



NOURISHING THE FUTURE GENERATION

MARCH 2026



ENDING CHILDHOOD HUNGER IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

IDENTIFY GAPS THAT WE CAN ADDRESS TOGETHER!

FIRST 1,000 DAYS:

CRITICAL NUTRITION FOR BRAIN DEVELOPMENT AND HEALTHY HABITS

PRE-SCHOOL

HOW TO DEAL WITH UNAFFORDABILITY OF FORMULA AND DIAPERS.

SCHOOL AGE

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL



LACTATION SUPPORT



HOW DO WE ACCRUE CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE FOODS?

IMPROVE FOOD ACCESS & AWARENESS FOR WHAT'S AVAILABLE OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL.



MAYOR **ALYIA GASKINS**
EXPERIENCED FOOD INSECURITY FIRST-HAND

SEVA TRUCK
A MISSION ON WHEELS!



DEPT. OF COMMUNITY HUMAN SERVICES PROVIDES **SAFETY NET**



44% OF RESIDENTS EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY NOT ELIGIBLE FOR PUBLIC FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS. THIS % IS INCREASING DUE TO H.R.1 AND NEW SNAP REQUIREMENTS.

FOOD ACCESS NEEDS

- ★ PARTNERING WITH FOOD PANTRIES.
- ★ ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES DISQUALIFIED FROM SNAP/MEDICAID.
- ★ HUNGER SCREENING
- ★ NAVIGATING THE DIFFICULT, COMPLEX SYSTEM FOR NON-ENGLISH SPEAKERS.
- ★ YOUTH CONSISTENTLY RAISED CONCERNS ABOUT HUNGER, SCHOOL MEALS AND FOOD ACCESS AT DOCTOR'S VISIT.
- ★ WHAT DOES A TRUSTED FOOD ACCESS ORG LOOK LIKE?
- ★ IMPROVE SCHOOL MEAL DEBT.
- ★ PARTNERING WITH TRUSTED 'BOOTS ON THE GROUND' ORGANIZATIONS.
- ★ HOME DELIVERIES FOR FAMILIES AFRAID TO LEAVE THEIR HOMES.



★ HIRE MORE W.I.C. STAFF.

ASSETS:

- ✓ CITY LEADERSHIP BUY-IN & SUPPORT.
- ✓ COMMUNITY MEMBERS SUPPORTING FOOD SYSTEM.

NEXT STEPS:

- CHILD FOOD ACCESS GROUP FOR CONTINUED CONVERSATIONS.
- STAKEHOLDERS WILLING TO COLLABORATE TO BUILD AN EFFECTIVE FOOD SYSTEM.
- PREPAREDNESS TO MITIGATE FEDERAL POLICIES' IMPACT ON FOOD ACCESS.

FOOD NEEDS TO BE **NUTRITIOUS** FOR THE GROWING CHILD. HUNGER AFFECTS TOXIC STRESS, BEHAVIOR, ACADEMICS DEVELOPMENT AND CHRONIC DISEASES.



FAMILIES HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN **FOOD AND RENT** -OR- **HEALTH CARE!**



HOW TO WORK WHEN THERE'S **NO** AFFORDABLE CHILD CARE?

NUTRITION ASSETS IN THE CITY OF ALEXANDRIA

- ★ RESOURCEFUL CITY - FOOD AND MEALS AVAILABLE DAILY.
- ★ BABY CARE PROGRAM AND LACTATION SUPPORT.
- ★ SCHOOL MEALS INCLUDING CULTURAL MENUS ARE FULLY FUNDED BY USDA.
- ★ COMMUNITY GIVING GARDENS, THRIVE FROM PARTICIPATION.
- ★ SUMMER MEALS AT SCHOOLS AND THROUGH C.A.F.B.
- ★ NUTRITION EDUCATION FOR KIDS AND PARENTS (BY VA CO-OP EXTENSION, WIC, INOVA HEALTHY CLUB, AND HOME VISITORS).
- ★ BREAKING DOWN SILOS.



DO THE AFFECTED FAMILIES **KNOW** ABOUT AVAILABLE FOOD RESOURCES?

WE NEED **1 STOP SHOP!**