

# hungermatters

SUMMER 2020

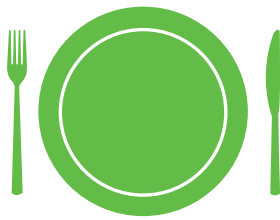
## The Food Bank Responds to the COVID-19 Crisis

The COVID-19 crisis brought a new level of demand to the Food Bank. With businesses and schools closing, many are unsure how they will pay their bills, let alone put food on the table. In a matter of weeks, our partner agencies began to see a huge spike in the need for their services.

Evangeline January, from Food Bank partner First Cosmopolitan Baptist Church in Raleigh, says the amount of people they serve has doubled. **"Cars have been wrapped around our building, down the street for food. It is mostly folks who have recently lost their jobs and haven't needed this type of help before."**

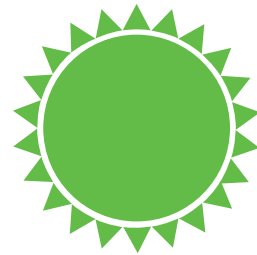
Your support has allowed the Food Bank to make a big impact since the crisis began on March 16:

## COVID-19 | Our Response: Thanks to your support.



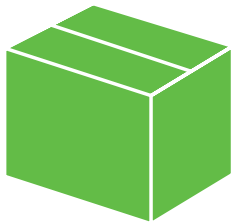
**15,369,000**

meals provided.



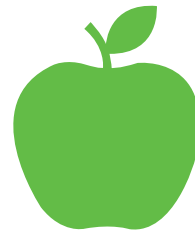
**155,000**

Kids Summer Meals distributed.



**36,294**

boxes distributed to the community.



**5,885,849**

pounds of produce distributed.

**foodbank**  
OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

# From the President & CEO

Dear Friends,

I hope this newsletter finds you and your family well. These last few months have been unlike any other, and now more than ever it is important to take care of ourselves and our loved ones.

The priority these past few months at the Food Bank has been flexibility. With millions of people being laid off and furloughed and schools closing for the remainder of the year, the need for food has skyrocketed. At the same time, volunteer groups had to shrink significantly, and the supply chain became extremely challenging.

There is unprecedented need in our community right now, and we are so thankful for all the support and work that has gone into ensuring the people we care for could receive it. There are people visiting the Food Bank and our partner agencies who have never had to worry about where their next meal would come from and because of you we are able to help.

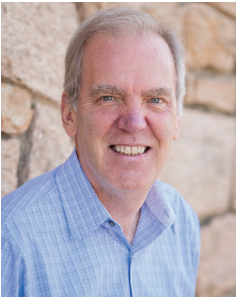
I am proud to say that the Food Bank’s response is also unprecedented: April was a record-breaking month for us, distributing 7.9 million pounds of food to our community. This is the largest single-month distribution the Food Bank has recorded in its 40-year history.

The trust you have in the Food Bank and the support you provide are incredibly overwhelming and we appreciate it more than words could ever say. This pandemic will impact our friends and neighbors for a long time to come and the Food Bank will be here for the long haul.

Thank you for everything you do to make our work possible,



Peter Werbicki, President & CEO



# Giving Thanks

The Food Bank is a long-term disaster relief agency, meaning we serve the needs of our community for weeks, months, sometimes years after a natural disaster or other event occurs as they rebuild and stabilize their lives. The COVID-19 pandemic is unlike any event our communities have faced. Individuals and families living with food insecurity have been hit especially hard and school closures and growing unemployment means more families are coming to us that have not needed our services in the past. The Food Bank would like to share a special “Thank You” to the following organizations for their generous gifts and pledges of support for the immediate and ongoing increase in need caused by COVID-19:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| ABC11  | Food Lion                              |
| Asha and Sajjan Agarwal Foundation           | Henry Nias Foundation                  |
| Altria                                       | Ideal Industries Foundation            |
| Anonymous Trust                              | Lineage Logistics                      |
| Bank of America                              | M/I Homes, Raleigh LLC                 |
| Jeff Bezos via Feeding America               | MetLife Foundation                     |
| Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina | Mt. Olive Pickle Company               |
| Biogen Foundation                            | Nationwide Foundation                  |
| Bruce Barclay Cameron Foundation             | Oak Foundation                         |
| Cardinal Innovations Healthcare              | John William Pope Foundation           |
| Cargill, Inc.                                | Publix Super Markets Charities         |
| Carolina Complete Health                     | RTI International                      |
| Cisco Systems, Inc.                          | SECU Foundation                        |
| Coach K and Duke Men’s Basketball            | Share our Strength (No Kid Hungry)     |
| Credit Suisse Americas Foundation            | Signal Path                            |
| Cree I Wolfsped                              | Titmus Foundation                      |
| Dominion Energy Foundation                   | UNC REX Healthcare                     |
| Duke Energy Foundation                       | Wegmans Food Markets                   |
| Dunkin’ Joy in Childhood Foundation          | Wells Fargo                            |
| Feeding America (Multiple Donor Gifts)       | William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust |
| First Horizon Bank                           | Yardi Systems                          |
|  | Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation           |

# From the Mouth of Troy Leshko, Board Chair

As my time as board chair ends, I find myself reflecting on how important food banks are to our communities. They are at the forefront of creating awareness of food insecurity, critical to building solutions to end hunger, and community experts at nourishing those in need.

The Food Bank demonstrates this every day, especially in exceptional times like Hurricane Florence in 2018, where it supported communities throughout its service area with distribution of 15 million pounds of food and non-food essentials. More recently the COVID-19 pandemic increased demand overnight, which was met with support for our communities with 15 million pounds of food distributed since mid-March.

Something I have come to understand and appreciate as board chair is that providing to our community on so many fronts takes a healthy ecosystem. At the center of this are the

dedicated staff who show up every day to make a difference, doing so quietly and seamlessly but with ferocious determination. They are supported by an army of volunteers that never stop showing up and getting things done. And then there are the partner agencies on the front lines and donors who provide the fuel to make an impact in our community, no matter the circumstances.

A sincere thank you to our incredible staff, volunteers, partners, and donors, who together work toward the goal that no one goes hungry in central and eastern North Carolina. I am truly grateful to have had the opportunity to learn and serve in my role as board chair. The Food Bank can continue to count on me as long as the community counts on them.



# Food Bank Programs Shift to Serve Most Vulnerable

The Food Bank operates several programs aimed at helping the most vulnerable of the food insecure population – children and seniors. As we learned more about COVID-19, it became apparent we would have to do things differently to ensure this food could still be provided.

The Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) is a USDA program administered by the Food Bank that provides a monthly package of food designed to supplement the nutritional needs of low-income senior citizens. Each box includes vegetables, fruits, whole grains, protein, and dairy, packed with care by Food Bank volunteers. The Food Bank packs and distributes nearly 6,000 CSFP boxes to seniors every month. Normally seniors pick these boxes up at a local Food Bank partner agency, but due to the pandemic, it is not safe

for this population to gather. During this uncertain time, Food Bank staff and volunteers will be delivering boxes to the doors of the seniors who participate in the program and rely heavily on this monthly supplement to their diet. In April, members of the North Carolina National Guard used their skills to assist with these deliveries.

Because schools have been closed, the Food Bank has been able to activate the Kids Summer Meals Program (or Summer Food Service Program) early. Currently the program is providing 10,000 meals per week to kids who cannot access meals. The Food Bank is also providing disaster boxes to feed whole families at home by distributing directly at schools that are continuing their meals programs.



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# Summer Hunger Started Early

The COVID-19 pandemic and the economic crisis means more people than ever are facing hunger each day. Schools have been closed, and in some cases unable to continue providing meals to children. Some caregivers have lost their jobs and healthcare. Summer hunger started early this year, and our goal is to raise 4.4 million to meet this urgent need.

In the Food Bank's 34-county service area, just over 300,000 children are eligible for free or reduced-cost breakfast and lunch. We also know there are increased expenses for childcare in the summer and the cost of utilities rise along with temperatures. With our many partners, the Food Bank is working to provide as many of those meals as possible to children and teens for as long as needed.

On top of our normal operations, the Food Bank is addressing summer hunger in two ways. One is our Kids Summer Meals sites where kids can get breakfast and lunch meals in their community. Second, we are distributing thousands of family-sized boxes to our partners as well as directly to school districts for children and families.

With your support, the Food Bank will continue to keep children and their families nourished all summer long. There are three easy ways to help. See the chart below.

Together, we can nourish children and families this summer and end the worry over where the next meal is coming from.

Visit [stopsummerhunger.org](https://stopsummerhunger.org) to donate or for more information.



## 1. DONATE FUNDS



## 2. DONATE FOOD



## 3. DONATE TIME: VOLUNTEER

### Presenting



CREE

Wolfspeed

### Platinum



### Media



### Bronze

Vidant Health  
The Kiwanis Club  
of the Sandhills  
Humana

JKF Architecture  
Leith Aberdeen  
Junior League of Greenville

