



J. Patrick O'Neal, M.D., Commissioner | Nathan Deal, Governor

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: District Environmental Health Directors

FROM: Galen C. Baxter, REHS  
Director, Food Service Program  
Environmental Health Section

DATE: October 10, 2017

RE: Helping Hands Ending Hunger, INC

The attached Business Operational Plan for Helping Hands Ending Hunger, INC outlines their alternative approach to reducing food waste from school cafeterias and providing food for several local food insecure children.

Chapter 511-6-1 defines "Re-service" of food as *the transfer of food that is unused and returned by a consumer after being served or sold and in the possession of the consumer, to another person*. The model followed by Helping Hands Ending Hunger, INC does not meet this definition of "re-service." As you will see from their business model plan, once the food leaves the possession and control of the cafeteria staff (food service permit holder), it becomes the property of the students (customers). The students do NOT return any food to the cafeteria staff, but instead donate their unopened/unused packaged food to volunteers of Helping Hands who then take possession and control of the food.

Therefore, any school in Georgia, under the jurisdiction of the local Board of Health that wishes to partner with Helping Hands Ending Hunger, INC would not be in violation of the Georgia Food Service Rules and Regulations, so long as the food service permit holder or staff for the cafeteria does not take repossession of any food once it has been served or sold to the students, staff or any other patrons at their facility.

Thank you for your continued commitment to food safety –  
Kindly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Galen C. Baxter', is written above the typed name.

Galen C. Baxter  
Director, Food Service Program  
Environmental Health Section

Cc: Ellen Steinberg, Ph.D.  
Carla Harward, CEO Helping Hands Ending Hunger, INC  
Georgia DPH, EH section file