



## Make A Difference During Hunger Action Month

**Right now, more than 607,000 people across Central and Eastern North Carolina face food insecurity.** Between the rising cost of living and cuts to many federal programs, too many families are making impossible choices — between food and utilities, gas and medicine, rent and childcare.

As a result, the demand for food assistance in our region has reached its highest point in nearly 20 years. Many local pantries and meal sites are seeing more people today than we did at the peak of the pandemic. And with the latest round of deep cuts to SNAP grocery assistance and school meals, even more people will turn to the Food Bank network.

Our communities are facing near-unprecedented challenges. But with your support throughout Hunger Action Month and beyond, we can meet this moment head-on. Your donation helps us purchase more food from local farms. Your time as a volunteer keeps that food moving through more than 700 community organizations and on to families' tables. And your advocacy will help secure the kind of policies and investments we need to end hunger for good in our communities.

It's going to take all of us to turn the tide — and Hunger Action Month is a perfect time to make a difference.

Visit [HungerActionNC.org](https://HungerActionNC.org) to get involved.



# The first place many families will turn

**Hunger is rising in North Carolina.** We run into people every day — at the grocery store, doctor’s office, or out pumping gas — who don’t have the resources to consistently keep food on the table. **One in seven people. One in five children.**

It’s the worst crisis we’ve seen since the Great Recession, when so many of us lost our jobs, our homes, our retirement savings. And just like then, **this moment demands that we take action for our communities and for each other.**

Instead, politicians in Washington are taking major steps back from longtime commitments to critical hunger relief programs. Federal funding cuts and program terminations point to even steeper cutbacks at the state level. Across North Carolina, our Food Bank network stands to lose tens of millions of dollars in funding for food purchases — combined with ongoing disruption to USDA food supplies. It’s a perfect storm that will make our existing crisis even worse.

As the cost of groceries, housing, and healthcare continue to climb, **we will be here.** Our Food Bank network will be the first place many families turn when ends no longer meet. And no matter what happens in Washington or at the General Assembly, we will keep doing everything we can to get healthy, locally grown food to people and families who need it most **because we know neighbors are counting on us.**

That’s where you and I come in. Community-led solutions are the way forward. More kids, seniors, and working adults face food insecurity today than any point in recent memory — and Hunger Action Month is our chance to turn the tide. **We must show up as volunteers, sustaining donors, and advocates for policy change.**

**It’s also an opportunity to bring others with us:**

- Bring a friend to your next volunteer shift.
- Launch a virtual food drive in your neighborhood.
- Forward this newsletter or a social post to your network.
- Make a gift in honor of someone who inspires you.

These are challenging times, but every action matters. And there’s no challenge this community can’t meet when we stand together.

Thanks for standing with us and with our communities,

Amy B.

**AMY BEROS**  
*President & CEO*



# Volunteers are the Core of Our Work

Our locations in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Southern Pines, and Wilmington serve as the central hubs for hundreds of local food assistance sites. **Combined, we source and distribute over 100 million pounds of food to pantries, no-cost markets, and meal sites each year — and much of that work is led by our incredible volunteer corps.**

In the average shift, a single volunteer will sort and pack enough food to fuel more than 160 meals for local families. Multiplied across 170,000 volunteer hours each year, it’s the equivalent of 81 full-time workers! Join the many supporters each year who devote their time and effort to make a difference in our communities.

Visit [foodbankcenc.org/volunteer](https://foodbankcenc.org/volunteer) to sign up!



# The U.S. Farm Bill is Our Best Chance to Turn the Tide on Hunger

Our work wouldn’t be possible without the partnership of local growers and producers who provide enough healthy, culturally familiar, and versatile food to fuel millions of meals each year.

That’s why we’re urging Congress to pass a strong U.S. Farm Bill that supports North Carolina farms, food banks, and families facing hunger. From food purchase funding, to grocery assistance through SNAP and WIC, to agriculture programs that provide food to hunger relief organizations, this legislation is vital to communities struggling with the rising cost of living — especially in rural areas.

We’re proud to join farmers like Mike and Sue Hansen who are making their voices heard. They were set to receive \$60,000 in USDA funding for wildfire prevention and conservation at their Ozark Akerz farm in Coleridge. When the federal government stopped all payments in January, the Hansens were forced to dip into retirement savings to keep the farm afloat. It’s an experience we’ve seen time and again as politicians in Washington terminate vital programs that invest in North Carolina farms and rural jobs.

To Mike, the most important thing people can do to support local farmers is make our voices heard: “Contact your members of Congress and tell them to honor USDA contracts with farmers and nonprofits.” He and Sue also started a t-shirt fundraiser featuring Rocky, their rare Pineywoods bull. Proceeds support our friends at Carolina Farm Stewardship Association.

The Farm Bill is our best chance to turn the tide on rising hunger. If leaders hear from enough people who care about strong farms and support for families, we can pass a bipartisan package that gets national investments back on track. We’ve made it easy to follow Mike’s lead: it takes just two minutes to make your voice heard!

Learn more and take action at [FoodBankCENC.org/Mike](https://FoodBankCENC.org/Mike)



# SUSTAINER SPOTLIGHT

## Kathy Lewis’s Commitment To Fighting Food Insecurity

Kathy Lewis was introduced to the Food Bank several years ago when she accompanied a friend on a tour of our Raleigh warehouse. The inspiration from that visit ultimately led her to seek out ways to make a difference through regular volunteer opportunities.

Today, Kathy is a fixture at the Food Bank — you can catch her most mornings supporting the team at our Capital Drive headquarters. She’s also among our most valued Sustainers — donors who make an indelible impact in our community through regular, monthly support.

**“Not enough people understand how dire the need is in the community in terms of hunger,” Kathy observed in a recent conversation. “It’s an astounding level of need.”**

To Kathy, being a Food Bank Sustainer is an important commitment to an organization she wholeheartedly believes in. For anyone who’s able, she strongly encourages friends and neighbors to get involved in efforts that help local communities.

Want to join Kathy and become a Food Bank Sustainer?  
Visit [FoodBankCENC.org/Monthly](https://FoodBankCENC.org/Monthly).





# Community Rallies to Stop Summer Hunger

As kids head back to school, it's an important time to celebrate the many ways this community's incredible generosity helped Stop Summer Hunger this year. Your support made sure local pantries, no-cost markets, and summer meal sites had the resources to ramp up efforts and fill the gap during the warmer months — when school meals and snacks are out of reach.

In June and July alone, you raised enough funds .to provide more than 10 million meals for local families. Your efforts ensured more than 3,000 kids and teens accessed healthy food and fun activities through our Summer Food Service Program (SFSP). And you made a huge difference for more than 168,000 school-aged children and teens who would otherwise face serious challenges.

**Thank you to ABC11, iHeartRadio, Arby's, BASF, Food Lion Feeds, and the many longtime supporters who helped Stop Summer Hunger in 2025!**



With Your Help We Raised

**10+ Million**

**- Meals -**

**— THANK YOU —**  
For Your Overwhelming Support!



## Honoring Craig Campbell's Legacy

It is with heavy hearts that we remember Craig Campbell, a dedicated member of our Food Bank family for over two decades. "As a vital part of our Raleigh Operations Team, Craig played an essential role in the flow of millions of pounds of food to communities across our region. His tireless commitment ensured that our partner agencies received the resources they needed to serve families facing hunger."

"Craig will be remembered for his dedicated service in the Army and pride as a veteran, his boundless humor and generosity, and his unwavering dedication to the fight to end hunger. He is greatly missed by all of us who had the privilege of working alongside him."