministries.org

ARE YOU CONNECTED?



FORE the love of MUST



We hope to see you on the golf course
for our two signature tournaments:

6.22.26

MUST Classic
Hawk's Ridge Golf Club

8.31.26

MUST Open Golf Tournament
Marietta Country Club



Early registration for the MDJ Gobble Jog opens July 1st!

Join us Thanksgiving Day as we raise money
for our life-changing services and programs.

volunteer WITH MUST

MUST could not do all of the work we are doing for our neighbors in need without the time and generosity of our volunteers. Do you love to cook? Consider prepping a meal in our MUST Hope House Loaves and Fishes Kitchen. Are you an expert in organization? Help to sort clothing, food and other items in our Donation Center. Do you get a thrill out of seeing a family receive food? Volunteer at our MUST Mobile Pantry, one of our Client Services locations or during our Summer Lunch Program. The gift of your time can make all the difference. For more information on volunteer opportunities, as well as to view our volunteer calendar, please visit mustministries.org/volunteer.

MUST Ministries is a nonprofit, faith-based organization helping people in your community break the cycle of poverty. MUST provides basic needs such as groceries, hot meals, housing, emergency shelter, healthcare clinic, workforce development, toy shops, children's summer lunches and clothing. All services are free and provided without regard to income, race or religious beliefs.

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Donate

MUST is proud to have continually earned the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator with a four-star, 100% rating. Less than 3% of nonprofits in the entire nation have earned this rating.

89 cents of every dollar goes directly into programs.

