

# HUNGER matters

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A NEWSLETTER OF THE FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

FALL 2019

## RESTORING HOPE AFTER A CHILDHOOD WITH HUNGER

Pastor Faye Coates has served as the Executive Director of Restoring Hope Center in Laurinburg, North Carolina for 17 years. A long-time partner of the Food Bank, Restoring Hope strives to bring hope to those who are struggling by providing necessities including food and other essentials. In addition to their food pantry, they operate 16 Kids Summer Meals sites, including four mobile sites. But they also aim to improve the lives of all they serve through computer classes, referrals for GED courses, and financial literacy training. They also run several programs that directly benefit qualifying seniors and others in their community, including the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program, Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program, and the Commodities Supplemental Food Program.

And if anyone knows about struggles, it's Faye.

"I grew up in a single-parent home just two streets over from Restoring Hope Center," she said. "My precious mother worked faithfully at a job that, despite her best efforts, could not provide all we needed. Many nights I cried myself to sleep because I was hungry."

Through it all, Faye promised herself that one day her situation would be different.

After finishing high school and Bible college, Faye worked in the ministry and then moved into managing grocery stores for a large chain. So not only did her childhood facing hunger and poverty inform her experience, but her previous professions taught her many skills, allowing her to take on her role at Restoring Hope.

September is Hunger Action Month, and the Food Bank is asking our donors, volunteers, and partner agencies to "Share Your Why." Why is hunger relief important to you? Why do you support the Food Bank? Sharing your why encourages others to join in the fight against hunger in our community. For more information about Hunger Action Month, including our "30 Ways in 30 Days" calendar, which provides 30 simple ways to act and support the Food Bank, in the month of September, visit [foodbankcenc.org/HAM](http://foodbankcenc.org/HAM). You can also read about donors Kat and Bert's "why" on page 3.

As for Faye, she has many reasons to continue her great work. Her childhood struggles are clear in her memory and it brings her joy to help others. There are also still too many in her community, who like young Faye, just want their lives to be different and need a little hope to help them get there.

Pastor Faye Coates with the Food Bank's Earline Middleton.

“

*My precious mother worked faithfully at a job that, despite her best efforts, could not provide all we needed. Many nights I cried myself to sleep because I was hungry.*

— Pastor Faye Coates, Restoring Hope Center

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

During this Hunger Action Month, we're asking you to "Share Your Why"— why it is important to you personally to support the Food Bank and hunger relief. Before starting at the Food Bank more than 20 years ago, I made a conscious effort to seek out a career where I could give back to the community. Fortunately, I was hired at the Food Bank and with each passing year it has been more clear that we not only need to nourish our friends and neighbors, we need to help build solutions to food security.

We recently received updated data from Feeding America about what hunger looks like in our 34-county service area and the number of adults facing hunger has gone down since last year. This means our combined efforts to fight hunger are working.

While the overall number of people who are food insecure has gone down, we also learned from this most recent report that two very important populations have not seen much change in the right direction: our children and the senior citizens in our community.

But with just under 600,000 living with food insecurity, we cannot let up. We must keep getting food to people in need while building solutions that end hunger permanently. I hope you will "Share Your Why" with us and while doing so, renew your commitment to our mission of No One Goes Hungry.

Thank you for all you do,



Peter Werbicki  
President & CEO  
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina



## GIVING THANKS

We are grateful for the support we receive from public and private organizations – from small businesses to large, private foundations. Every dollar donated to the Food Bank is an investment in our mission and crucial to our success in bringing more food to more people. We would like to thank the following major organizational donors for partnering with the Food Bank during our 2018-19 fiscal year.

1 In 6 Snacks Inc.  
Allscripts  
Ann C. & C. Hamilton Sloan Foundation  
Asha and Sajjan Agarwal Foundation  
Asher Agency  
Bailey Foundation  
Bank of America Charitable Foundation  
BASF  
Bayer USA Foundation  
Birdseye Renewable Energy, LLC  
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Burt's Bees Greater Good Foundation  
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Cape Fear Memorial Foundation  
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Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation  
David Tepper Charitable Foundation  
Delta Air Lines, Inc  
Deutsche Bank Americas Foundation  
Dude Solutions, Inc.  
Eddie & Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation

# DONORS KAT AND BERT SHARE THEIR WHY

*Food Bank Donors Kat and Bert tell us in their own words why they support the Food Bank.*

A little over a year ago we returned from a two-year RV travel adventure across the United States. We decided that while we were traveling, we would try to volunteer in every state in which we stayed. We had quite a few interesting experiences: serving snow cones and cotton candy in Nashville at a fundraising walk, hiking trails looking for fallen trees that blocked the paths in a forest in Indiana, and even cheering runners during an uphill climb in a race in Louisville. But, the majority of the opportunities we came across were helping provide food to those in need. It was an eye-opening experience that there are so many people in the U.S. in need of food and meals. We worked in places big and small, from helping individual people shop, to packing boxes in very large food banks, sorting donations, and whatever else was needed.

When we decided to come back home to Raleigh, we knew we did not want that part of our lives to end. We wanted to be part of our community and to help those who are in need. Providing food was such a common theme to our volunteering that we eagerly searched for those opportunities. The Food Bank was just what we were looking for. We met with staff members to discuss opportunities and their enthusiasm was contagious. We'd helped the Food Bank in the past before our travels, but not in a hands-on way. Now we are regularly able to help on Tuesdays in the warehouse with partner agency pickup by restocking supplies, sorting, and keeping things organized. We also help once a month in Halifax County distributing boxes to seniors as part of the CSFP program, a monthly program that supports senior citizens with nutritious food. Being able to hand out those boxes and talk with those who receive them is very rewarding.

It's nice to be able to feel like we make a difference in our community, and to know that those in need of food are getting assistance. We are grateful we have the opportunity.



# HOW YOU CAN HELP



## DONATE MONEY & ASSETS

**\$1 = \$10 worth of food or 5 meals**

- Individual Giving
- Event Sponsorships
- Corporate Giving
- Planned Giving
- Stock

For more information, visit [foodbankcenc.org/donate\\_money](http://foodbankcenc.org/donate_money)



## DONATE FOOD

**One meal equals a little over one pound of food (19 ounces)**

- Individual Food Drives
- Company Food Drives
- Virtual Food Drives
- School Food Drives
- Community Food Drives

For more information, visit [foodbankcenc.org/donate\\_food](http://foodbankcenc.org/donate_food)



## DONATE TIME: VOLUNTEER

**Total number of volunteer hours donated last year is equivalent to 111 full-time employees.**

- 1 volunteer hour = 130 meals

For more information, visit [foodbankcenc.org/volunteer](http://foodbankcenc.org/volunteer)

Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation  
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Walmart Foundation  
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Walt Disney Company  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust  
Woodforest National Bank  
Yardi Systems

# EVENT RECAPS

## Chef's Feast at Tryon Palace provides more than 360,000 meals.

Chef's Feast at Tryon Palace featured the signature dishes of celebrated regional chefs. The event featured special guest Chef Vivian Howard, PBS star of a "A Chef's Life" and owner of Kinston's Chef & the Farmer restaurant. Attendees enjoyed great food, live music, and an auction with awesome gifts. The amazing food was provided courtesy of chefs from the Starlight Café, the Flame, Persimmons Waterfront Restaurant, the Hackney, Ford + Shep, and Benny's Big Time Pizzeria. Many thanks to our partners who made the evening possible!



## Bytes 4 Bites was a great success.

The Inaugural Bytes 4 Bites food and fund drive took place in the month of May and was a great success! Over the month, technology companies in our service area engaged in a friendly competition to see who could raise the most meals for the Food Bank. Teams collected nonperishable food items and raised funds through our Virtual Food Drive platform. Two of the teams even had a week-long peanut butter competition! Amber Road, Inc. took top honors, raising over 626 meals per employee. Together, participants raised 59,710 meals for our neighbors in need. We are already looking forward to next year's competition. If you would like more information about Bytes 4 Bites or food and fund drives in general, please contact our Food and Fund Drive Officer, Liz Moss, at [emoss@foodbankcenc.org](mailto:emoss@foodbankcenc.org) or visit [foodbankcenc.org](http://foodbankcenc.org).



## Thank you for feeding kids and families during the summer.

Stop Summer Hunger kicked off in June and once again provided millions of meals to children and their families who typically miss out on free or reduced-cost meals during summer vacation. For these families, summer tends to be the hungriest time of the year while donations to food banks tend to slow down across the country. Thank you for being there for kids and their families by removing one worry from their summer break.



# UPCOMING EVENTS

## Smoke in the Pitt: BBQ, Beer, & Bubbles | October 10

Smoke in the Pitt: BBQ, Beer, & Bubbles will be held at East Carolina University, Murphy Center, Harvey Hall in Greenville. The event will showcase an array of regional signature barbecue, beers, and wines. Attendees will enjoy great food, beverages, and live music. You can reach out to George Young ([gyoung@foodbankcenc.org](mailto:gyoung@foodbankcenc.org)) for sponsorship opportunities and additional information.



## Chef's Feast Sandhills | November 5

This year's Chef's Feast Sandhills will be a delicious food and wine tasting event, featuring chefs from the Pine Needles Resort, as well as local restaurants presenting their signature dishes and an array of desserts. You can reach out to Michael Cotten ([mcotten@foodbankcenc.org](mailto:mcotten@foodbankcenc.org)) for sponsorship opportunities and additional information.



## Chef's Feast at Wrightsville Manor | November 12

This annual food tasting event, with a seated main and final course, is a Food Bank collaboration with some of Wilmington's most renowned chefs and special guest Chef Vivian Howard, showcasing their uniquely crafted entrees. Beyond food, guests are able to participate in a live auction, listen to live music, and enjoy the beautiful grounds of Wrightsville Manor. For sponsorship opportunities and more information, please reach out to Beth Gaglione ([bgaglione@foodbankcenc.org](mailto:bgaglione@foodbankcenc.org)).

