



The Culinary Fundamentals course taught at our Wilmington production kitchen gives back to the community, providing ready-to-go meals to local pantries and meal sites. The kitchen also prepped over 10,000 meals for our friends in western North Carolina after Hurricane Helene.

Workforce Development Removes Barriers and Builds Confidence

For 45 years, the Food Bank has worked to build a future where no one goes hungry. It's a vision that takes more than charitable food distribution alone — and an increasing portion of our work is focused upstream with programs that prevent hunger from happening.

We launched our Workforce Development initiatives to help remove barriers to economic security — offering accelerated courses of study through partnerships with Central Carolina, Cape Fear, and Craven Community College. In less than two years, more than 150 local community members have completed hands-on courses in Culinary Fundamentals, forklift certification, and Commercial Driver's Licenses (CDL). The impact is deep and profound: with so many graduates finding employment and developing in their careers, nearly two-thirds report feeling financially secure. Food insecurity has dropped by an incredible 70% among program participants.

Working with our Community College partners, we offer tuition scholarships, stipends to help offset the cost of travel and childcare, and connections to food assistance and other social services. These resources offer students the space and confidence needed to complete key courses and pursue family-supporting jobs. It's further proof that when we remove barriers, every student can achieve their goals!

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Many of our students, especially those who are justice involved, have been living in a world where they have been made to feel worthless or less than. We want to circumvent that thinking and help everyone tap into their passions and set participants on a path to achieve their wildest dreams.

- Emily Kraft, Director of Community Outreach & Support Services



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Learn more about how the Food Bank is building solutions to end hunger and empowering communities by visiting: FoodBankCENC.org/Workforce-Development

Celebrating Volunteer Impact

Volunteers are critical to the Food Bank's vision of a future where no one goes hungry — and since April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, we'd like to shine the spotlight on our supporters' shared impact!

A single volunteer will sort and pack enough food in one shift to fuel more than 160 meals for local families. Multiply that impact across a year of volunteer shifts, and it's the equivalent effort of 84 full-time staff! Whether packing food deliveries for local seniors, sorting fresh produce that will go to partner agencies, or helping out at a Pop Up Market, we couldn't do this work without our incredible volunteer corps.

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The fight against food insecurity never takes a day off, and I want to do my part in eliminating this critical need in our society for good. -Hoon Kong, Greenville volunteer.

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We celebrate the contributions of our volunteers every day, but April is a special time to thank all those who make it possible to carry out our critical mission. We're honored that thousands of people choose to invest their time in the fight to end hunger each year!

Watch our thank you message and find opportunities at FoodBankCENC.org/Volunteer



Introducing our new President & CEO

Following a nationwide search process that drew interest from over 200 well-qualified candidates, the Board of Directors and I are excited to announce the appointment of our next President & CEO, Amy Beros.

Amy is a longtime anti-hunger advocate who brings decades of experience in philanthropy, strategic partnerships, and community engagement – most recently as Vice President of Feeding America, where she focused on developing strategic capacity across our national network. She has been based in the Triangle for many years and has deep roots in North Carolina communities through her work with Easter Seals, Inter-Faith Food Shuttle, and here at the Food Bank as the Vice President of Development. Among the great candidates we spoke with, what excited us most about Amy is the knowledge she brings of our team, our operations, our community, and our vision for the future.



Moving forward, you will hear from Amy in this space as we continue to work together closely to nourish people in our community and build solutions to ultimately end hunger.

Anne H. Lloyd, Chair
Food Bank Board of Directors

Thanks for all you do,

Returning Home to the Food Bank

It is a tremendous honor to return home to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. I feel such a strong connection to this organization and the incredible work we do — and I couldn't be more excited to embark on our next chapter with you.

Over these first few months, I am focused on listening and learning about the many ways our network has evolved to meet the changing needs of the communities we serve. I'm meeting with as many supporters, partners and community members as possible, because your voices are essential in shaping how we move forward.

Like so many food banks across the country, we continue to navigate a shifting landscape. Each week brings new challenges and questions, and there are many unknowns when it comes to the future. But what remains constant is our commitment to ensuring everyone has access to nutritious food and honoring our commitments to local farmers, partners, and communities.

I am so appreciative of this compassionate and dedicated supporter community. You've stood with us through every challenge, and I'm confident that, together, we can keep pushing toward lasting solutions.

Sincerely,

Amy Beros,
President and CEO



Communities Advocating to End Hunger for Good

So many of the decisions that directly impact people facing hunger are made at the State Capitol, in the halls of Congress, and even at the ballot box. And we're proud to have the support of leaders across the political spectrum who believe in our vision for a hunger-free future — because it will take all of us working together to achieve it.

That's why thousands of Food Bank supporters are joining together to advocate for the policies and investments we need to meet today's challenges head-on and end hunger for good. And together with our sister food banks and the broader Feeding the Carolinas coalition, we're pushing for important steps toward a hunger-free future, including:

- **Passing a strong U.S. Farm Bill** that supports local farmers and people facing hunger
- **Protecting federal grocery support** for low-income families (sometimes called SNAP, FNS, or "food stamps")
- Securing support for Helene recovery efforts as we prepare for the next storm season
- Ensuring every child in North Carolina has **access to no-cost meals at school**
- **Investing in purchases** from local farmers and manufacturers to fuel our food assistance network

With more than 560,000 kids, adults, and seniors facing food insecurity in our region, it's more important than ever that we ramp up our efforts to prevent hunger from happening. Our non-partisan advocacy efforts are key to moving closer to a future where no one goes hungry — no matter where we live, where we're from, or the color of our skin.

We hope you'll sign up to receive the latest public policy news and opportunities to get involved!

Take action at FoodBankCENC.org/Advocate



Photo by: Food Bank News



I hope you'll get involved like my class did!

We love to see young people get involved in the fight against hunger! When Will's second grade class learned that 1 in 5 kids face hunger in our area, they got the whole school involved — donating and volunteering to support our Durham Branch. Now Will is encouraging everyone to work together and get involved just like his class did.

Hunger has to be stopped very very soon, because the number of people who are hungry keeps increasing.

Visit foodbankcenc.org/Wills-Fund to watch his message and to learn how to help!