



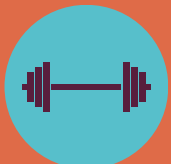
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FOURTH QUARTER IMPACT REPORT



Food Value
\$382,563



Pounds Distributed
198,219 LBS



Number of Meals
165,183

THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN FOOD SECURITY



Dear Urban Recipe Community,

When we talk about food security, it is easy to focus on numbers: pounds distributed, meals served, or dollars invested. Those measures matter, and you will see them reflected throughout this issue of *The Cookbook*. But food security, at its core, is about something deeper. **It is about community.**

At Urban Recipe, we understand that food security is not just about access to groceries, but about being part of a community. Many food pantries understandably focus on food as the primary solution. If hunger were simply a problem of supply, the formula would be easy. But people are not a formula.

What makes our food co-ops different is not only the food that is shared, but the relationships that are built around it. When members show up every two weeks, they are not simply receiving groceries. They are showing up for one another.

Our role is not to guarantee community, because community cannot be forced. Instead, we work to help create the environment where it can grow. By bringing food and people together with consistency, dignity, and shared responsibility, we create space for trust, care, and belonging to take root. In that sense, our work is less about a formula and more about a recipe, an Urban Recipe that connects the right ingredients and allows something meaningful to emerge.

Thank you for being part of this community. Your support makes this work possible, and together, we continue to nourish both people and the connections that sustain us.

With gratitude,

Jeremy Lewis
Executive Director



Co-op 1 Members play a game at their holiday potluck

COMMUNITY CELEBRATIONS

The co-op model is different from a food pantry for a variety of reasons, but one of the most important is community. Members of a food co-op grow in relationship with one another, showing up every two weeks to share food, stories, recipes, and even make new memories together.

This last month, a few of our co-ops decided to host holiday parties, a testament to these friendships. Co-op 2 and Clairmont Oaks had members bring ornaments to share with one another alongside their normal food selection.

Co-op 1 hosted a full on holiday party, complete with games, treats to share, and shared time of fellowship. After their tasks were done, the co-op members chose to spend their time sharing in friendship and fun with one another.

These community measures are not relegated to the holiday season! Over the last months, co-ops have been heard singing happy birthday to their members and sharing birthday cards with one another. Co-op 2 just started a "birthday club" to make sure everyone is celebrated.

At a few of our co-ops, the trusting relationships that have formed are evident in the camaraderie among the children present. St. Anne's, Lake Forest, Haven, Co-op 1 and Decatur all have children regularly present, and the co-op members can be found passing babies back and forth so they can finish bagging vegetables or sneaking an inquisitive toddler a snack from their food bin.

Even in moments of crisis, the community rallies. Over the last year, one of our co-op members had a health scare during a co-op meeting, and all throughout her recovery she has been supported by her fellow members. Another member had to be hospitalized briefly, and not only the steering committee, but his fellow co-op members were regularly asking about his status and offering to help.

When people are hungry, they don't need just food - they need a village to lean on. Urban Recipe Food Co-ops aim to provide a space for both - a space where the stomach and the heart have a chance to be filled.



St. Anne's Co-op often has children running around during the meetings.



WE HAVE A RECIPE FOR FOOD SECURITY.

We aim to be a catalyst for a world where food security, equitable food access, and self-sufficient communities are guaranteed for all.

Last year, **Co-op 1 Member Sharon** survived a traumatic and life-changing gas explosion in her home. The explosion caused severe burns over 75% of her body, requiring immediate and extensive medical care. She spent six months in the ICU, fighting for her life before finally being released home to continue a long and difficult recovery.

Before the accident, Sharon had been a committed food co-op member for more than 15 years. After the explosion, she was no longer able to care for herself or attend co-op meetings.



Sharon came to the Co-op 1 holiday party last month!



Sharron shows up every two weeks to support herself and her mom.

Her daughter, **Sharron**, began coming to the food co-op in her mother's place, volunteering her time and participating fully, just as her mom always had. Later that year, Sharron officially joined the co-op herself, taking home groceries for both her and her mother.

Sharron was initially hesitant to join co-op, uncomfortable with the idea of relying on help, especially from strangers. "Now I look forward to [coming to co-op]" she said. "Plus we come and help other people that are in need, and that's the most important thing: giving back to the community."

Through her experience, Sharron learned a powerful truth. At a food co-op, you do not rely on strangers for long. Strangers become neighbors, and neighbors become community.

Clairmont Oaks co-op is open to only members of Clairmont Oaks Retirement Community in Decatur. The co-op members are physically neighbors, meeting to distribute food just a few steps from their doors.

Even though they live in a shared community, many of the residents didn't meet until they attended the food co-op. **Frances** is one of those co-op members who has seen not only her pantry, but her community grow in the last six months. She initially joined co-op at the invitation of the building's program directors. "Everyone needs a little help every once in a while," she shared, reflecting on her decision to join. But even though she came for the food, Frances described her time in co-op as focused on community and dignity, rather than the handouts.

"Because of [the co-op], people have come out of their apartments and are mingling more. They feel better about themselves." Frances was lively and chatty with the other folks as she pushed her walker through the room, an example that her fellow members shared her sentiment: that the food co-op provides a place for people to show up, feel nourished, and to belong.



Frances helps bag corn at her Clairmont Oaks Co-op

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT SPOTLIGHT



Roy Neill, left, and some of his colleagues at Dematic

Dematic has been a supporter of Urban Recipe since 2022, and they stepped in with big strides. Roy Neill, the Corporate and Community Affairs Leader at Dematic, first interacted with Urban Recipe when he brought a team of volunteers to pack food in the warehouse. Since then, he and Dematic have continued to support Urban Recipe as donors and volunteers. Roy, himself, has volunteered enough to join the 5 Timers Club, signifying his commitment to our mission.

“We are thankful for our community partnership with Urban Recipe, and appreciate the volunteer opportunities they provide for our employees. Their work to strengthen food security in Atlanta is incredible.” – Roy Neill



Thank you to all who voted for us in the Target App in the last quarter of 2025!

We received 171,000 votes, resulting in a gift of \$7,850 from Target to support our work. Thank you for your support!




We're a  participant.

NEW YEARS RESOLUTION: GET INVOLVED AT URBAN RECIPE



SPREAD THE WORD

Follow us on social media, share Urban Recipe emails with your network, and invite others to learn about Urban Recipe!

 @urbanrecipe  /urbanrecipeatl  Urban Recipe

DONATE

Your support fuels our mission. If you'd like to support our food security programming, donate today!

Give now at urbanrecipe.org/donate



HOST A DRIVE

While our partners the Atlanta Community Food Bank provides us with so many resources, we could always use support!

Email Reed: reedstewart@urbanrecipe.org

VOLUNTEER

Volunteer sessions are available multiple times a week! Sign up or email us to pick another time to sign up your group.

urbanrecipe.org/volunteer

