COVID-19 is one of the most challenging times faced by our nation and the world – but it will also be marked by the unparalleled generosity that uplifted our Atlanta community during this time of uncertainty. If there is a silver lining, it is that the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic has created a sense of urgency for Atlantans to unite in service to support our city’s most vulnerable residents. We are grateful for your philanthropic support, as it has empowered us to help our neighbors in need.

TACKLING OUR MOST PRESSING NEEDS:

With the world changing almost overnight, we needed to pivot how we support our volunteers and school and nonprofit partners. With support from our generous advocates we accomplished the following over 8 weeks of relief efforts:

Through our partnership with the Atlanta Community Food Bank (ACFB) and Atlanta Public Schools, we mobilized 700 volunteers to serve more than 5,500 families with over 400,000 pounds of food.

Kyle Waide, President and CEO at ACFB, shared “We are grateful to the Hands On Atlanta team for their support throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Our number one priority is getting food to families who need it. Our partnership with Hands On Atlanta ensures we have essential volunteers to pack and distribute food to fulfill that priority and our mission.”

Engaged over 2,000 volunteers to serve more than 6,000 hours to fight food insecurity with our nonprofit partners.

Piloted an innovative program to recruit workers who were laid off or furloughed to work part-time as service members and site coordinators for food distribution and other critical projects. Six part-time site coordinators were hired to lead volunteers at food distribution sites.

The "Write Something Good" Campaign initiative prompted our followers to write letters of praise and gratitude to local healthcare workers and hospital personnel at four hospitals in Atlanta. Grady Health System, Northside Hospital, Piedmont Atlanta Hospital, and the Wellstar Foundation have welcomed many notes of encouragement from our do-gooders all over the city.

Delivered 150 meals to healthcare staff at Piedmont and Grady Hospitals.
OUR VIRTUAL SHIFT:

In addition to tackling Atlanta’s most pressing needs on the ground, we also prioritized creating digital opportunities and solutions for our volunteers and programs staff to support our network. Here’s what we did:

Our AmeriCorps team continued mentoring and tutoring students via "Tele-Learning" ensuring they fulfilled their service year. Our AmeriCorps members touched base with over 500 students per week.

Introduced 25 easy and impactful virtual and digital ways the Atlanta community could help their neighbors from home, engaging over 2,500 volunteers.

One of the amazing virtual partners we are proud to partner with is Be My Eyes, which is a free mobile app with one main goal: to make the world more accessible for blind and low-vision people. The app connects blind and low-vision individuals with sighted volunteers and companies from all over the world through a live video call.

Hosted 12 virtual Talk With Me Baby @ Work sessions. TWMB@W builds the capacity of caretakers of children ages 0 to 5 to provide children with language nutrition essential for healthy brain development along with language and literacy acquisition.

Offered our volunteer management software for free to nonprofits and schools through July.

Participated in more than 25 digital panels/workshops locally and globally to share our learnings and strategic relief efforts.

Served as a hub for COVID-19 response while adding over 1,200 members to our digital community.

Mentions in AJC, 11Alive, Atlanta Business Chronical, Atlanta Magazine and WABW, led to more unique visitors to our website and we had a 33% increase in website traffic.

From the bottom of our hearts, thank you from all of us here at Hands On Atlanta. Your generosity and willingness to put others first in the wake of this pandemic have elevated thousands in need across our city. We could not do this work without you.

www.handsonatlanta.org/relief