



**Volunteers are critical to the Food Bank's vision of a future where no one goes hungry.** Throughout National Volunteer Month, we're shining the spotlight on our supporters' shared impact!



**With your support, we're able to:**

- Pack 160 meals in each volunteer's shift
- Add capacity equal to 84 full-time staff
- Reach thousands more people each week

Our work would not be possible without the daily contributions of our volunteers. We're so thankful to everyone who chooses to give back to our community with the Food Bank!

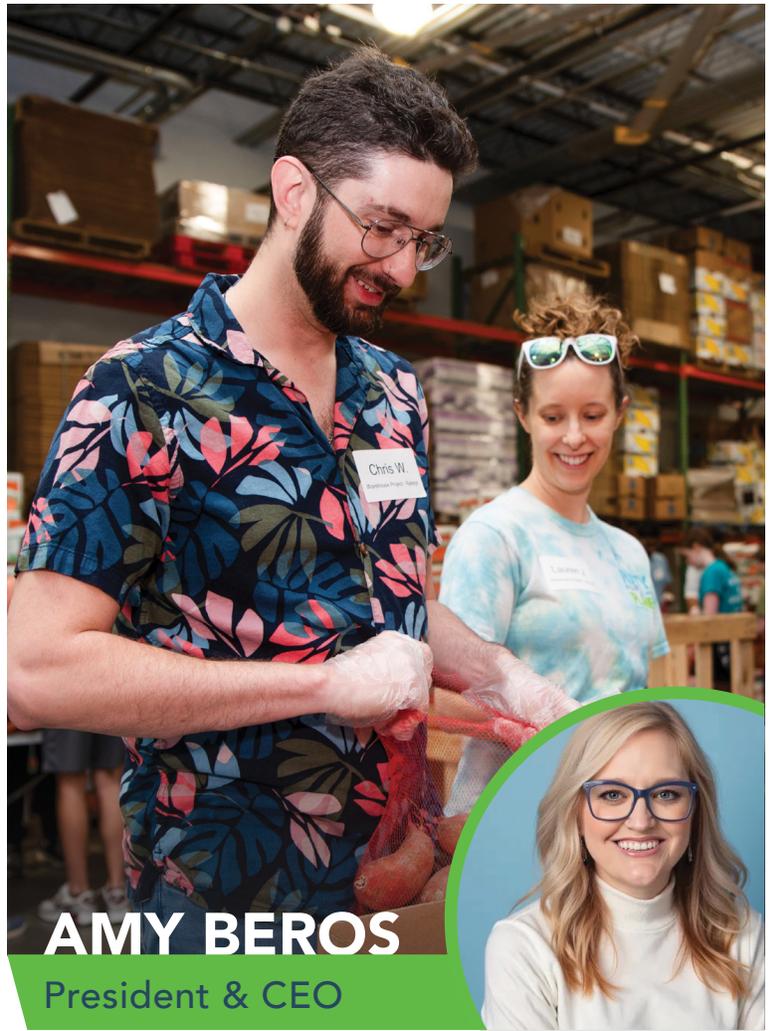
Watch our thank you message and find opportunities at [FoodBankCENC.org/volunteer](https://FoodBankCENC.org/volunteer)

## Growing Our Impact through Volunteers and a New Chapter in Durham

In a time when too many systems are failing families, our volunteers are essential. Their work is critical to creating stability, dignity, and access to food right in our own backyards. **None of our work would be possible without our volunteers**, and I want to express my sincere gratitude during this special month dedicated to celebrating them.

I'm also very excited that our new Durham facility is opening its doors to serve the community. Not only will it significantly increase our volunteer space, but it will also allow us to store and distribute more food — especially fresh food — and provide space for the community to host meetings and trainings. **I hope to see you volunteering there soon!**

*Amy B*



## John Ricciardi: Passing On the Spirit of Service

When John Ricciardi moved to Raleigh seven years ago, he was looking for a way to give back. At a young age, John's parents instilled a love of volunteering that carried throughout his life. His service included volunteering at a community kitchen that served meals to neighbors. So when John came to North Carolina and found the Food Bank, it seemed like a perfect fit. John has been volunteering regularly since then and is often joined by visiting grandkids and other relatives. He takes pride in carrying forward the legacy of giving back that his parents passed on to him. John encourages others seeking camaraderie with like-minded people to sign up for a shift.



**"Everyone who comes to visit us ends up at the Food Bank and they all enjoy it, they know how much it means to me."**

*-John Ricciardi, Food Bank Volunteer*

# Durham Branch on the Move!

We're excited to share some wonderful news with you:  
**our new Durham Branch is almost here!**



With leading support from our friends at Food Lion Feeds, the new Food Bank at Durham is a big step forward for our local network and the communities we serve. **The 64,000-square-foot facility — nearly double the size of our Angier Avenue location — is designed with community at the center.** It will include dedicated space for volunteer sorting and repack efforts, community meetings and trainings, expanded cold storage, and improved access to fresh, locally grown food for partners across Durham and surrounding counties. We can't wait to show you our new facility this spring!

Learn more at [FoodBankCENC.org/durham-move](https://FoodBankCENC.org/durham-move)



## Help Protect SNAP Grocery Support for NC Families

More than 1.4 million people in our state rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) to keep food on the table — including children, seniors, veterans, and workers earning low wages. As the cost of groceries continues to rise, hunger relief organizations are being stretched beyond capacity as we work to serve record numbers of neighbors. Unfortunately, new federal policy changes could make matters worse by undermining access to SNAP benefits for families who need them most.

We need Congress to make simple changes now to protect SNAP grocery support before the disruptions overwhelm local families and pantries. Our elected leaders need to hear from the community — and with a few clicks, you can make a big difference in the SNAP debate in Washington.

Make your voice heard at [FoodBankCENC.org/protect-snap](https://FoodBankCENC.org/protect-snap)

**"After my accident, I didn't know what the next day would bring... Without SNAP and the Food Bank, I wouldn't be able to make it."**

**- Charles, Hillsborough**



# Amplify Your Impact with PORCH Communities

The Food Bank network of pantries, no-cost markets, and delivery programs is a lifeline for families who struggle to keep food on the table. Through our partnership with PORCH, volunteer Neighborhood Coordinators collect non-perishable items from nearby porches and deliver them to local hunger relief organizations. It's a major boost to the supplies we provide directly to our network — and tailored to the specific needs of hunger relief organizations in your community!

**Get involved as a food drive host or volunteer at [FoodBankCENC.org/porch](http://FoodBankCENC.org/porch)**



## You Made Your Voices Heard; Governor Stein Listened

Despite the layered challenges hunger relief organizations have faced in recent months, this supporter community has stepped up in incredible ways to ensure food remains available to all who need it. Hundreds of you spoke out and shared your concerns with elected leaders, urging state legislators, the governor, and our congressional delegation to act.

Our collective advocacy made a major difference – and Governor Josh Stein’s Administration heard us loud and clear. They responded with \$3.3 million in emergency funds to support food purchases across our network. That translates to enough food to fuel nearly 10 million meals through local pantries, meal sites, and delivery programs.

Now it’s up to the General Assembly to take the next step and renew their longstanding commitment to hunger relief. We need State Senators and Representatives to pass a budget that includes ongoing funding for our food bank network to purchase food from local farmers. Join us in urging leaders to invest in North Carolina farms, families and communities!

**Send your message in two minutes or less at [FoodBankCENC.org/state-funding](http://FoodBankCENC.org/state-funding)**

**“As federal action cut off people’s SNAP benefits and strained families’ budgets, I’ve seen North Carolina’s light shining across the state... The Food Bank is standing in the gap to preserve both people’s access to their food and their dignity.”**

**- Governor Josh Stein**

