



Stop Summer Hunger

For many families, summer is a season to look forward to. But for our neighbors facing food insecurity, it can be one of the most difficult times of the year. When school is out, children lose access to the meals and snacks they depend on each day, and families are left trying to fill that gap.

This summer brings added challenges. The Food Bank and our partner network are facing significant federal cuts to hunger relief programs, with the possibility of more on the horizon. At the same time, rising costs for groceries, housing, and other essentials are stretching family budgets to the breaking point.

It's a combination our partners are seeing firsthand across the communities we serve. Demand for food assistance is as high as it's been since the Great Recession – and it may only worsen as costs continue to rise.

But thanks to supporters like you, our network is responding. More than 700 local partners are working every day to make sure families have access to nutritious food.

Together, we're also expanding summer programs to help children continue receiving the meals they need while school is out.

Your support makes it possible to Stop Summer Hunger in our communities.

If you're able, we hope you'll join us to strengthen these efforts and help more families put food on the table this summer.

Actions to Help #StopSummerHunger

Donate to end hunger this summer: All donations will be matched through July 31, so each dollar translates to 6 meals!

Volunteer at a local food distribution center: In the average volunteer shift, a single person will sort and pack enough food to fuel more than 160 meals for local families.

Spread the word about resources in your community: We all have someone in our lives who's been touched by food insecurity. Share info from StopSummerHunger.org with your social networks and neighborhood groups!



Scan QR Code to Learn More

Visit StopSummerHunger.org to find resources or to support the Food Bank this summer!

Help Ensure Kids and Families are Fed this Summer

As I travel across our region and spend time with neighbors, partners, and supporters like you, I hear the same thing again and again: families are being stretched thin. From Wilmington, to Henderson, rising grocery costs, shifting government policies, and ongoing uncertainty are making it harder to put food on the table. We're feeling that here at the Food Bank too.

The summer months only add to that strain. **When school is out, thousands of children lose access to reliable, healthy meals, and families are left to fill the gap during an already difficult time.**

That's why our Stop Summer Hunger campaign is so important. **With your support, we can keep food moving across our network — making sure children and families have the nourishment they need during the long school break.** And right now, your gift goes even further, with donations matched through July 31.

Whether you give, volunteer, or help spread the word, you're a vital part of this work. Together, we can meet this moment and ensure no one goes hungry this summer.

Amy B



AMY BEROS
President & CEO

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard Honored with Dogwood Award

In just three hours, Mother Hubbard's Cupboard can serve over 250 families — so many that their Chair of the Board, Roxann Lansdowne, is known to stop traffic for drive-thru distributions. They've seen more than 76,000 visits over the past year, in a smooth process that is made possible by hundreds of volunteers.



Dogwood Award Presented To
**Roxann Lansdowne by
Attorney General Jeff Jackson**

"I can tell you that nobody goes away hungry," Roxann shared. **"That is the first thing we tell volunteers: nobody goes away hungry."**

It's not just a mantra. Mother Hubbard's serves families in New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender, and Columbus counties, with some from as far as Duplin County. No matter how far neighbors travel, the all-volunteer team never turns anyone away. Even bus drivers on long routes have come back to get food.

Their impact has drawn statewide attention, and the state Department of Justice recently honored Lansdowne and Mother Hubbard with the Dogwood Award for leadership during the 2025 government shutdown. Attorney General Jeff Jackson called the organization **"a lifeline for families throughout the region."**

From emergency food distribution to advocacy for SNAP investments, Mother Hubbard's success is a reflection of what we can accomplish when local communities join together in a common cause!

Learn more and support their work at FoodBankCENC.org/Mother-Hubbard

Black Farmers' Market Connects Families to Fresh, Locally-grown Food

"The Food Bank has been amazing to work with. We had folks come out and they would actually sign people up for SNAP on-site, which was amazing."

- Ja'Nell Henry, Black Farmers Market



At a time of rising food prices, the Black Farmers' Market makes healthy food accessible through their Double Bucks program. Families using SNAP can swipe their EBT card for the amount of money they plan to spend. This number is matched by the Black Farmers' Market through a partnership with Triangle Double Bucks. This summer, the Black Farmers' Market will also match SUN Bucks, which is a grocery benefits program that gives \$120 for each eligible child.

Our partnership with the Black Farmers' Market provides food access to communities who need it the most. **1 in 7 people are food insecure across Durham and Raleigh.** Ja'Nell reflected on the importance of working with the Food Bank to support families facing hunger.

"We worked with the Food Bank to distribute free boxes of food monthly here in Durham and Raleigh. Each month, we were giving out 1,250 boxes of produce for free," Ja'Nell said. **"That kind of partnership helped solidify our brand, our name, within the food ecosystem. Everyone knows who the Food Bank is, so having a partner like that backing us...it was really, really helpful."**

Cuts to federal food purchase funding have forced an indefinite pause on our fresh produce partnership with the Black Farmers' Market. But with your help, we hope to restore programs focused on healthy, locally-grown food. Donate and make your voice heard at FoodBankCENC.org/Local-Food



Partner Spotlight: Turning Point's Chalis Henderson

Since 2008, the Food Bank has partnered with local organizations to serve meals and snacks to school-age children through our Kids Summer Meals program. Meal sites are located at easily-accessible locations including community centers, churches, and summer camps during months when schools are closed — providing nutritious food options along with outdoor recreation and summer reading initiatives.

Turning Point Community Development Corporation is among these incredible partners, helping children in Vance County and beyond build confidence and lasting friendships through fun, hands-on learning. Turning Point's executive director, Chalis Henderson, and her team provide nutritious meals for kids and teens in an area where 1 in 5 people face food insecurity.

"Students come in through our partnership with the Food Bank...and they're able to try new things and enjoy the different food that's offered. Kids have access to that food every single day of the week," Chalis shared during a recent visit. **"We're grateful to provide this service to our young people."**

Read more about Chalis and her team's work at FoodBankCENC.org/Turning-Point



Finding Resources While School's Out

With your support, our team has compiled all the info families need to find support during the summer months, including:

- **Kids Summer Meals:** Free meals and activities for kids and teens at local community centers, campuses, faith-based organizations and summer camps
- **SUN Bucks:** Extra grocery money for families while school is closed. Funds are deposited on easy-to-use debit cards that are accepted at many local retailers. Generally, families who have children eligible for free or reduced-cost school meal programs.
- **FoodBankCENC.org/FoodFinder:** Our network of 700+ pantries, no-cost markets, meal sites also ramp up operations when hunger is at its worst. Use this tool to find a location near you.

Visit StopSummerHunger.org for more information on resources or how to help!

