

HUNGER matters

INSIDE »

From the Desk of the President/CEO *page 2*

Why I'm a Food Bank Sustainer *page 3*

How You Can Help *page 3*

Donor Spotlight: Delta Air Lines *page 4*

Food Bank Staff Help Florida Recover *page 4*

A NEWSLETTER FOR THE FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA

WINTER 2018

YOUR SUPPORT HELPED ANGIE DURING A STRESSFUL JOB HUNT

Imagine you arrive at work one day to find the doors locked, the windows shuttered, and no one answering the telephone. One day you have a job and a steady paycheck and the next you don't, with absolutely no notice or time to prepare.

That's what happened to Angie. She showed up at the local restaurant where she worked for years to find it completely shut down. Angie and her teenage daughter lived on that income alone and in the blink of an eye, it was gone.

Many people would likely panic or sink into a depression, but not Angie. She immediately got to work applying for new jobs and lining up interviews, but finding a new job takes time. While she searched, her shelves and refrigerator, along with her bank account, were quickly emptying. Angie needed gas in her car to get to her job interviews, not to mention the larger bills piling up, like rent and utilities. Angie suddenly had to worry about how she would buy food.

Luckily Angie drove by the Food Bank one day while on her way to an interview. She made a mental note to stop and see if there was some help she could receive for her and her daughter.

"I was getting worried. I had some job interviews, but I was starting to worry about buying food."

Angie was so grateful to have received the help with food and to have one less worry during this stressful time. Unfortunately, there are too many people in the Food Bank's 34-county service area who share these worries, more than 629,000 in fact. While we know it would take millions of meals to feed all those food-insecure households, we keep working, thanks to your support. Each year we distribute more food and develop solutions for our friends and neighbors facing hunger.

**FOOD
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FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

The holidays are a time of hustle and bustle, and the Food Bank is no exception. Each year we ask our community to help us provide millions of meals to families by the end of the year, and each year you answer the call. Thank you so much. The Food Bank serves over one third of the state of North Carolina, and we can't do it alone. In addition to support from you, we rely on strong, coordinated relationships with our more than 800 partner agencies, our retail and agricultural partners, and our dedicated staff working to bring food into our facility.

When we return refreshed from the holidays and begin the new year, hunger is still at our doorstep. Our work begins again to provide the healthiest food possible to the families we serve, distributing more meals every year to continue reducing the existing meal gap. Hunger does not take vacations and it does not discriminate. Hunger is never convenient, and few can be totally prepared when it rears its head. But with your help, the Food Bank can be there for them.

I hope you enjoyed your holidays and took some time for rest and relaxation, and thank you for all your support in 2017. We look forward to your partnership in 2018 as we continue working to find solutions for our neighbors facing hunger.

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



Would your church, civic group, or community organization be interested in hosting a Summer Food Service Program site in 2018? This program is sponsored by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina and can provide children living in low-income areas with breakfast and lunch meals while school is out for the summer. For more information please contact Mercedes Sanders, Kids Summer Meals and CACFP Supervisor with the Food Bank, at 919.863.9528 or msanders@foodbankcenc.org.

OUR BRANCHES

RALEIGH
1924 Capital Boulevard
Raleigh, NC 27604
919.875.0707

DURHAM
2700 Angier Avenue
Durham, NC 27703
919.956.2513

GREENVILLE
1712 Union Street
Greenville, NC 27834
252.752.4996

NEW BERN
205 South Glenburnie Road
New Bern, NC 28560
252.514.2006

SANDHILLS
195 Sandy Avenue
Southern Pines, NC 28387
910.692.5959

WILMINGTON
1314 Marstellar Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910.251.1465

WHY I'M A FOOD BANK SUSTAINER by Gregory Ng

I first started working with the Food Bank in 2012 because I wanted to make a difference in the area where I live. While the issue of hunger is worldwide, it was very important to me to make a difference locally.

As I sat down to dinner with my family every night it hit me hard that my kids' classmates may not have food on their plates.

Unfortunately, the numbers are there to support my fears. Over 190,000 kids in central and eastern North Carolina do not have access to enough food.

My family and I have decided to be sustaining donors because the need is constant. Sustaining donations help the Food Bank with daily operations and crucial programs that extend past just the efforts around the holidays. A sustaining donation is easy to set up, with a monthly or quarterly gift, and it warms our heart to know we help put hundreds of meals on the table every month for our local families.

It's easy to become a sustainer: foodbankcenc.org » Donate » Check 'Make this an automatic gift to support families year round.'



IN MEMORIAM

Linda Hubbard BackPack Pals Founder

Linda Hubbard, Backpack Pals Founder, passed away on December 22, 2017. Linda had an unwavering commitment to helping people in need, and believed that one person can change the lives of many. Linda started the Backpack Pals program during her career with Moore County Public Schools. Upon retiring, Linda established a partnership with our Sandhills Branch to keep the program going. Even in retirement, Linda ensured Backpack Pals' growth and sustainability by tirelessly collecting donations, recruiting and managing volunteers, coordinating backpack deliveries, and building strong relationships in the community. We will greatly miss her positive attitude, high energy, and vision for a hunger-free Moore County.



Charity Mae Wike, BackPack Pals Volunteer

Mrs. Charity Mae Wike, a long-time Backpack Pals Volunteer, passed away on September 12, 2017. Mae, as she was known to her fellow volunteers, started working with her friend and Backpack Pals founder Linda Hubbard. When the program moved to the Food Bank's Sandhills Branch permanently, Mae would come by almost every day to volunteer for the next five years. "It was like Mae was an employee at the Food Bank," said Michael Cotten, Sandhills Branch Director. The Sandhills staff will remember Mae for always being positive and uplifting. Our thoughts are with Mae's family and friends during this difficult time.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE MONEY & ASSETS

\$1 = \$10 worth of food or 5 meals

For more information, visit foodbankcenc.org/donate_money

DONATE FOOD

One meal equals a little over one pound of food (19 ounces)

For more information, visit foodbankcenc.org/donate_food

DONATE TIME: VOLUNTEER

Volunteer hours = 116 full-time employees.

For more information, visit foodbankcenc.org/volunteer

DONOR SPOTLIGHT: DELTA AIR LINES

In their second year of partnering with the Food Bank, Delta Air Lines is making a difference to help those in need in central and eastern North Carolina. Delta has provided over 250,000 meals in addition to supporting our volunteer efforts at the Raleigh and Durham Branches. Delta believes in giving back to the community where their employees live, work, and serve, and is making a huge impact on those facing food insecurity in our service area.

In 2017, Delta chose to support the Stop Summer Hunger initiative, which is focused on the nearly 300,000 children who may lose access to healthy meals while their school is closed during break. As a platinum sponsor, they made it possible to provide over 50,000 meals to children in need. Knowing that children are also in need during the school year, Delta contributed to our Kids Cafe program with a donation ensuring that 25,000 meals will be provided during this after school program offering tutoring, nutrition education, mentoring, and nutritious meals to children at risk of hunger.

On Giving Tuesday 2017, as one of our match partners, Delta contributed \$10,000 to this one-day fundraising event, in addition to bringing a group of Delta employees to sort sweet potatoes, white potatoes, apples, and bell peppers. Giving Tuesday is a national effort gaining momentum each year and with the help of companies like Delta, we were thrilled to set a record of raising enough funds to provide 600,000 meals in one day! These efforts simply couldn't happen without companies like Delta who value their community and are willing to support the Food Bank's work throughout the year.



AFTER IRMA, FOOD BANK STAFF HELP FLORIDA RECOVER by Ansel Prichard

Being an employee of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (FBCENC), you may wonder why I spent a week fighting hunger in Jacksonville, FL. Part of being a member of the Feeding America network, is banding together to help our sister food banks when disaster strikes.

Feeding Northeast Florida (FNEFL) serves an 8-county area, where more than 280,000 people suffer from food insecurity. Natural disasters like Hurricane Irma add an even more urgent need to that figure. FBCENC is no stranger to disaster relief. Last October, Hurricane Matthew brought widespread flooding to large areas of North Carolina, and it was during that time that I realized just how large a role Feeding America food banks play in recovery efforts.

My experience in Jacksonville was a memorable one. Day-to-day, I worked with FNEFL's Volunteer Services team. Our volunteers primarily sorted and organized goods for the Mobile Pantry, goods that went almost exclusively to disaster relief. It was fun to compare programs and exchange ideas. That's the beauty in working with other food banks within the Feeding America network: our missions and overall goals are virtually synonymous. We were able to quickly and seamlessly blend right in to the FNEFL culture.

The pinnacle of this experience was the arrival of FBCENC's truck from Raleigh: 42,000 pounds of disaster relief collected in the Triangle. It gave the relief effort a sense of scope. Disaster relief and recovery don't just happen. It takes immense planning, coordination, and execution across state lines and with little time available.

Aside from staff, it was remarkable to see volunteers and contributors so generously and readily donate their time, supplies, and money to help others hundreds of miles away, people who they will likely never meet. Crises, as terrible as they are, have the habit of bringing out the very best in people. At the end of the day, it's folks like food banks, partner agencies, and similar organizations that pave the long road to rebuilding. They, along with the people with whom they work, help us remember exactly what we are rebuilding for: a world in which we are all in it together. Cliché? Maybe. But it's nevertheless powerful stuff to witness.

Our hearts go out to those in Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico, whose lives have been so drastically and terribly altered by these hurricanes. They can rest assured, however, that while national attention may wane, we at organizations like FBCENC and FNEFL fully understand the nature of long-term recovery, and we won't be going anywhere until the job is done.

