

COVID-19 | One Year Later

We are more resilient together, because of you.



79%

Increase in food distribution

18,803,777 lbs

of Coronavirus Food Assistance Program food distributed
equivalent to 15,669,814 meals



4,629

National Guard Volunteer Hours

2x

funds spent on additional trucking needs



foodbank

OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

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From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

It's difficult for me to find the proper words to thank all of you who have so heartily supported our work in this last year.

The pandemic hit suddenly last March and many of those we serve were already having trouble making ends meet. Thousands more sought help for the first time.

Prior to March 2020, we know our strategies for nourishing people, building solutions, and empowering communities were working to break the cycle of hunger. Now the need is even more staggering with more than 760,000 people facing hunger — a 38% increase over last year.

We've had an unprecedented increase in distribution and you made it possible for us to put the necessary pieces in place to support these operations. Because of you, we were able to make substantial purchases of food that has become even more essential for thousands in our area. Because of you, we brought in more hands to help in our facilities and put more trucks on the road. And because of you, we established safety practices and procedures for our staff and our network of 900 partner agencies.

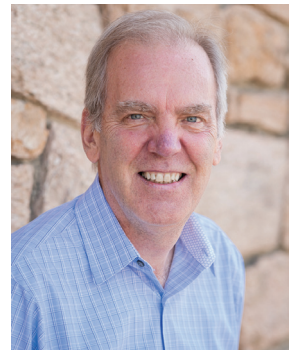
Perhaps it's best put in perspective with the simple words of just one of the many people we've connected with help, "You saved my life!"

Worry over how to put food on the table is at an all-time high for so many, and your generosity has sustained them. You understand, as we do, that even when the pandemic is over, it will take some time for many of our friends and neighbors to recover.

Thank you for being a continued source of strength and resiliency.



Peter Werbicki, President & CEO



"Without the Food Bank in this crisis, we would have no way to feed the number of clients we are serving and certainly not be able to provide the fresh fruit and vegetables we provide. Our partnership with the Food Bank is the only reason we are the success we are right now."

—Roxann Lansdowne
Mother Hubbard's
Cupboard (our Partner
Agency)



photo by Tom Simon

Empowering Communities

The LatinX population in North Carolina is growing and has also been disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Over the last few years, the Food Bank has taken action to educate ourselves and step up our partnerships with organizations that work to empower these communities.

One such partnership is with AMEXCAN (Association of Mexicans in North Carolina) based in Greenville. This has allowed the organization to provide more food and essential supplies in the eastern part of our state. The Food Bank was also able to help AMEXCAN fund a van that will help them distribute even more nutritious food. We were honored to receive a Community Partnership Award from AMEXCAN during a virtual ceremony in December.

We continue to learn and implement ways to make the Food Bank more accessible. During the pandemic, we were able to make our Food Finder available in Spanish and our website now has a translation feature for desktop and mobile.

Meeting People Where They Are

Shortly after Hurricane Florence devastated much of the Food Bank's service area, we realized a specific need in Jones County. The damage was particularly bad in the Trenton area and made it impossible for our partner agencies there to reopen after the storm. For the first time in the Food Bank's nearly 40-year history, we began operating our own pantry in Trenton. We were anticipating a long recovery period for the residents of this area and wanted to be sure food would not be a concern. At the time, our President & CEO Peter Werbicki said, "One of the ways we can best serve people recovering from these storms is to meet them where they are – and in this case, it's here in Jones County."

Unfortunately, less than two years after Florence, the COVID-19 pandemic began to impact the world. As a new crisis arrived, far too many people in Jones County were still waiting for home repairs and funds to replace their belongings. To help build resilience in the region, the Food Bank transitioned the Trenton Pantry to a new permanent space. Thankfully this allows us to distribute more food and do it safely as a drive-through distribution each week, with the help of the Salvation Army of Onslow and Jones Counties. The new location is now providing nutritious food to an average of 300-350 families per week, for the long haul.



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

Sustaining Those Who Sustain Us

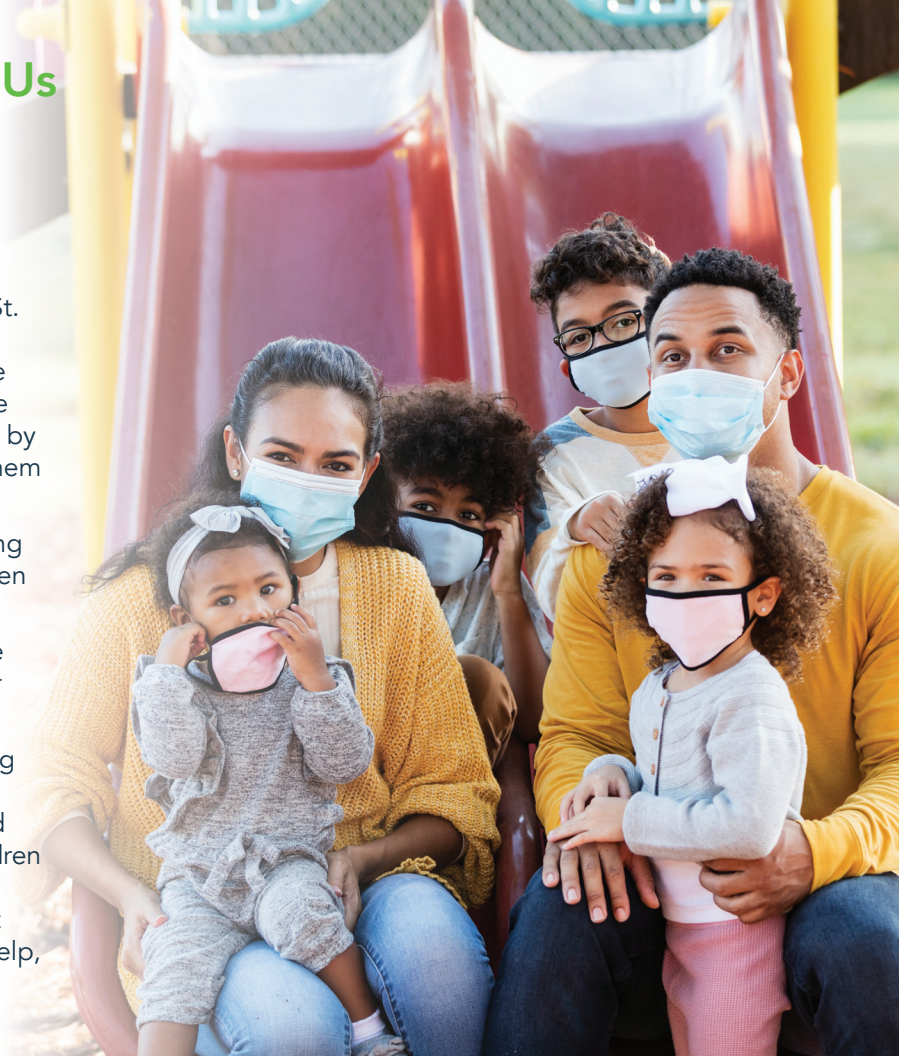
COVID-19 continues to impact so many aspects of life for people in our service area. There are of course health implications, and many are now helping to educate their children at home, and even more have lost jobs or had hours cut.

Renee and her family recently visited Food Bank partner St. Joseph's food pantry in Pender County. Her entire family, including her one-year-old child, were recovering from the virus. Renee's husband is a farm worker and does not have paid sick leave. The family was exhausted and devastated by the loss of income, but grateful to receive food, to help them regain their strength as they recover.

And St. Joseph's is not the only Food Bank partner meeting people in this situation. On average, our partners have seen a 40% increase in the number of people they are serving.

"This family is not unique," said Kathy Sabella, lead of the pantry at St. Joseph's. "It represents a whole sector of our population who work to sustain the rest of us."

One year into this pandemic, the Food Bank is still working hard to support our partner agencies with more food and safety items. We continue to deliver boxes to homebound seniors, provide additional assistance to families and children who might be missing school meals, and fill other gaps as needed. Together, we are working toward a more resilient future. You can keep up with our work, and find ways to help, at foodbankcenc.org/COVID19.



Path to Ending Hunger

The Food Bank has a podcast! In 1980, the founders of the Food Bank came together to make sure that people in our part of the state would never go hungry. Today, that commitment is stronger than ever. Hosted by Tisha Powell and Amber Rupinta, ABC11 news anchors, you'll meet our leaders, our staff, our volunteers, who share the same vision: to help people when they need it, and to work to ensure that they don't. And of course, you'll learn more about how we are responding during the pandemic. Listen on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, or visit foodbankcenc.org/podcast.



In Memoriam

Dr. Rollie Tillman, Jr., former Food Bank Board Chair, passed away December 2, 2020. Rollie had a long and distinguished career at UNC Chapel Hill but always found time to give back to his family and community. Dr. Tillman served as board chair from 2000-2001, during a pivotal time of growth for the Food Bank. The Food Bank is so thankful for Dr. Tillman's leadership and dedication to the vision of no one going hungry. He will be greatly missed.



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