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Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation and Food Lion Feeds Team Up to Fight Food Insecurity

Organizations addressing food insecurity host Back-to-School Labor of Love food distribution event in August

CHARLOTTE, NC – Food insecurity continues to be a pressing concern in Mecklenburg County, directly affecting the health and well-being of residents facing this problem.

“The lack of access to affordable and healthy foods is a growing concern for a number of our community members in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. This issue is only exacerbated by rising food costs. The Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation’s Labor of Love events seek to increase access by providing nutritious foods at no cost to community residents and serving neighborhoods that are not in close proximity to full-service grocery stores,” stated Angelique Gaines, Research Associate at UNC Charlotte Urban Institute and Board Member of the Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation.

On Charlotte’s west side, food insecurity has been an issue for decades. Approximately 13% of households west of Uptown have access to a full-service grocery store within a half-mile, compared to 32% countywide and 86% in Dilworth. The Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation (MBFF) is addressing these concerns in the 28208 and 28214 zip codes, teaming up with Food Lion Feeds to provide nutritious food to help underserved and under-resourced families. The MBFF was founded in 2019 by former Charlotte Hornet, Muggsy Bogues, to assist families in need of assistance. Food Lion Feeds was founded in 2014 by Food Lion to address food insecurity in the towns and cities it serves.

On Aug. 26, the MBFF will host its first Back-to-School Labor of Love food distribution event at West Charlotte Church at Freedom. Sponsors include Food Lion, Wells Fargo, Wellcare, CPI Security Systems, The MJW Group and Healthy Blue North Carolina. Muggsy Bogues, President and Founder of the MBFF, shared, “This new Labor of Love event will provide families and children with healthy food and snacks to start the school year. I am very grateful for the corporate support we have received and look forward to hosting a successful event.”

MBFF and Food Lion Feeds are working together to take action and make a difference in the lives of neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

“Finding ways to address hunger in the community is the spirit of Food Lion’s commitment,” said Bill Scales, Director of Operations, Central Division, Rock Hill/Rockingham Region, Food Lion. “The work Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation is doing in the community is important and admirable. We are grateful to play a small part in their mission to nourish our neighbors, including our children and their families, at the annual Back-to-School Labor of Love, and we look forward to seeing the positive impact this effort will have on the towns and cities we serve.”

The MBFF held its spring Labor of Love food distribution at Freedom Communities on Tuckaseegee Road and is partnering with West Charlotte Church at Freedom to host the back-to-school event this month. The Thanksgiving and holiday events will come later in the year. Terry Albanese, Executive Director of the MBFF, said, “The organization recently went through a strategic planning process and will provide additional food distribution events in 2024. We recognize that it takes more than a food distribution to improve food security, but this is a start, and our families just love to see Muggsy, who attends every event.”

To learn more about the community-based work of the Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation, visit <https://boguesfoundation.org/>. To learn more about the Food Lion Feeds hunger relief initiative, visit foodlion.com/feeds.

About the Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation

As a 501(c)(3) organization, the Muggsy Bogues Family Foundation’s mission is to empower underserved youth and families to improve their quality of life through food security, access to education, and workforce development. The Bogues family, MBFF staff and Board of Directors envision equitable, thriving communities where everyone has a shot at a better life. The MBFF has reached hundreds of households and over 2,000 individuals through its food distribution events, scholarship programs, and by making connections to workforce development and job training initiatives for underserved families. Muggsy Bogues has been an important part of the philanthropic landscape of the Charlotte community since 2013, wanting to share his good fortune of overcoming hardships and obstacles.

About Food Lion

Food Lion is an omnichannel retailer committed to nourishing its neighbors during the moments that matter most. More than 82,000 associates across 1,100+ stores deliver an easy, fresh and affordable shopping experience throughout 10 Southeastern and Mid-Atlantic states. Through its ‘Count on me’ culture, Food Lion fosters a sense of belonging for all associates, promoting a diverse and inclusive environment that has supported LGBTQ+ equality for nearly two decades. Food Lion is the only company in the country to be named an ENERGY STAR Partner of the Year for 22 consecutive years. It also pioneered a food rescue program to support food-insecure neighbors. Through Food Lion Feeds, the retailer has donated more than 1 billion meals to individuals and families since 2014 and has committed to donate 1.5 billion meals by 2025. Founded and based in Salisbury, N.C., since 1957, Food Lion is a company of Ahold Delhaize USA, the U.S. division of Zaandam-based Ahold Delhaize. For more information, visit foodlion.com.

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