



Building Solutions to End Hunger

2023

IMPACT REPORT

Dear Friends and Partners of the Food Bank,

For the Food Bank’s staff and board, 2023 has been a year of building. Building more effective and efficient food distribution infrastructure. Building our commitment to equity. Building on the strategic framework that will help us reach our shared vision of a future where no one goes hungry in central and eastern North Carolina.

We’re building because demand for food assistance continues to rise here in North Carolina and across the country. Right now, more than 600,000 children, adults, and seniors throughout our 34-county region don’t know where their next meal might come from. Families are struggling to make ends meet in the wake of increased food and housing costs — coupled with the sunset of government support tied to pandemic emergency funding. And many of our partner pantries, no-cost food markets, and meal sites report that visits are up as much as 60% over the past year. This on-the-ground experience tracks with USDA research that shows American communities have faced the largest year-over-year increase in food insecurity since 2008, at the peak of the Great Recession.

We’re building our capacity to meet these challenges head on and distribute more fresh, nutritious food through our partner agency network — including the recent completion of a new, state-of-the-art facility in Wilmington. These infrastructure improvements at Food Bank branches, coupled with the expansion of our Pop Up Markets and resources for culturally familiar produce and pantry staples, are helping to reach communities that have faced high rates of hunger and low resource investments for far too long.

Through it all, we have worked to hold the experiences of our communities — of people facing disproportionate hunger and poverty — at the center of every decision we make. This focus on our neighbors is now formally expressed in our commitment to equity, and I am incredibly proud of the team that came together to bring this North Star to life.

None of these accomplishments would be possible without your continued partnership. Through your financial support, volunteerism, and advocacy, our central operations have shared enough food to fuel nearly 90 million meals over the past year. And together, piece by piece, we are building solutions that will end hunger for good.

With appreciation for all you do,

Ashley C. McCumber



Ashley C. McCumber
President & CEO



Pop Up Markets Help Address Hunger Disparities

Southern states face higher rates of food insecurity than any other region in the United States. Here in North Carolina, one in every nine of us doesn’t have consistent and reliable access to sufficient food for our families. These challenges are even deeper in Black and Latinx communities throughout the state, where hunger is two-to-three times more prevalent.

Addressing hunger in our most hard-hit communities is the surest path to reach our vision of a future where no one goes hungry. That’s why the Food Bank has placed a greater focus on sourcing and distributing culturally familiar and meaningful foods throughout the region. And Pop Up Markets are among our most successful initiatives to connect communities with the resources we need to thrive.

Through partnerships with local organizations like El Pueblo, WAKE Up and Read, Consulate of Mexico, Wake County Smart Start, and more, the Food Bank’s Pop Up Markets bring fresh produce, dairy, and protein directly to communities — along with children’s books and information on other resources to support families. New Latinx-focused markets launched last summer, with nearly 1,500 people participating in a single inaugural event. That number grew to more than 1,700 people in just a few short months, with a significant increase in households supporting children or seniors by the fall. Combined, this Pop Up Market location distributed enough fresh produce to support more than 10,000 meals — with seasonal fruits and vegetables that included watermelon, broccoli, bananas, butternut squash, and apples.

Our Pop Up Markets wouldn’t be possible without hosts like Raleigh Parks & Recreation, who give time, energy, and space for community members to gather. With support from local governments and community organizations, we’re expanding dates and locations regularly throughout the region. Visit foodbankcenc.org/popupmarkets to learn more and get involved in a market near you.

Addressing Hunger at its Roots

All of us at the Food Bank are working toward a future where no one goes hungry. It's a big vision, and we know we can't reach it through food assistance alone. We have to take action to address hunger at its roots — to prevent food insecurity from happening in the first place.

This is what Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) is all about, and why equity is at the center of our work. Because hunger is so much more than a single empty stomach or individual experience. It's a community-wide symptom of not having enough — whether that's enough nutritious food, enough income, or enough voice in the decisions that impact us. It's a symptom of barriers to employment, education, housing, and healthcare.

We all experience the effects of hunger in our communities, and together we can address these barriers and the systems and inequities that create them. Our Commitment to Equity is an internal and external expression of who we are and what we believe it will take to achieve this mission. It's a statement of our dedication to the kind of transformative action we need to build a future where no one goes hungry. Where every voice matters. Where we all share responsibility for each other and our common good.

People from across the Food Bank came together to make this commitment to ourselves, our communities, and the broader fight to end hunger for good. We are together on this journey — investing the time and resources needed to make meaningful progress. Because no one should go hungry...no matter where we live, where we're from, or the color of our skin.



Mariah Murrell

VP of Equity Diversity & Inclusion

Introducing the Food Bank's Equity Statement

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is committed to building solutions to end hunger across the diverse communities in our service area. We believe that food is a human right, and it is our job to ensure access to the nutritious and culturally meaningful foods our communities need to thrive.

We know that the root cause of food insecurity is poverty, spurred by unemployment and low incomes, lack of affordable housing, chronic health conditions and a lack of access to healthcare, and systemic racism and discrimination. Our vision for a future where no one goes hungry requires that everyone has access to healthy, nutritious food — regardless of race, citizenship, religion, sex, ancestry, age, marital status, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.

We believe and mandate that everyone should have access to healthy, nutritious food — regardless of race, citizenship, religion, sex, ancestry, age, marital status, ability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or veteran status.

We also know that existing laws, policies, and practices intentionally extend opportunities to some while withholding those same opportunities from others — and that historically marginalized communities experience the highest rates of food insecurity due to the impact of systemic barriers. These gaps, inequities, and exclusions have been worsened by the COVID-19 pandemic and other societal factors. That is why now, more than ever, we must evolve to address the systemic barriers that cause hunger and poverty in our communities. Because hunger does not have to be our reality.

This is a shared responsibility for everyone dedicated to ending hunger and its root causes. We are committed to focusing our efforts in and with communities that disproportionately face hunger and poverty. We know that people with lived experience are the experts on hunger — and must be in the lead to advance long-term solutions. And we will immerse ourselves in the kind of local, state, and federal advocacy that ensures our elected officials understand the impact of their decisions on people experiencing food insecurity.

We are committed to applying this equity lens in every aspect of our work.

At the Food Bank, we have...

- Completed a comprehensive equity audit to better understand the experiences of staff and are implementing a plan based on recommendations to promote EDI;
- worked to create an inclusive environment in which all employees can work, thrive, and be respected as their full selves; and
- formed an Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) department and established staff committees focused on education, training, and equity within the organization.

In the community, we are...

- seeking to strengthen our work with communities that have been historically marginalized;
- building workforce development initiatives;
- sourcing and distributing culturally meaningful foods; and
- implementing equity-focused structures within our Partner Agency Advisory Council.

We see this as a continuous process and evolution with no true end. As we continue on our journey to promote equity, diversity, and inclusion, we commit to holding ourselves accountable in action and in the revision of this living statement.

Your support helped advance our mission to nourish people, build solutions, and empower communities in 2023!

89.6 million

meals of centrally-sourced food

50%+

of all food distributed as fresh or frozen produce

677,000+

meals provided through Kids Programs

162,000+

volunteer hours across all Food Bank branches

700+

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

\$4.6 million

in SNAP food benefits secured for families

\$7.1 million

Invested in local economies through benefits outreach and spending



CORE Leadership Circle

Our CORE Leadership Circle is comprised of businesses, foundations, and government grant funders that are committed to the Food Bank’s mission to nourish people, build solutions, and empower communities through their contributions of funds, food, and/or in-kind donations. Together we are working to ensure no one goes hungry in central and eastern North Carolina.

Cornerstone Supporters

Gifts of \$100,000+ or 8 million lbs. or more

- Anonymous Trust
- Ashton Woods Homes
- Biogen Foundation
- Credit Suisse Americas Foundation
- David and Nicole Tepper Foundation
- Feeding America
- Food Lion
- Google
- Hendrick Auto Group
- Hendrick Family Foundation
- Leon Levine Foundation
- Lowes Foods
- NC Dept of Agriculture & Consumer Sciences
- New Hanover Community Endowment
- Penske
- Publix Super Markets Charities
- TOSA Foundation
- Walmart
- Wegmans Food Markets, Inc

Outcome Partners

Gifts of \$50,000 - \$99,999 or 1M – 7.9M lbs.

- 1 In 6 Snacks LLC
- Allen Foundation Inc.
- Bank of America
- Bone Produce & Packing
- Cape Fear Memorial Foundation
- Central PA Food Bank
- Coca - Cola
- ECU Health
- Eddie & Jo Allison Smith Family Foundation

- Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation
- Ford Produce
- Fresh-Pik Produce Inc.
- Hering Farms
- Jackson’s Farming Co.
- Mid Atlantic Regional Cooperative
- MSB Development
- Nationwide Foundation
- North Star Charitable Foundation
- Pepsi Cola
- Sam’s Club
- Society of St Andrew
- Southeast Regional Cooperative
- Southern Valley Fruit & Vegetable
- T and J Produce
- Vari Sales Corporation
- Vick Family Farms
- Wolfspeed, Inc.

Resource Partners

Gifts of \$25,000 - \$49,999 or 300,000 – 999,999 lbs.

- Aldi
- Amazon
- Amgen Foundation
- BASF
- Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina
- Cedar Creek Gallery, LLC
- Costco
- Cummins Foundation
- Delta Air Lines, Inc
- Enact Mortgage Insurance
- FRESH HOUSE, LLC
- Full House Farms

- Gulfstream/Parker AG
- Harris Teeter
- HC Schmieding Produce Company
- JGL Produce
- John William Pope Foundation
- Johnson Brothers - Mutual Distributing of NC
- Kornegay Farms
- McLane Distribution
- Mildred Sheffield Wells Charitable Trust
- Mt Olive Pickle Co
- Nature’s Way Farm, Inc.
- New Hanover County
- Philip L. Van Every Foundation
- Quest USA
- Refresco Beverages
- Reser’s Fine Foods
- Ripe Revival
- Sheetz via Feeding America
- Smithfield Foods
- Southern Roots
- Spring Acres
- Target
- Torrey Farms Inc
- United Way of the Cape Fear Area
- US Food Service
- Vivian West Memorial Fund
- Wards Produce
- Wells Fargo Foundation
- Woodforest Charitable Foundation
- WP RAWL
- Yardi Systems Inc.

Essential Partners

Gifts of \$10,000 - \$24,999 or 70,000 – 299,999 lbs.

- 3M Foundation via Feeding America
- B & B Produce Inc.
- Battleboro Produce Inc.
- Bimbo Bakery
- Bob Barker Company Foundation
- Butterball Turkey Company
- Campbell Soup Company
- Carlie C’s
- Carlson Family Foundation
- Carolina Conceptions
- Chick-fil-A via Feeding America
- City of Wilmington
- Clorox Sales Company
- Coastal Credit Union Foundation
- Community Care of North Carolina
- ConAgra Foods
- Convoy of Hope
- Corning Incorporated Foundation
- Craven County Community Foundation
- CVP Farm
- Cynthia and George Mitchell Foundation
- Dollar General Corporation
- Durham Merchants Assoc.
- Charitable Foundation
- EarthFresh
- EBY Brown
- Farmers Market
- Fresh Market
- Frito Lay, Inc.
- Grimmway Farms
- Gulfstream Produce Inc.
- Gumbo Foundation
- Happy Dirt
- Henry Nias Foundation, Inc.
- Herring Homes
- Hollar & Greene
- Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints

- JewelRecycle, LLC
- Kellogg Company
- Kimley-Horn and Associates Inc.
- L&M Companies Inc
- Lidl
- Lipman Family Produce
- McDonalds
- MEG Foundation Inc
- Melon Direct
- Muckland Regal, Inc.
- Nash Produce
- Norfolk Southern Foundation
- North Carolina Healthcare Engineers Association, Inc.
- Nutrien

- Railinc
- Restoring Hope Center
- RJM Foundation
- Starbucks
- Sysco Foodservice
- TELUS
- Tony Moore Farming
- Triple G Brokerage
- Tyson Foods
- UNC Health Care
- Whole Foods
- William C. Ethridge Foundation, Inc.
- Williams Cattle, LLC
- Wilson Farms

For more information on ways to engage your business or organization in the fight to end hunger, please contact: Anna Spell Miller Director of Corporate & Foundation Relations amiller@foodbankcenc.org





2023 Financials

2023 Revenue

Food Donated	\$181,160,955
Contributions	\$25,793,403
Campaign Pledges	\$588,217
Governmental Awards	\$22,409,252
Agency Contributions	\$1,539,500
Miscellaneous	\$2,081,703
Goods and Services Contributed In-kind:	\$505,037
Total:	\$234,078,067

2023 Expenses

Program Services	\$213,239,015
Management & General	\$3,279,734
Fundraising	\$5,323,106
Total	\$221,841,855

2023 Net Assets

Increase in Unres. Net Assets	\$10,831,674
Increase in Temp. Res. Net Assets	\$1,404,538
Net Assets:	\$12,236,212

Net Assets at Beg of Year	\$88,679,951
Net Assets at End of Year:	\$100,916,163

Year End = June 30, 2023 Audited by Cherry Bekaert LLP

2023-2024 Board Of Directors

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PRESIDENT & CEO

Ashley C. McCumber



Nourish people. **Build** solutions. **Empower** communities.

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