



Food insecurity was a bad problem made severe for thousands in Alabama by the recent storms. As part of our long term strategy to help restore and support our communities, Staysail Group has teamed up with Acts World Relief to implement a **sustainable community food system** in Holt, Alabama. This community-based system will provide healthy, flavorful and affordable meals to the community while supporting training, employment, agriculture and the local economy.

The **convenience factor** is a leading contributor to food insecurity and food-borne health concerns such as diabetes and obesity, regardless of socio-economic condition. Recognizing that we are not likely to reduce the demand for convenient meals, we are focusing on solutions that meet the needs for convenience and nutrition, as well as good taste and affordability.



The Joshua Project is based on a model similar to the structured meal plans offered by Food Studio B whereby nutritionally-balanced meals using fresh,

local ingredients are prepared and delivered to central distribution points three times each week. Refrigerated or frozen, these meals are ready to eat within three minutes in a microwave. In post-disaster areas where power is limited, special arrangements can be made to serve the meals hot.

The Joshua Project is a holistic system which connects all elements of the food system and benefits the entire community. Participants not only have access to fresh, locally-produced food—they can also receive **education and training** in nutrition, culinary arts, food service, agriculture, and other areas that will increase awareness and employment. Keeping as many dollars localized as possible will also ensure a more **sustainable local economy**.

Key **stakeholders** in the implementation of The Joshua Project include area residents (especially those dealing with food insecurity or food-related health issues), agricultural producers, food processors, food distributors, grocery stores, community-based agencies, farmers markets, faith groups, educators, students, civic leaders, industry leaders, and civic organizations. Input from these groups helps refine the model to meet the local demand and identify the resources needed to launch and sustain the food system.

Whether introduced in response to food insecurity or a natural disaster, The Joshua Project represents a prime example of what a community can do when it comes together to care for its own. Once a community has developed the local food system to a point where it is self-sustaining, the **mobile kitchen** used to launch The Joshua Project moves on to another community in a measure of true success.

Email thejoshuaproject@staysailgroup.com to learn how you can join or support The Joshua Project team.