

A **devastating** year.
Your **unparalleled** support.
Our **hope** for the **future**.



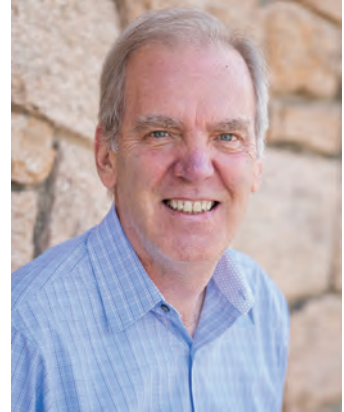
2020
Impact
Report

food**bank**
OF CENTRAL & EASTERN **NORTH CAROLINA**

Dear **Friends and Partners** of the Food Bank

What can I say about last year? Many will look back at 2020 as one of the most challenging years in history, one that kept us apart from the things and people we love. The COVID-19 pandemic threw us into a sustained crisis mode and with a 38% increase in food insecurity, there is no real end in sight.

I can't deny this past year has been bleak. The pandemic is shining the brightest possible light on a fact we've known for some time – many people are one missed paycheck away from devastating circumstances. And even more people will fall deeper into poverty with little hope of digging out.



But I have also witnessed our community come together in a way I've not seen in my 20+ years at the Food Bank. Every single dollar you donated made it possible for us to nearly double our food distribution – whether it be a family food box, a grab-and-go meal for a child who was out of school, or keeping our partner agencies stocked. Your generosity allowed us to spend eight times our normal food purchase budget, consistently keep food on tables, put more trucks on the road, and hire a group of temporary staff to keep up with demand. Volunteers put on masks and came to our facilities to sort produce or found projects they could do for us at home. Our phones were constantly ringing and our email inboxes were and still are full of people asking, "How can we help?" or "What do you need?"

Based on Feeding America data, we know that prior to the pandemic, food insecurity numbers were down in our area before COVID-19 hit. That means the Food Bank's strategies for nourishing people, building solutions, and empowering communities were working to break the cycle of hunger. I am proud to say the Food Bank staff and Board of Directors are moving forward with these strategies alongside our crisis response.

The Food Bank was also recognized as Feeding America's Food Bank of the Year for 2020, which is the highest distinction awarded within the network of food banks.

None of this would be possible without your unparalleled support. Each of your contributions have allowed us to provide a robust response to the great need created by the pandemic. We are humbled, especially when times are tough for everyone, that you trust us with your precious resources. I hope we can continue to work together to provide light and hope and food to our friends and neighbors.

With great thanks,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "P. Werbicki." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Peter Werbicki, President & CEO
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

New Partnerships **Eliminate Barriers** to Food

"We believe that we can't fight to improve things when we're hungry," Leticia Zavala of Farm Labor Organizing Committee recently told us. Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), one of the Food Bank's 900 partner agencies, serves farmworkers by giving them a voice that empowers them to advocate for themselves in the work environment.

Specifically, FLOC is a farmworker union and worker's center. They serve farmworkers and immigrant people in Wayne County. They mostly serve the local population, but recently their work has extended to helping farmworkers across North Carolina. They educate workers on their rights at work, with the police, and within the school system.

There are systemic barriers that keep some farmworkers from getting the food they and their families need. FLOC, along with their other services, operates a food pantry to increase access to groceries. They make an announcement in the fields where people are working the week before the pantry. They reserve some food for those working on the farms who are unable to come when the pantry is open. Transportation can be a challenge to accessing their pantry, so FLOC now offers to deliver to the workers wherever they are.

"Without the Food Bank we wouldn't be able to do anything because our day-to-day requires so much. We wouldn't have any time to collect food and do the charity work that needs to be done. If we did not have food, we don't think we would be able to service a lot of these people because a lot of them, especially if they go three months without getting paid, they have nowhere else to get food," Leticia said of FLOC's partnership with the Food Bank. By working together, we can ensure that no one goes hungry regardless of their situation.

"They're [the farmworkers] there harvesting crops, but they need the Food Bank to bring them food."

Our partner agencies are on the frontlines everyday serving people in need and working to end hunger. They form a diverse, dynamic, and passionate network committed to ending hunger at its root causes. When you donate to the Food Bank, you are providing our partner agencies with consistent access to food, all year round.

Thank you, Leticia and Farm Labor Organizing Committee, for your continued dedication to the communities you serve.



Your support ensured the Food Bank's ability to **nourish** people, **build** solutions, and **empower** communities in 2020.

91,611,818 lbs. of food distributed

76,343,182 meals provided

34,574,098 lbs. of produce distributed

215,500 volunteer hours served

933 partner agencies stocked

1,511,084 meals provided through
our Kids Programs

\$4,165,916 benefits generated through outreach
team (SNAP, Medicaid, LIEAP)

\$6,415,511 in economic activity generated
by benefits outreach



The Food Bank's Role in **Challenging Racism** and **Prioritizing Equity**

In mid-2019, the Food Bank began the work of learning how to lead and operate with equity and diversity in every part of our work to nourish people, build solutions, and empower communities, both internally and externally. With the support of Feeding America and the Food Bank's Board of Directors, our leadership and then our full staff participated in a multi-day training to learn about systemic racism. Not only to recognize it, but also how systemic racism impacts the Food Bank's existence, and what we can do to shift our thinking and operations with a lens of equity.

While COVID-19 delayed some of our planned next steps in equity, diversity, and inclusion training, we want to give an update on what the Food Bank is doing to continue our commitment to combat racism. Under the guidance of racial equity experts, we've continued with listening and learning sessions with staff, our board, and our partner agencies. The result of these sessions were some great recommendations and insights for the next steps.

The first of those recommendations was to hire a Vice President of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion whose focus will be to develop the equity lens under which we will operate and integrate into our strategic plan. We look forward to introducing you to our new leader in the next few weeks.

The pandemic slowed our plans a bit, but the work continues. One of the areas we've focused on in the last year is supporting our partner agencies and the new organizations we're working with in their capacity to address hunger and its root causes. Partnerships are truly the key to building solutions to end hunger and racial injustice. We're reaching people who have been marginalized – even before the pandemic – by supporting and partnering with groups like AMEXCAN, the Episcopal Farmworkers Ministry, and the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (read more on page 3).

As a food bank, we recognize our role in combating racism. We commit to challenging ourselves and our partners to prioritize equity, and actively identify and call out systemic acts of racial discrimination against all people of color: in our workplace, our service delivery, and our communities.



A Love Letter to Our Partner Agencies

When someone is seeking urgent food assistance, chances are they won't meet someone from the Food Bank. Instead, they'll see Roxann at Mother Hubbard's Cupboard pantry in Wilmington as she directs traffic in their parking lot during a distribution. Patricia at St. Joseph's pantry in Burgaw will talk with folks about their specific family needs. Melissa at Gang Free Inc. in Henderson will be making sure people at her distribution have food while gathering extra supplies for a family who had a home fire.

Ask anyone at the Food Bank and they will tell you our more than 900 partner agencies are critical to our work. Many of them rely on our organization as their primary source of food, so you are more likely to see our trucks on the roads making deliveries. You might spot a driver in a grocery store picking up donations. But our agencies are on the ground across our 34-county service area, ensuring people in our communities have food and other essential items, usually with an all-volunteer workforce. And they go above and beyond – making deliveries to homebound seniors, providing special food boxes for people with health conditions, connecting clients with other community resources, or having birthday kits on hand for parents who want to provide their child a cake. It almost goes without saying that when the COVID-19 pandemic began, our partner agencies did not back down from the challenge.

Our agencies immediately worked to put safety measures in place – everything from having masks and sanitizer on hand, to pivoting from a client-choice pantry to drive-through distributions. Many began delivering even more boxes as a stay-at-home order was put in place. With kids home from school, some served as sites for the Food Bank's Kids Summer Meals Program, providing grab-and-go meals in place of school lunches. Almost all of the Food Bank's partner agencies are still seeing a spike in the need, by 40% or more in some cases.

Ties with Guys Ministries in Clayton started their food pantry a few months before the pandemic and Enoch Rutherford reported the need increased dramatically in March. "To see people that still have a job but need help, I just thank God we're able to help," he said. They are also delivering boxes to folks who are not able to make it to their site.

Mother Hubbard's Cupboard pantry in Wilmington teamed up with the police department early in the pandemic to deliver food boxes to seniors. Even after cutting back to two distribution days, they are serving more people than ever before. "We now have far more clients coming to us in two days than we ever had in five days. Our numbers have skyrocketed," said Roxann Lansdowne, from Mother Hubbard's Cupboard. And to keep everyone safe, they've recruited and trained new volunteers who are not part of high-risk populations. "Mother Hubbard's Cupboard has always been a bridge for low-income families. Now their income a lot of times is zero."

Your support allows the Food Bank to source, store, and stock our partner agencies with food and other essentials. It also gives us the flexibility to offer equipment to ease any logistical strains and provide them with more fresh, nutritious food, and educational material through our Healthy Pantry Program. We work to be the best resource to our partner agencies that we can be, so that together we are nourishing more people and building more resilient communities.



Every single donation to the Food Bank makes an impact, and we are incredibly grateful to all of those who share their resources with us. The community leaders showcased here are **just a small sample of the supporters** who have allowed us to respond to unprecedented need and continue to build solutions over this last year. **You give us hope for the future – thank you!**



Biogen



Food Lion



Blue Cross & Blue Shield of North Carolina



Feeding America



Thanks to our 2020 Cornerstone Partners

- ABC11
- Bank of America Charitable Foundation
- Bayer USA Foundation
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- William R. Kenan, Jr. Charitable Trust
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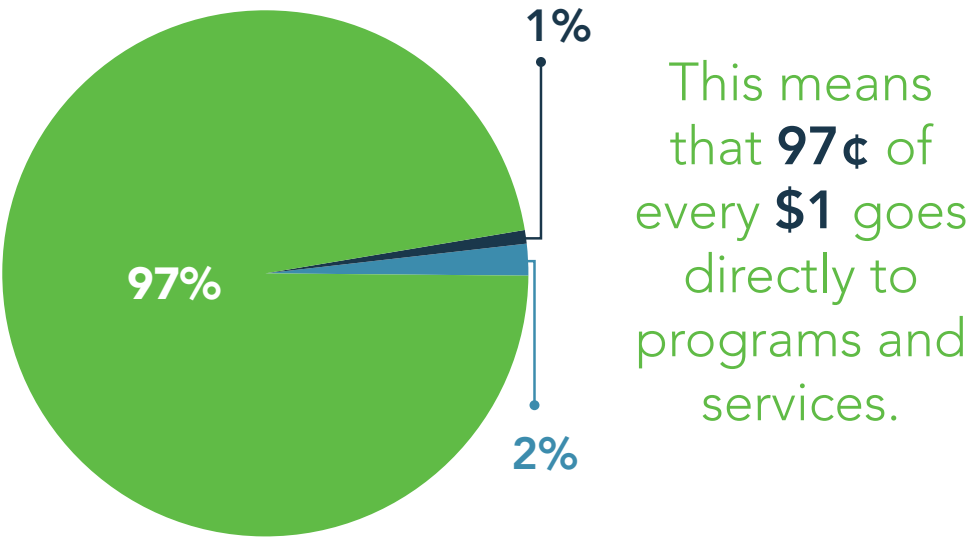
2020 Financials

2020 REVENUE	
Food Donated	\$ 132,127,172
Contributions	\$ 28,480,037
Campaign Pledges	\$ 1,401,822
Governmental Awards	\$ 5,522,161
Agency Contributions	\$ 1,869,466
Miscellaneous	\$ 28,546
Goods, Services, and Facilities Contributed In-kind	\$ 8,011
TOTAL	\$ 169,437,215

2020 EXPENSES		
Program Services	\$ 149,528,538	
Management & General	\$ 1,900,705	
Fundraising	\$ 3,464,388	
TOTAL	\$ 154,893,631	

2020 NET ASSETS	
Increase in Unrestricted Net Assets	\$ 14,219,571
Increase in Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$ 324,013
Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets	\$ 14,543,584
Net Assets at the Beginning of the Year	\$ 25,917,257
Net Assets at the End of the Year	\$ 40,460,841

Year End = June 30, 2020
Accounting by Elliott Davis



Food Bank of the Year

The Food Bank was honored to be named Food Bank of the Year for 2020 by Feeding America, a national association of more than 200 food banks. The Member of the Year award is one of the highest honors awarded to network leaders for their local community-building and contributions to the Feeding America network.

"The Food Bank is an incredible organization making tremendous impact for people facing hunger in and outside of Raleigh," said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. "We congratulate President & CEO Peter Werbicki and the entire Food Bank staff for their dedication to addressing the needs of the community and working to end hunger. From their focus on engaging with key partners and empowering neighbors with resources to make nutritious choices to supporting member food banks across the network in times of disaster or emergency, the Food Bank demonstrates just how much of a difference a food bank can make in the community."

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina was selected by a group of our peers in part due to our commitment to collaboration in building strong relationships with community partners and the national network to best serve neighbors in need. The Food Bank was also highlighted for its commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusion (EDI) and beginning the work of educating employees on how to use an EDI lens to inform core strategy and decision-making to best serve neighbors in need.



2020 FEEDING AMERICA FOOD BANK OF THE YEAR



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