

# COALITIONS ON THE MOVE NEWSLETTER

September 2021

## Highlighting River Valley Coalition

Welcome to the eighth edition of our Senior Hunger Coalitions on the Move newsletter! Each month, we want to use this resource to share information and updates on Georgia's 12 coalitions committed to stamping out senior hunger in our state! Each issue will provide an update from one of the coalitions.

## Coalition Spotlight: River Valley

### Membership Diversity

The River Valley Senior Hunger Coalition includes Adventist Community Services of South GA (ACS/SGA) ([acssouthgeorgia.org](http://acssouthgeorgia.org)), Brown Bag of Columbus ([brownbagofcolumbus.org](http://brownbagofcolumbus.org)) and Feeding the Valley Food Bank ([feedingthevalley.org](http://feedingthevalley.org)) among others.

### Innovative Ideas and Strategies

Columbus City Councilor Jerry "Pops" Barnes, River Valley Regional Commission council chair and coalition member, has a Facebook Live Community and Health Tip Show. He invited fellow coalition members to discuss services they offer and provided a platform for donations.

### Key Resources in the Region

Churches in the region have been serving as food pantries and delivering groceries to seniors in need. And a crucial link has been 2-1-1 that refers callers to the River Valley Area Agency on Aging for food and meals.

### Meeting Challenges

During the pandemic, food deliveries were placed on hold many times. Adventist Community Services South GA added counties to its route. Senior center staff divided up bulk food into bags delivered by Family Connections coordinators and community volunteers.

### Accomplishments

The coalition has been successful partnering with other agencies in the community, providing emergency groceries during the pandemic through countless partners. As a result, a coalition partner received \$10,000 to maintain and expand work into more counties.

### What's next

The coalition wants to increase representation from rural counties in the region. The coalition will be seeking applicants for senior hunger mini-grants and plans to host listening sessions with participation from key senior hunger stakeholders in the region.

### Member Highlight



## Adventist Community Services/South Georgia

Coordinator Carolyn Lipscomb and her husband, Hew, of Adventist Community Services of South GA (ACS/SGA) recognize the elderly are overlooked in many situations and focus their food program, Food Bags for the Elderly, on the senior citizens in South and Central Georgia. Carolyn and Hew drive 1,500 miles each month delivering an average of over 25,000 pounds of food to 26 counties in South and Central Georgia. They partner with senior centers and several Seventh-Day Adventist churches to bag the food and distribute to individuals. They serve an average of 1,500 seniors each month. During the pandemic, ACS/SGA added counties to their routes to assist the coalition with delivering emergency groceries to seniors in rural counties. Visit [acssouthgeorgia.org](http://acssouthgeorgia.org) for more information.



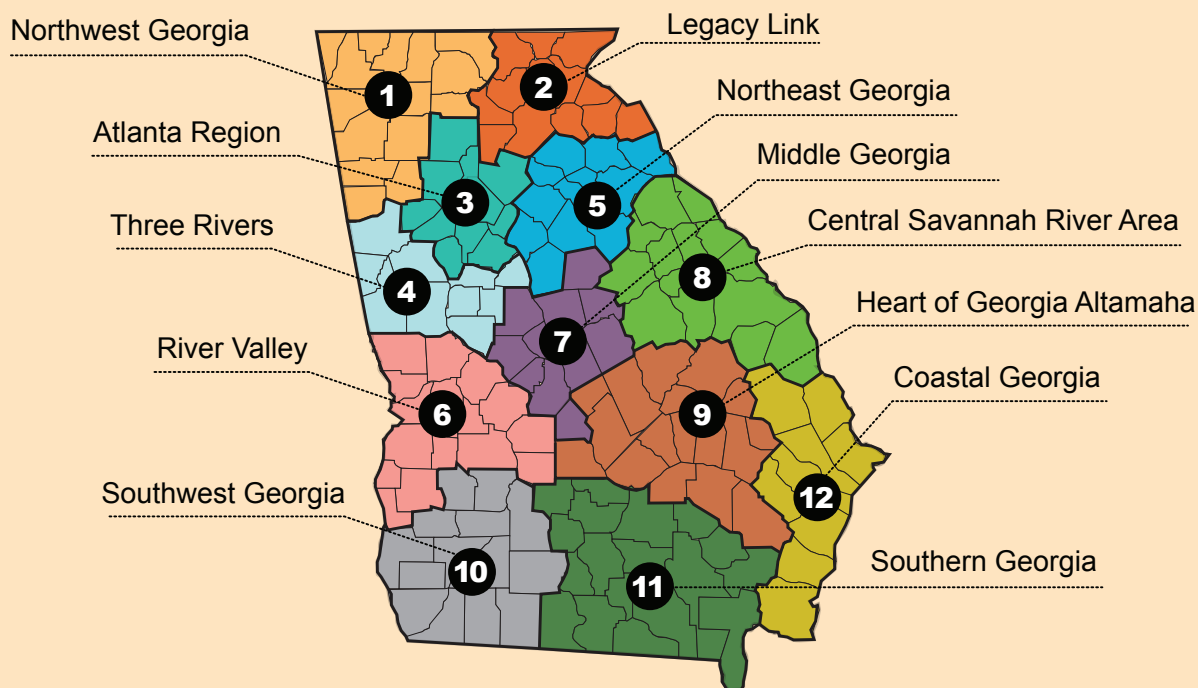
# COALITIONS ON THE MOVE NEWSLETTER

September 2021

## Statewide Updates

## Senior Hunger Coalition Coverage Areas

Below is a map containing the 12 Senior Hunger Coalitions.



### The 5 Focus Areas

## Health Impact

According to a Feeding America Report (2021) looking at the health impact of senior hunger, food insecure seniors experience greater health consequences. These impacts are reflected in an increased likelihood of diabetes, heart disease and depression among other health indicators. A critical resource is GeorgiaCares which provides free information and assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, [mygeorgiacares.org](https://mygeorgiacares.org).

**Reference:** Ziliak, J., Gundersen, C. (August 2021). The Health Consequences of Senior Hunger in the United States: Evidence from the 1999–2016 NHANES. Report for Feeding America. Available from Feeding America.

### Data and More

**Statistics:** According to the latest America's Health Ranking Annual Report (2020), Seniors (65+) in Georgia suffer from diabetes (24.5%), cardiovascular disease (23.5%), and depression (13.2%) at levels close to or above the national levels. Overall, Georgia's health profile is ranked among the lowest in comparison to other states with Access to Care at 49th and Behavioral Health at 45th.

**Reference:** [americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/access/state/GA](https://americashealthrankings.org/explore/annual/measure/access/state/GA)