

# IMPACTreport

HOW YOUR DONATIONS ARE CHANGING LIVES

## *Not anchored* - A NAVY MAN'S BATTLE

When Josh Pike entered the Naval Academy in Annapolis, he achieved something few accomplish. The academically rigorous entrance to one of America's finest institutions put him on course for success.

"I was playing on the Navy soccer team and enjoyed that so much, but the college pressure there never stops," he said. "We were expected to put forth a lot of effort all the time." For someone who struggled with depression and self-medicating with drugs, he withdrew after two years and went home to Maryland.

"My story started in high school when I had my wisdom teeth removed and took some pain pills at age 14," he said. His mother, a teacher, and his father, an attorney, thought they had a bright, athletic child, but underneath he was heading for destruction.

By age 20, he was home from college, but a weekend party turned into more parties and an opioid addiction. When he tried to withdraw, he got so sick that he took drugs again. The cycle continued for years and included a long list of crimes he's not proud of now – buying and selling drugs, theft, pawning, panhandling and forgery.

He was in and out of rehab and finally landed in an Atlanta program, with a life cycle of jail, rehab, jail. Finally, he got in trouble in Cobb County and was sent to the innovative Veteran's Treatment Court. He got in trouble again and was sent to prison for a year, but that stint changed his life.



*...continued on back*

*inside*



**Find out how 245,000 sack lunches were**  
*miraculously provided to children*

# MUST

## Summer Lunch

### crisis averted

### thanks to

## community support

“The outpouring of love and concern for our youngest at-risk clients has been overwhelming,” according to MUST President and CEO Rev. Dr. Ike Reighard. “The crisis we faced when the health department told us we could no longer accept homemade sandwiches created a difficult situation, but we have been blessed with community support.”

According to MUST leadership, the demand to purchase sandwiches forced a radical change in the Summer Lunch model and became a very expensive venture. “We quickly realized the cost

of purchasing sandwiches alone could be about \$225,000, but what we didn’t anticipate was a sharp decline in the rest of the sack lunch content.

“When volunteers stopped making sandwiches, most stopped creating the lunches entirely and that left us with purchasing juice boxes, fruit cups, pretzels, granola bars and other items to complete the meal,” he explained. “That deficit about doubled our cost to \$2 a meal. Suddenly, we were faced with a huge obstacle in addition to renting refrigerated storage, getting truck drivers, paying for fuel and so on.”

Despite the challenges, MUST was blessed with enough support to provide 445,266 lunches to hungry children. “The community really took up the battle cry of ‘SOS’ – Save Our Sandwiches – and provided everything needed to continue to serve our youngest casualties of poverty,” he said.

In MUST’s service area alone, 475,000 are food insecure. “Our goal is to feed more and help more,” Reighard said, “and we’re committed to finding a way to make that happen. Summer Lunch was in a critical situation this year, but our supporters helped make it possible despite the last-minute setback.

**“We know God’s heart for those in poverty and we are deeply grateful He guided so many to help with this program,” Reighard concluded.**





*“One day, a volunteer driver arrived to deliver the lunches with her three children. Delivering lunches can be intimidating, particularly the first time with three energetic kids. We decided to tag team the delivery and all climbed into the big MUST van. Minutes into the ride I began to see how important it is that a family serves together. The mother taught me what it looks like to instill in your kids a servant heart through her example. At the end, the kids couldn’t stop talking about how much fun it was. After the good byes and the day was over, that family brought me Chick-fil-A and we shared a meal. I will never forget witnessing the incredible parenting and generosity of that family.”*

**Breier Sanders,**  
Community Outreach Coordinator/MUST

*“Two weeks into Summer Lunch, I received an email from a mother of six children in need of MUST’s services. I immediately contacted the lead volunteer at our closest host site and asked if we could add them to one of our routes. The next day we were serving them lunches. About a week later, I had the privilege of helping on their route. As we pulled up to their house, she and her children were so excited to see us. She looked at my name tag and exclaimed, “Oh my goodness! You’re the one who helped me! Thank you so much for helping to feed my kids!” We both started to shed tears and quickly embraced. This was just one of the many experiences that emotionally moved me and reinforced how grateful I am to be serving our community.”*

**Kristen Miller,**  
Community Outreach Coordinator/MUST



### **Continue helping our Summer Lunch Children**

Many of our Summer Lunch children also rely on our school food pantries to provide nutritious food during the year.

#### **Pantry items needed most:**

**Mixed vegetables**  
**Peas**  
**Jelly**

**Cereal**  
**Canned chicken**  
**Chili**

**Beef stew**  
**Laundry detergent**  
**Shampoo**

Please donate food to our youngest clients by delivering items to our Donation Center sponsored by Northside Hospital: 1280 Field Parkway, Marietta.

# MUST<sup>TM</sup> Ministries

1407 Cobb Parkway North  
P.O. Box 1717  
Marietta, GA 30061  
770-427-9862

For more information,  
volunteer application  
and a lists of needs:

[www.mustministries.org](http://www.mustministries.org)

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## A NAVY MANS BATTLE ...continued

"When I got out and returned to the court, my desperation had lifted. I wanted to go back to school and get a job," he explained. One of the mentors at the court is Ret. Col. Jan Apo, Director of Permanent Supportive Housing at MUST who helped Josh find resources. "MUST put a roof over my head. I was living in my car and was able to stay at the MUST shelter," Josh said. "Then I got an apartment with MUST's Veteran's Housing Program. I've been clean two years."

"I am extremely grateful for everything MUST has done for me - the mentorship, the leadership and walking me through basic skills in life that I didn't realize I didn't know," he said. "The support from MUST and the individuals I have gotten to know has just been tremendous and I wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for MUST."

"I had no goal to be an addict," he said thoughtfully. "I had plans and dreams." With help from MUST, he is on a good course to teach physics and coach soccer. One day soon, he'll get there.

The poster is purple with white and yellow text. At the top, 'GOBBLE JOG' is written in a large, distressed, white font. Below it, 'PRESENTED BY MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL' and 'BENEFITING MUST Ministries' are written in smaller white text. In the center is a cartoon turkey wearing a white turban with '2019' on it. Below the turkey, 'THANKSGIVING DAY' is written in a large, distressed, white font. At the bottom, 'Marietta Square' is written in a cursive white font, followed by 'NOV. 28, 2019' in a bold white font. Below that, the race details are listed: '10K Run (timed) • 1K Fun Run/Walk' and '5K Run (timed) • 5K Run/Walk (untimed) • Tot Trot'. At the very bottom, there are logos for 'Benefiting MUST Ministries', 'Hotline 678.218.4513 GOBBLEJOG.ORG', and 'Presenting Sponsors WELLSTAR. Superior PLUMBING'.

**GOBBLE JOG**  
PRESENTED BY MARIETTA DAILY JOURNAL  
BENEFITING MUST Ministries  
**THANKSGIVING DAY**  
*Marietta Square*  
**NOV. 28, 2019**  
10K Run (timed) • 1K Fun Run/Walk  
5K Run (timed) • 5K Run/Walk (untimed) • Tot Trot  
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Presenting Sponsors WELLSTAR. Superior PLUMBING

**MUST Ministries** is a nonprofit, faith-based organization helping people in your community break the cycle of poverty. MUST provides basic needs such as groceries, hot meals, housing, emergency shelter, workforce development, toy shops, children's summer lunches and clothing. All services are free and provided without regard to income, race or religious beliefs.