



food**o**bank<sup>®</sup>  
OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

## Our Impact Together

2024

IMPACT REPORT



## Meeting the Hunger Crisis Head-on

**Without a doubt, this has been a year of incredible challenges for local families.**

More than 560,000 people in our region don't have the resources to consistently keep food on the table. Many pantries, no-cost markets, and meal sites are seeing more people today than we did at the peak of the pandemic. The need for food assistance is up 40 to 60% across our network and with deep cuts to federal hunger and poverty programs, these challenges will only grow.

**We've also seen incredible generosity as supporters rallied to respond to this crisis.** Volunteers devoted over 170,000 hours to sort and distribute 103 million meals in area communities. Hundreds of advocates contacted state and federal elected leaders to urge action on policies that combat hunger. And these efforts were fueled by thousands of donors who contributed food and funds to the cause. If you're reading this, chances are you're among them.

**Still, we know we must do more.** Hunger is growing faster than we can address through food assistance alone. Every day, families are making impossible choices — between food and utilities, gas and medicine, rent and childcare. We have to do more to prevent hunger from happening in the first place.

**With this community's generosity, I know we'll continue to do everything we can to provide the immediate support our neighbors need.** We'll invest even more in efforts that equip families with the tools and resources we need to thrive. And we'll push elected leaders to do their part in addressing the drivers of hunger in North Carolina.

**None of this happens without advocates like you and me.** If you're able, I hope you'll dig a bit deeper to help meet this hunger crisis head-on – and encourage friends and neighbors to do the same. Because when we work together, there's nothing this community can't accomplish.

Thanks so much for all you do,

Amy B.

**AMY BEROS**  
President & CEO



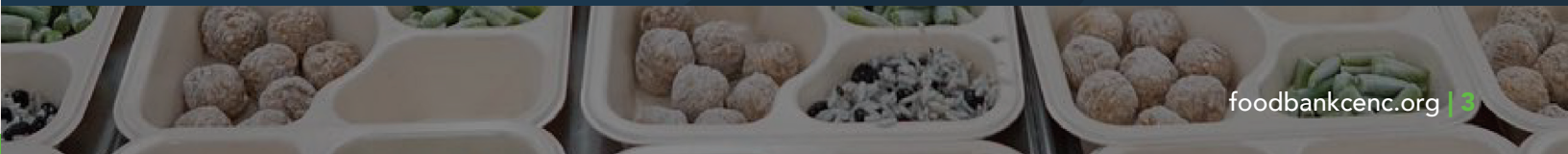
## Communities Rally in the Wake of Hurricane Season

Many of us in the central and eastern parts of the state have first-hand experience with weather disasters. Almost every year, the impact of heavy rain, wind, and flooding leaves thousands of community members vulnerable – especially those of us who were already food insecure. And our Food Bank network has built a robust infrastructure to respond quickly in the wake of hurricanes and other crises.

With our region spared from the worst of this year's hurricane season, we activated the Food Bank's disaster response structure to support hard-hit communities in Western North Carolina. Staff and volunteers readied thousands of emergency kits; generous supporters donated much-needed water and hygiene supplies; and our production kitchen went into high gear preparing ready-to-go-meals for impacted families.

With utilities restored in much of the mountains and our sister food bank back online in Asheville, we're now able to prioritize longer-term recovery assistance as cities and towns work to rebuild. There's a long road ahead, and we're proud of the many ways our supporter community has rallied to support our neighbors out west. It takes all of us to regroup, recover, and rebuild!

Learn more and support ongoing disaster response efforts at [FoodBankCENC.org/Helene](https://FoodBankCENC.org/Helene)







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

**103 million meals**

shared with neighbors throughout central and eastern North Carolina

**63% of all food distributed**

as fresh or frozen produce, protein, and dairy products

**1.6 million meals**

provided through school-year and summer nutrition programs

**170,000+ volunteer hours**

fueled our efforts to end hunger and its root causes (equal to 84 full-time staff!)

**700+ community-based partners**

including pantries, no-cost food markets, meal sites, and delivery programs

**\$5.8 million in grocery support**

secured for local families through SNAP food benefits

**96% graduation rate**

from commercial driver and warehouse workforce development programs

**\$15.2 million invested**

in local economies through benefits outreach and food purchasing



## Joyce Bobbit: Supporting Seniors Back Home

Hundreds of vehicles pull through the lot of a former Halifax County school each month for the Food Bank’s senior food box distribution — providing a healthy supply of fresh vegetables, fruit, dairy, whole grains, and pantry staples to people on fixed incomes who are at least 60 years old. It’s a vital resource made possible by volunteers like Joyce Bobbit – known to longtime Enfield residents as “Cookie”.

Cookie is a fixture at the old Inborden School, where she attended through her teenage years. Food insecurity has risen sharply in the decades since, with one in three local seniors now living at or below the poverty line. She sees plenty of neighbors and classmates at each distribution.

“I know practically everybody that comes through this line, and they know me,” Cookie shared after catching up with another longtime resident. “That connection makes people feel comfortable. It gives folks the space to ask for help when they need it.”

Though Cookie has long worked to support fellow seniors facing challenges, the drive-through program has made local resources much more accessible. “I’d help people get groceries, bring a plate to neighbors when I cooked. This is so much more,” Cookie said. “People have a great experience because we’re out here every month – and the food can last even longer. I’ve spoken to so many people, and they tell me what we’re doing is important.”

Rain or shine, Cookie’s been a presence at almost every distribution in Enfield for more than eight years, with only one date postponed by a hurricane. “It’s a blessing for us to be out here in the hot sun and bad weather. We’re here for the community, no matter what.”

Learn more and get involved at [FoodBankCENC.org/Cookie](https://FoodBankCENC.org/Cookie)



## NC State Fair Draws 18 Truckloads of Food and Supplies for Helene Relief



Fairgoers from across North Carolina come together each year during Hunger Relief Day to donate nonperishable food and supplies in exchange for free admission to the State Fair. This year, the Food Bank and Smithfield Foods joined forces to devote all proceeds to communities impacted by Hurricane Helene. And thanks to incredible supporter generosity, we collected enough food and supplies to fill 18 semi trailers of emergency food and supplies for our friends out west.

In the weeks that followed, our volunteer team sorted and prepared these donations for shipment based on the needs and capacity of sister food banks serving Western North Carolina. In total, we’ve shared more than 280,000 meals so far with communities recovering from the storm – and we know our shared recovery efforts have only just begun.



We’re so grateful for the community’s generosity during Smithfield Foods’ Hunger Relief Day. The existing hunger crisis and the extensive damage from Hurricane Helene means our friends and neighbors need this support more than ever before — and will for some time.

-Charlie Hale, Food Bank Chief Operating Officer





## Volunteers Power 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 sourced and distributed more than 103 million meals over the past year across our network of pantries, no-cost markets, meal sites, and delivery programs — and much of that work was led by our amazing volunteer corps.

In the average shift, a single volunteer will sort and pack enough food to fuel more than 160 meals for local families. Multiply that impact over a year’s worth of shifts and volunteer efforts totaled up to 84 full-time workers in 2024. Talk about impressive!

With hunger on the rise, there’s never been a more important time to get involved. If you haven’t yet had the chance, we hope you’ll join the 61,000+ supporters each year who devote their time and effort to make a difference in our communities.

Sign up for a shift at your local distribution center at [FoodBankCENC.org/Volunteer](https://FoodBankCENC.org/Volunteer)



## Students Help Turn the Tide Against Hunger

No child should have to worry when he or she will eat again — and no parent should have to skip meals or risk not paying a bill just to put food on the table. Unfortunately, that’s the reality for far too many families in our area right now.

Students Against Hunger was formed to help ensure no one in our community goes hungry. Each year, students, parents, and educators come together to ask “How big of a difference can our school make?” — raising awareness and encouraging action in support of the 1 in 5 kids and teenagers who face food insecurity.

Since its inception, Students Against Hunger has provided hundreds of thousands of meals for families through the support of local schools — and 2024 marked another banner year. This incredible support will fuel backpack programs, stock school-based pantries, and provide meals and activities during the summer months.

Find ways to get your school on board at [FoodBankCENC.org/SAH](https://FoodBankCENC.org/SAH)



## Food Bank and Hispanic Federation Partner to Bridge Gaps

This year marked a new chapter in our collaboration with longtime friends at the Hispanic Federation, as we worked together to build bridges in Duplin County communities and beyond. Our collaborative efforts aim to address food insecurity, provide nutritional education, and connect residents with essential services to improve overall well-being.

Hispanic Federation works to empower Latino workers and families through a wide range of programs — including economic development, education opportunities, health services, and civic engagement. Their wide-ranging government and community partnerships include the USDA Food & Farmworker Relief program, a joint effort that has helped nearly 14,000 local farmworkers and meatpackers afford healthcare since 2023.

Hispanic and Latino families face disproportionate hunger in North Carolina, with workers in the agriculture industry experiencing especially high rates of food insecurity. We’re proud to partner with Hispanic Federation to make sure the people who grow and package our food have access to essential resources — most recently through a series of community health fairs. The events provide offer a one-stop shop for food assistance, healthy recipes, and assistance with applications for grocery support through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP or FNS). Clinicians and navigators also provide healthcare services, educational opportunities, and other resources to support health and well-being. Everyone involved works to create a warm and welcoming environment for all, including live music, food, and activities for kids. It’s a true community gathering where families can enjoy themselves while accessing critical services and resources.

Studies consistently show that hunger’s reach is widening across the state, with even deeper challenges in communities that have faced barriers and exclusion for generations. Today, 1 in 4 Black and Latino households experience food insecurity — nearly twice the rate of White households. Alongside community partners like Hispanic Federation, we work hard to identify solutions that match the depth of these challenges, meeting people where they are and providing resources that empowers families to move beyond poverty.

Working together, organizations like the Food Bank and Hispanic Federation can bridge gaps and create sustainable solutions that ensure everyone can thrive — no matter where we live, where we’re from, or the color of our skin. We’re excited to expand these partnerships to even more communities throughout central and eastern North Carolina!

**“These events at the end of the day are about building bridges between our communities, making sure that we know our neighbors, making sure that there are folks working every day to make our communities better,”**

- Lariza Garzón, Director of North Carolina & Mid-South Operations at the Hispanic Federation

Watch the video at [FoodBankCENC.org/HispanicFed](https://FoodBankCENC.org/HispanicFed) and learn more about community partnerships







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!



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



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

## 2023-2024 Financials

### Revenue

Food Donated	\$196,814,611
Contributions	\$23,480,743
Campaign Pledges	\$4,845
Governmental Awards	\$8,917,730
Agency Contributions	\$2,302,220
Miscellaneous	\$4,156,295
Materials and services donated	\$106,046
Total:	\$235,782,490

### Expenses

Program Services	\$229,705,238
Management & General	\$3,602,967
Fundraising	\$5,524,705
Total	\$238,832,910

### Net Assets

Decrease in Unres. Net Assets	-\$2,173,605
Decrease in Temp. Res. Net Assets	-\$876,815
Change in Net Assets:	-\$3,050,420

Net Assets at Beg of Year	\$100,916,163
Net Assets at End of Year:	\$97,865,743

Year End = June 30, 2024 Audited by Cherry Bekaert LLP

## 2024-2025 Board of Directors

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