

How to Refer Someone to HaCoBA Care for Groceries

HaCoBACare Ministries is a ministry of the Hamilton County Baptist Association housed in the back portion of the Silverdale at St. Elmo Baptist Church, 4500 St. Elmo Ave-nue. Volunteers operate the ministry center Tuesday and Friday, 10:00 AM until 1:30 PM. Food is provided for distribution by the supporting churches of the association. Persons receive help through referrals to HaCoBACare.

There are two ways to refer to HaCoBACare.

1. The issuance of these items is accomplished in cooperation with United Way 211, formerly known as "First Call for Help." This 211-telephone number is the clearing house in the Chattanooga area to help prevent abuse of the helping agencies. Individuals and churches may refer anyone to 211 (the phone number for this help line). After the agency records the requests, the individual is given a reference code number and an assigned day to come to the center to receive groceries or other items. All persons coming to HaCoBACare for assistance MUST be referred. Walk-ins are not served.

2. The churches that cooperate with the association may refer persons directly to the center by faxing or sending with the individual a letter/note, preferably on church letterhead, validating the need and authenticating the referral signed by the pastor or other authorizing person and giving the title of the person and the phone number where the person making the referral can be reached if there are questions.

Churches do not have to refer through United Way 211. They do, however, need to send a written note with the individual. Calling the HaCoBACare Center to alert the volunteer staff of the date and time of your referral and the referee's expected arrival at the center would be helpful. The number you should use when calling is 821-2976.

Email: hacobacare@baptistassociation.com

What about monetary gifts to clients?

HaCoBACare does NOT give monetary help. Referrals, as well as walk-ins, are given the names of organizations they can contact for services not rendered by the Center. HaCoBACare is a ministry of faith. Please pray for the work, the volunteers, volunteer director Gerald C. Lawson, and the Christian witness shared with those who come to the center seeking help.