



foodbank[®]
OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

Our Impact Together

2025

IMPACT REPORT

Striving for a Hunger-Free Future Amid Challenging Times

As we reflect on the past year, I continue to be inspired by the strength, compassion, and commitment of this community. **At a time when more than 607,000 of our neighbors across central and eastern North Carolina don't know where their next meal might come from — a number that includes 1 in 5 children and teens — this work has never been more important.** And you continue to show up in so many incredible ways.

The challenges our communities face are real. Rising costs, growing need, and expected cuts to programs like SNAP and Medicaid will impact families, local farmers, and communities across our region in profound ways. But even in the face of uncertainty, I remain hopeful. Because every day I see what this network is capable of.

The stories and results shared in this report reflect the very best of who we are: growers and producers, volunteers and staff, donors and advocates, partners and allies, all working together to ensure neighbors have access to the resources they need to thrive. **Together, we have continued to adapt, innovate, and strengthen our work to meet this moment with care and determination.**

As we look ahead, **our 2030 strategic plan will help guide the future of this organization by centering the voices and experiences of neighbors.** We are committed to building solutions with our communities, not simply for them.

No matter what changes may come, our mission remains steadfast. We will continue investing in partnerships, supporting local farmers, advancing community-led solutions, and doing whatever it takes to help ensure every neighbor has access to nutritious food.

Thank you for being part of this work and this movement. **Together, we are building a stronger, more connected, and more hopeful future for our communities.**



Our Shared Impact

Your support means our friends and neighbors don't have to make impossible choices between food and other essentials like housing and medicine.

96 million meals shared with neighbors throughout central and eastern North Carolina

54% of all food distributed was fresh or frozen produce, protein, and dairy products

970,000 meals provided through our Pop-Up Markets

1.2 million meals provided through school year and summer child nutrition programs

3.7 million meals provided through dedicated senior nutrition programs

160,000+ volunteer hours fueled our efforts to end hunger and its root causes

700+ community-based partners including pantries, no-cost food markets, meal sites, and delivery programs

630,000 miles driven picking up and distributing food throughout our service area

\$9.5 million invested in local economies through benefits



Critical Resources Delivered Where They're Needed Most

Home Deliveries Reach More Seniors

Each month, the Food Bank's Senior Nutrition Team serves nearly 9,000 seniors across 34 counties through management of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). With support from the USDA, we provide a monthly package of food designed to supplement the nutritional needs of seniors age 60+. Each box includes a variety of whole grains and pantry staples — supplemented by fresh fruits, vegetables, protein, and dairy products from the Food Bank.

For many seniors, transportation access and health challenges present significant barriers to accessing healthy food. But thanks to local partner agencies and a corps of dedicated volunteers and DoorDash drivers, we delivered more than 19,000 packages directly to seniors' homes this year.



"We're proud to pair our delivery capacity and logistics platform with the Food Bank network's deep understanding of the communities we serve. It's a powerful combination to address food insecurity across the region."

– Daniel Riff, DoorDash



Pop-Up Market Pilots Build Pathways to Local Food Access

Our mobile operations bring fresh produce and pantry staples directly to communities where grocery resources are limited. The markets are open to everyone. There are no residency, income, or ID requirements to participate — and neighbors are free to shop for whatever items they may need. **Over the past year, more than 66,000 people shopped at a Food Bank pop-up — supporting households that included 22,000+ children and 16,000+ seniors in our communities.**

We're committed to building a sustainable future where neighbors can easily connect with local resources — no matter where we live. Pilot distributions like these have laid a strong foundation for local volunteers to build from. And we're excited to transition our investments to community-led efforts that expand access to fresh products!



"You've got the electric, the water, insurance to pay. Sometimes you have to choose...and it's hard. But with this program, there's a lot of help."

– James, Senior Food Box Recipient



Wilmington On-Site Market Celebrates One Year

Launched with the support of local residents who faced challenges accessing food following the loss of the neighborhood's only grocery store, our Market on Greenfield offers a variety of products within walking distance. Now functioning as an in-house choice pantry, neighbors have the opportunity to shop weekly for shelf-stable items, fresh produce, prepared meals, even toiletries. And beyond providing food, the Market partners with local community agencies to offer wrap-around services such as blood pressure monitoring, vision and hearing testing, and nutrition counseling.

The Market celebrated a full year of operation this year — **serving more than 27,000 shoppers along the way with the help of 1,100 amazing volunteers!**



"The market and SNAP help me with nutritious meals...which means I have funds to pay for power and gas. I don't stress nearly as much."

– Denise, Market on Greenfield Shopper

Small Farm Investments Boost Access to Fresh Produce and Dairy



Our work would not be possible without strong relationships with local growers and producers. Fresh produce is often one of the most expensive and least accessible items for families facing food insecurity. **With a focus on sourcing more fruits and vegetables, the Food Bank has dramatically improved the nutritional quality of meals distributed through local pantries and delivery programs.**

Your support not only allows us to distribute a higher volume of fresh and frozen food — more than half of all food we share is fresh or frozen produce, protein, eggs, and dairy products — it also provides farmers with a reliable market for their crops in an increasingly unpredictable environment.

Bill Hering provides more than two million meals each year for local families, growing exclusively for the Food Bank. Across a 300-acre family farm the border of Sampson and Duplin County, his team grows everything from versatile staple crops and herbs to culturally familiar foods like turnips and collard greens. Together, we plot out the coming seasons based on what's needed most in our area.

Further north, Immanuel and Valarie Jarvis are training the next generation of growers and producers at Jireh Family Farm. Each summer, children come to the East Durham farm to learn sustainable ways to grow produce and raise animals. Kids taste the fruit of their labor right on site, including bell peppers cut straight off the vine. Over the years, the Jarvis family has watched children from summer camp start their own gardens and pursue college degrees in agriculture.

Last year, the Food Bank worked with more than 50 small farms and food hubs across North Carolina to source fresh products that are shared with neighbors facing hunger. These local investments mean healthier families, healthier farms, and healthier rural economies. And with your support — and the efforts of Bill, Immanuel, Valarie, and all our partners in agriculture — we'll continue to fuel millions of meals each year for families facing hunger.



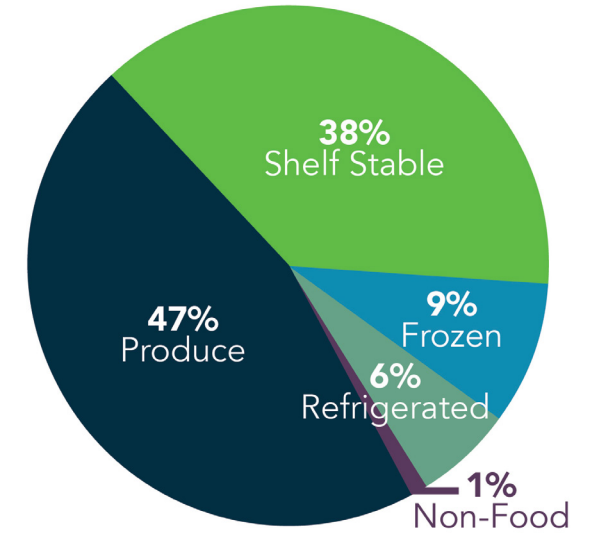
"I'm grateful for the opportunity to be able to work with the Food Bank. It's kept me doing what I enjoy — and the need is there for our food. It's changed my whole perspective on what we have in that field and how it can be utilized. It ain't what you get for it; it's the true value of that food."

— Bill Hering, Hering Farms

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina's

2025 FOOD DISTRIBUTION

by category



"Having enough nutritious food is essential for health and wellness. The Food Bank intentionally obtains and distributes healthy food — and we are proud to invest in their connections to local farmers who provide wholesome, fresh fruits and vegetables."

— The Philip L. Van Every Foundation

Immanuel and Valarie Jarvis, Jireh Family Farm

Better Tools, Greater Choice, Deeper Impact

Food banking has always been about more than moving food from one place to another. At our best, the work is about trust, partnership, and a shared belief that every neighbor deserves access to food that reflects their needs and honors their dignity.

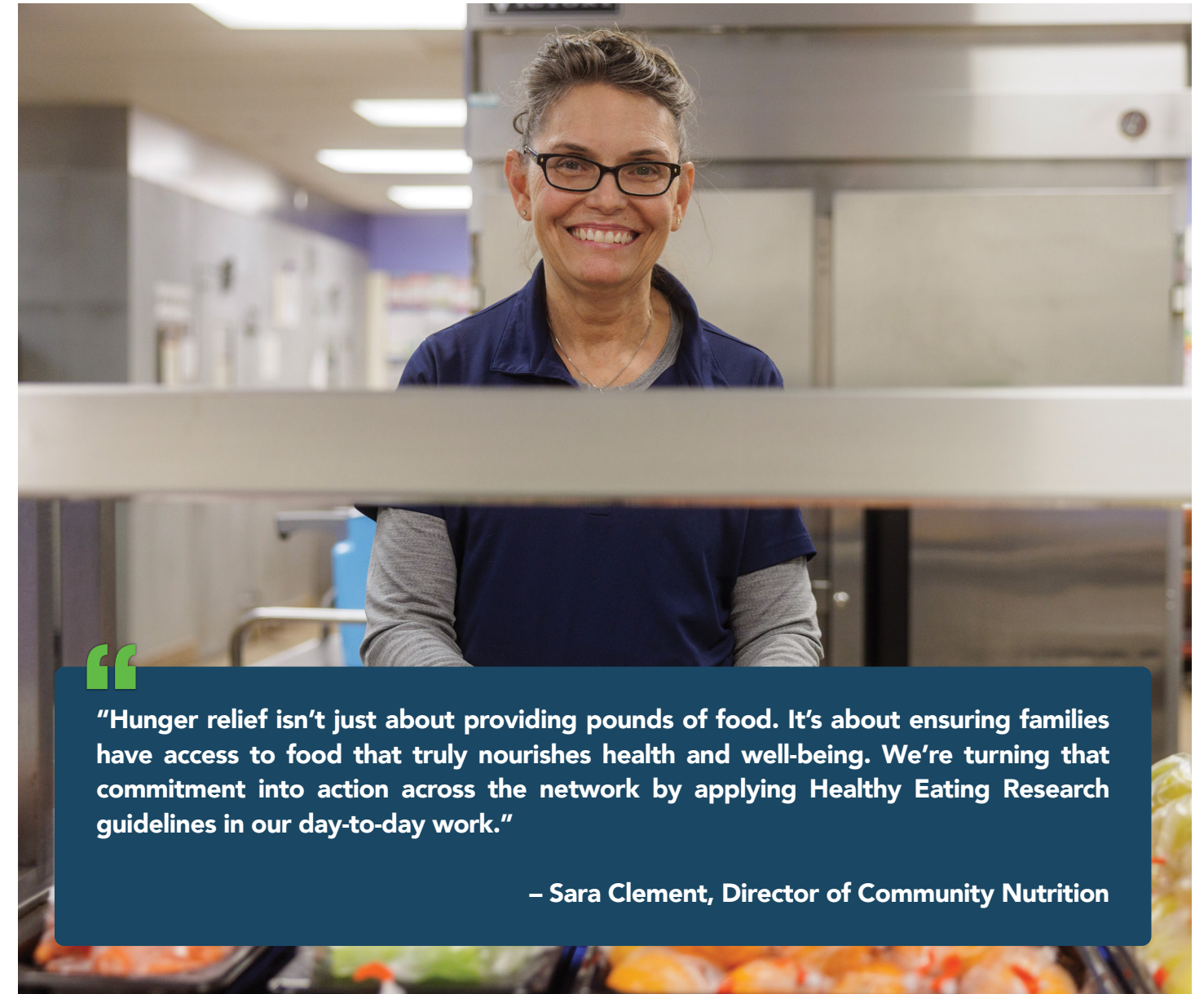
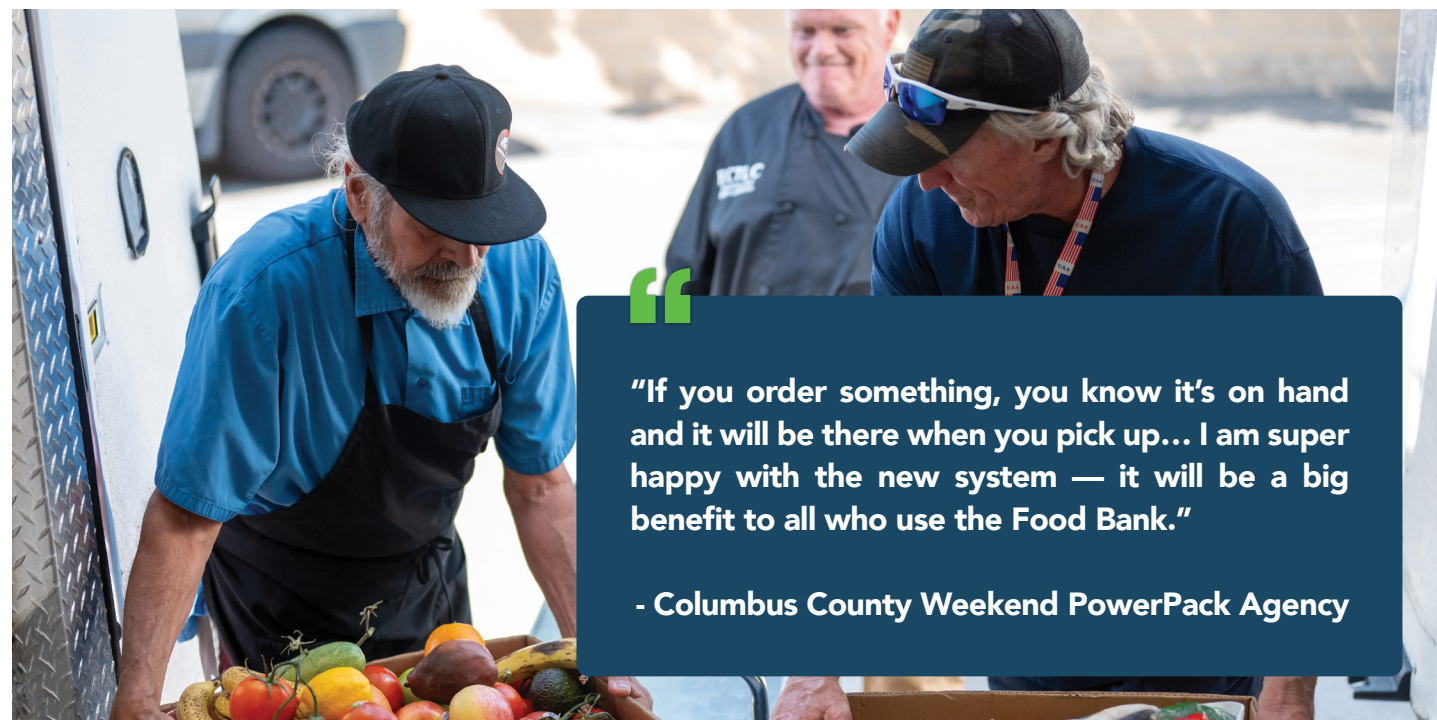
Our extraordinary network of local partners know their communities best — and know what it takes to fulfill this vital mission. The Food Bank's primary role is to strengthen this network with the food, tools, data, and support that help local organizations serve neighbors with greater care, consistency, and choice.

This year, we made important investments in the systems behind that work. While technology and infrastructure may not always be the most visible parts of hunger relief, they are essential to making sure food gets where it is needed, when it is needed, and in ways that better reflect the preferences of the people we serve.

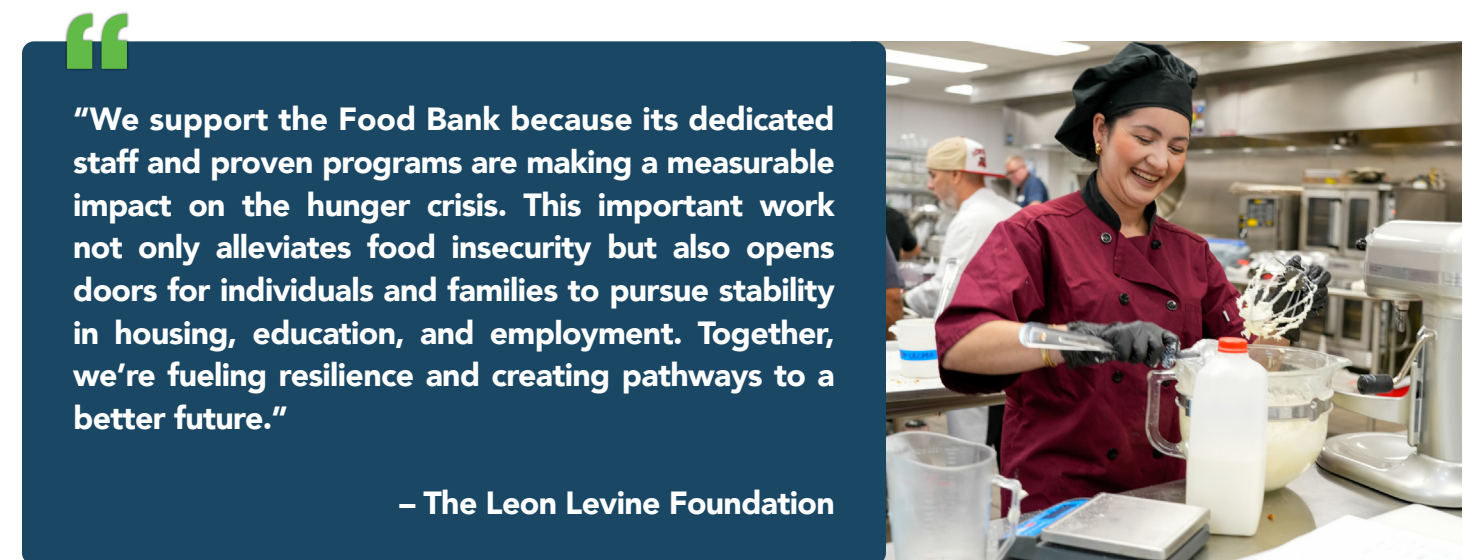
One major step forward is the launch of Agency Express, a new inventory and ordering system that allows partner agencies to see available food in real time and place orders based on the needs of their local community. This creates more flexibility and choice for partners and neighbors while helping the Food Bank distribute food more efficiently. This year, 98 partner agencies were successfully onboarded, with continued rollout planned.

At the same time, our Operations and Community Impact teams are integrating the Healthy Eating Research nutrition guidelines into our day-to-day practices, from inventory labels to distribution recommendations. These guidelines help us better understand and track the nutritional quality and cultural variety of the foods we source and distribute, shaping a stronger food sourcing framework for the future.

These investments strengthen every part of the hunger relief network. They help partners make informed choices, help neighbors receive food that better meets their needs, and help the Food Bank steward donor resources with greater precision, impact, and transparency.



School-based programs and Kids Summer Meals sites like this one support children and teens year-round.



Cape Fear Community College students gain hands-on culinary skills in our Wilmington production kitchen.



Volunteers are the Food Bank's Heart and Soul

We hold people facing hunger at the center of everything we do, and **we are incredibly grateful for the countless ways our volunteer community shows up to help end hunger for good!** Sorting and packing food, supporting community food distributions, helping neighbors seeking assistance, generating support through board and committee service — every volunteer hour brings us closer to a future where no one goes hungry.



"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

2024-2025 Financials

Revenue

Food Donated	\$203,485,661
Contributions	\$28,074,446
Campaign Pledges	\$4,845
Governmental Awards	\$11,207,947
Agency Contributions	\$1,823,801
Miscellaneous	\$4,102,681
Materials and services donated	\$288,731
Total:	\$248,983,267

Expenses

Program Services	\$239,062,948
Management & General	\$4,832,550
Fundraising	\$5,863,241
Total	\$249,758,739

Net Assets

Decrease in Unres. Net Assets	-\$839,989
Increase in Temp. Res. Net Assets	\$64,517
Change in Net Assets:	\$775,472
Net Assets at Beg of Year	\$97,865,743
Net Assets at End of Year:	\$97,090,271

Year End = June 30, 2025

Audited by Cherry Bekaert LLP

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Our headquarters and main Distribution Center, serving nine counties in the region: Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Sampson, Wake, Warren, and Wayne
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communication@foodbankcenc.org

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Join us and help ensure no one goes hungry.

