

hungermatters

FALL 2020

More People in Central & Eastern North Carolina Facing Hunger for the First Time

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt throughout our service area, in communities large and small. According to Feeding America, estimates of the impact of COVID-19 are projecting increased food insecurity in line with the Great Recession. People have lost jobs and healthcare, children have been home for months – in many cases without access to school meals. Families who couldn't afford to miss one paycheck or even one shift at work are being forced to make impossible choices between paying for rent or putting food on the table.

Prior to COVID-19, our data from Feeding America showed approximately 545,000 people in our 34-county service area were facing hunger, 180,000 of those being children. The projected number of food-insecure people in our 34 counties is now more than 756,000 neighbors, with 253,000 being children. That's approximately a 38% increase.

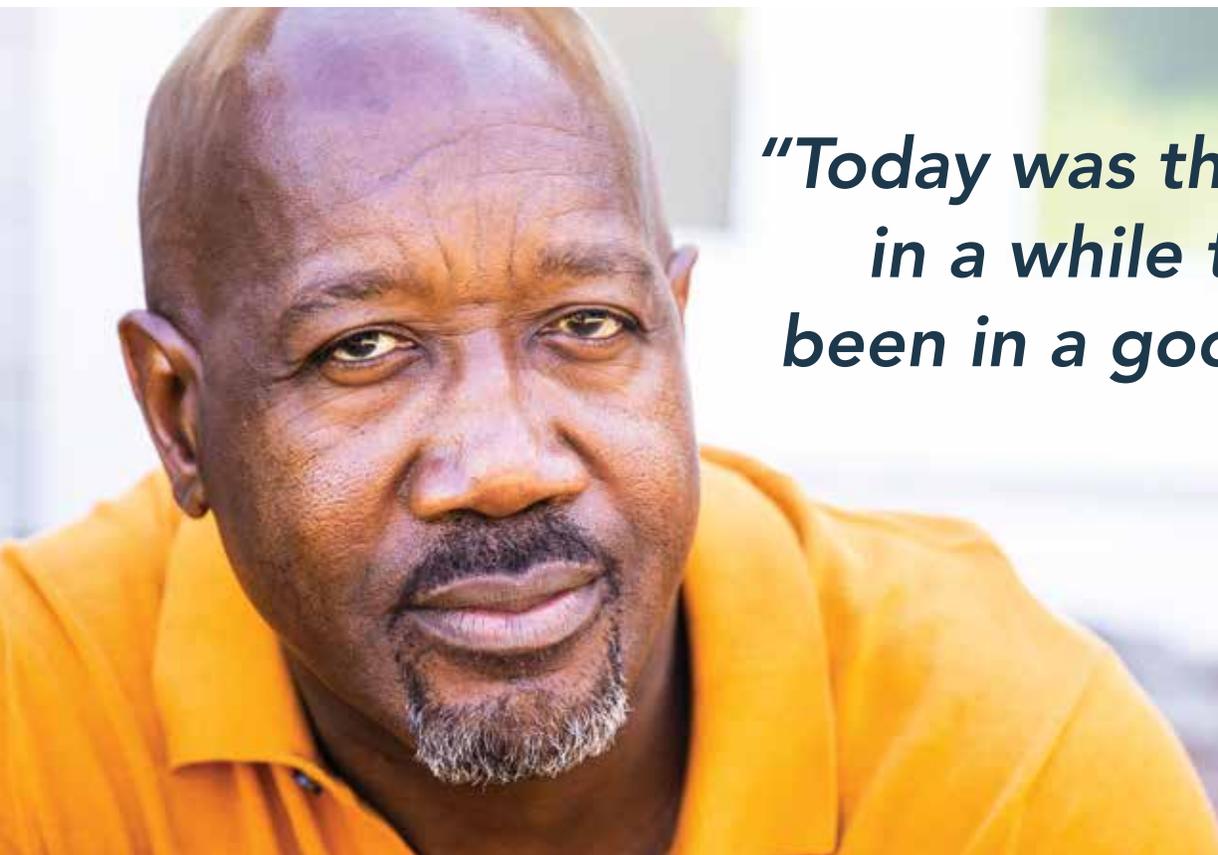
The Food Bank and our partner agencies have been there for our friends and neighbors during this pandemic, drawing on some of the things we learned from our response to the Great Recession. Former Food Bank Chairperson of the Board Al Ragland sees "a strong need, as there was during the

recession, due to job loss, strain on the economy, and people feeling a lack of control in their life situation."

Although it's easy to get lost in the figures, each number represents a real neighbor going through a hard time. This includes Walter, who at 65 was retired, but maintained a side business for extra income. The single parent of a 17-year-old had never been out of work in his life until now. He'd also never had to seek out emergency food. Wilmington staff referred him to nearby Food Bank partner First Fruit Ministries, where he was pleasantly surprised by the selection of meat and fresh produce along with shelf-stable goods. He was also grateful for the kind people saying, "Today was the first day in a while that I have been in a good mood."

It is because of your overwhelming support that the Food Bank and our partners can help people like Walter and his son. Our community will likely be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic long into the future and the Food Bank will be there for the long haul, so our friends like Walter can have more good days than bad.

Thank you for your incredible generosity – it not only allows us to keep doing this work, but it is a huge boost to our spirits in this trying time.



***"Today was the first day
in a while that I have
been in a good mood."***

food 
bank
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From the CEO & President

Dear Friends,

Forty years ago, the Food Bank's founders were preparing to open the doors of a small facility that would have just one employee. Our first Executive Director Barbara Oates had little more than a telephone and a file of contacts to start. It took the organization two years to reach a distribution milestone of one million pounds. Even as the first food bank in the state, I doubt our founders could have predicted how food insecurity would increase and the challenges we would meet along the way.

The Food Bank has been able to nourish more people over the years. We opened branches in five additional communities to easily distribute more food throughout our 34-county service area. Programs like the Weekend Power Pack, Kids Summer Meals, and Kids Cafe were initiated to address child hunger, while the Commodity Supplemental Food Program nourishes seniors. We moved into larger facilities that would allow us to distribute more food, especially fresh items like produce, meat, eggs, and milk.

We moved toward building solutions to end hunger with our Community Health & Engagement department. This includes nutrition education, cooking classes, partnerships with healthcare institutions, and benefits outreach. We have also responded to weather disasters such as hurricanes Floyd, Matthew, and Florence and continued this outreach as relief efforts transitioned into recovery and resiliency work.

There have been many more milestones throughout the years, and I invite you to learn more about how the Food Bank has made an impact over 40 years at foodbankcenc.org/40. We will also debut a podcast in the Fall that will tell the story of the Food Bank's past, present, and future.

There are still great challenges ahead, as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic may bring levels of food insecurity in line with the Great Recession. In the last year, the Food Bank has distributed more than 91 million pounds of food — a pace unimaginable in our early years.

We are so thankful that you have trusted us and invested in the work we do, whether you've been supporting us from the beginning, or perhaps just joined us. And with your continued support, we will be able to realize the vision of no one going hungry.

Thank you for making our work possible,

Peter Werbicki, President & CEO



From the Mouth of Octavio Soares, Board Chair

I always believed that food is a way to share love. My father experienced hunger when he was a child, after my grandfather passed away. Because of that, I have been committed to helping others going through the same struggle.

I began serving the Food Bank during the "So All May Eat" campaign, which funded the Hunger Solution Center in Raleigh and broadened our work towards ultimately ending hunger in our community. I became a member of the Food Bank board in 2017 and have served as chair of the Operations and Human Resources committees. I now have the honor of being the Board Chair.

From the beginning, I have been impressed by this amazing organization and its people. It is not enough for them to do the everyday work to help those living with food insecurity. They also focus on building solutions to shorten the line or reduce

Introducing the Barbara K. Oates Society

This society recognizes the commitment made by our founder and first Executive Director, Barbara K. Oates, to feed her hungry neighbors. What started out as a card table and a phone in Cary in 1980 has turned into six branches, 34 counties, and millions of pounds of food onto the tables of neighbors in need.

Barbara's commitment and entrepreneurial spirit lives within our work. This society recognizes people like Barbara, who are committed to advancing the work of hunger-relief through planned gifts (of wills, estate, and other types of deferred giving.)

The Food Bank considers commitments made through estate giving to be of the highest honor for the work we do and the people we serve. Gifts made through planned giving will go to our endowment fund to ensure the Food Bank is in this community until no one goes hungry. If you wish to be stewarded for your commitment through the Barbara K. Oates Society, please contact Danielle Overcash, Senior Manager of Annual Fund & Analytics at dovercash@foodbankcenc.org or 919-865-3047.



The
*Barbara
K. Oates*
Society

food insecurity more permanently. They have persevered through hurricanes and now through a pandemic without skipping a beat. Their resilience inspires me. But they could not do this work without your support. Because of you, I am confident that we will succeed in our mission: Nourish people. Build solutions. Empower communities.

Thank you all for your hard work and dedication, and let us work together, so #NoOneGoesHungry!

Octavio Soares, Board Chair



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/give



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/fooddrive



DONATE TIME: VOLUNTEER

Total number of
volunteer hours
donated last year is
equivalent to 120
full-time employees.

- 1 volunteer hour = 130 meals

For more information, visit
foodbankcenc.org/volunteer

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 2019-20 fiscal year.

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