

Just a quick update about the Bi-Lo Holiday Fight Hunger Drive.

As you all know for the past 7 years the Walker County Bi-Lo Stores (Lafayette, Mission Ridge and Rossville) have given the food and/or funds raised during their Summer and Holiday Fight Hunger Drives to the Care Mission.

With the merger of Winn-Dixie, these stores will now donate directly to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank.

I have just spoken with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank's representative and was told that the donations from these stores would be included in the food bank's inventory with all other donations. The Care Mission, or any other food pantry/closet that is partnered with the food bank, can then purchase these donations at their normal 19 cents per lb. rate.

These local store managers believed that the donations would be going directly to the Care Mission to be used for Walker County families, so they had posted as much on their signs. We have asked that the Care Mission's name be removed from these signs since we don't want anyone misled.

To be clear, all food/funds collected at all Bi-Lo stores, including those located in Walker County, will be donated to the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. Any food pantry/closet that is a partner with the food bank can then purchase the donated items at the standard handling fee of 19 cents per lb.

Therefore, if you wish to support the Care Mission and the Walker County families we serve, we suggest you give directly to us rather than through Bi-Lo, that way you can be certain that 100% of your donation will go to us.

We do greatly appreciate the folks at the Chattanooga Area Food Bank, who work very hard at gathering and redistributing tons and tons of food to all the food pantries they serve. They are a blessing to us and a valuable partner in our ministry.

We are just disappointed that this avenue of support has been re-directed, since the Chattanooga Area Food Bank has a much greater pool of resources to draw from than we do.

Having said that, let me add that our trust is not in Bi-Lo or the Chattanooga Area Food Bank or the USDA or any other man. Our trust is in the Lord. We know that no matter how donations or support gets to us, it all comes from the Lord.

Amen.

Deon and Kendra