

# HUNGER matters

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

WINTER 2019

## THE FOOD BANK AND PARTNERS RESPOND TO CRISIS FOLLOWING HURRICANE FLORENCE

In the span of three weeks, Hurricanes Florence and Michael created a dire humanitarian crisis in more than half of the Food Bank's service area. Unfortunately, some of the Food Bank's partners that routinely provide essential relief to people in need find themselves stretched to the limit when disasters strike. The communities we serve have a long history of rising to the occasion when they are needed most. Adelpia CDC Inc. is just one of the organizations that helped the many people impacted by the recent disasters.

Pastor Brian Cornelius established Adelpia in Jones County in 2002 to help serve senior citizens and families facing food insecurity and nutritional deficiencies. After partnering with the Food Bank in 2017, Pastor Cornelius and volunteers expanded their outreach and provided free meals at Bryant Chapel AME Zion Church through Adelpia's Senior Citizens Program and Kids Summer Meals Program.

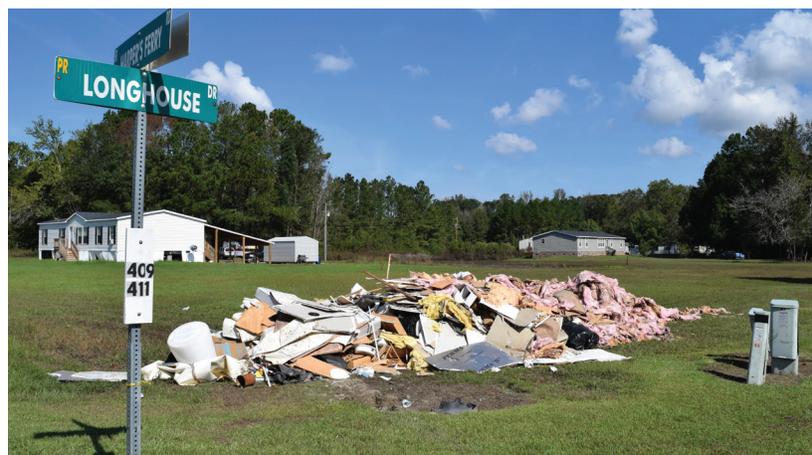
When Hurricane Florence made landfall on September 14, it created a massive storm surge and record flooding that destroyed homes and cut off citizens from their communities. The number of people in need of food and shelter after Florence increased exponentially. "People from other areas came to us for help because the river cut them off to the rest of their city and aid that was closest to them," said Pastor Cornelius.

After flooding began to recede, the Food Bank doubled food deliveries to Adelpia CDC, allowing the organization to increase meals served to 250-300 each day. In addition to non-perishable items like cereal, peanut butter, and pasta, the Food Bank was able to provide hygiene and cleaning products to aid in recovery efforts.

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*"People from other areas came to us for help because the river cut them off to the rest of their city and aid that was closest to them."*

— Pastor Brian Cornelius



**FOOD  
BANK**

OF CENTRAL  
& EASTERN  
NORTH  
CAROLINA

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## FROM THE DESK OF THE PRESIDENT & CEO

Dear Friends,

In 1999, just two years after I started at the Food Bank, Hurricane Floyd swept through and devastated much of our service area. The Food Bank was open for 24 hours, seven days a week for months. We opened a branch in Greenville several months early because the need was so great. Ultimately, the Food Bank distributed 5.4 million pounds of food and supplies in response to Floyd.

This was the largest disaster relief effort by the Food Bank — until Hurricanes Florence and Michael.

12 weeks after Hurricane Florence, the Food Bank has distributed more than 6 million pounds of food and supplies. We have been operating nonstop to provide food, water, and supplies to those impacted by the storm. This is more than twice our normal distribution, in addition to continuing to serve our partners through regular operations.

It's important to remember the children, seniors, and families who were hit hardest by the storm. Many have lost everything. For those who were already struggling to provide for their family's basic needs, the flooding is even more catastrophic. And unfortunately, many of these folks have a long recovery still ahead.

Because of you, these families have been given more than just the food and supplies they desperately need...they've been given hope. The hope that one day soon they'll get back on their feet and return to the lives they had before Florence made landfall. We've promised to stand beside them for as long as they need us. And, thanks to you, we're here for them in their greatest time of need. Together, we're in it for the long haul.

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



## OUR BRANCHES

### RALEIGH

1924 Capital Boulevard  
Raleigh, NC 27604  
919.875.0707

### GREENVILLE

1712 Union Street  
Greenville, NC 27834  
252.752.4996

### SANDHILLS

195 Sandy Avenue  
Southern Pines, NC 28387  
910.692.5959

### DURHAM

2700 Angier Avenue  
Durham, NC 27703  
919.956.2513

### NEW BERN

205 South Glenburnie Road  
New Bern, NC 28560  
252.577.1912

### WILMINGTON

1314 Marstellar Street  
Wilmington, NC 28401  
910.251.1465

# THE FOOD BANK AND PARTNERS RESPOND TO CRISIS FOLLOWING HURRICANE FLORENCE *Continued from page 1.*

When Hurricane Michael brought additional rains to the area, the Food Bank was able to help Adelpia CDC take recovery efforts one step further by delivering two tons of frozen protein. Although disaster benefits were an option for many in the affected area, they often do not fill the need of an entire family or replace food lost from power outages.

The Food Bank was also able to apply to the USDA to extend the Kids Summer Meals program after the storm due to lengthy school closures. When we approached Adelpia to see if they would be willing to host an extended site, they jumped at the opportunity to serve the youngest victims of Hurricane Florence. Children from ages one to 18 received breakfast and lunch meals until schools were able to reopen.



*Pastor Cornelius with USDA representatives.*

The hurricanes and recovery relief brought a mix of emotions for the volunteers and citizens. ***"It is sad on one part because so many lost so much. But it is also gratifying to help people through these moments. The Food Bank was a God send."***

**— Pastor Brian Cornelius**



*Adelpia CDC extended Kids Summer Meals participants.*

## IN MEMORIAM

### Cooper Spivey Atamanchuk

Long-time Food Bank volunteer Cooper Atamanchuk passed away August 5, 2018. Cooper's story is famous around the Food Bank – she came to the Food Bank to drop off a donation after Hurricane Andrew and asked what else she could do to help. Someone said "Well, you can answer that phone over there." Twelve hours later, Cooper was still answering phones. After that, Cooper regularly spent one morning a week helping at the front desk until she retired in early 2018.

### Sam W. Shelby

Mr. Sam W. Shelby, owner of the building home to the Food Bank's Sandhills Branch and dedicated supporter, passed away July 27, 2018. After serving in the Army and 20 years spent with Westinghouse Electric Corporation, he relocated to Pinehurst. Mr. Shelby was dedicated to the Pinehurst community, his family, and the business he started following his move.

**Our thoughts are with the families and friends of these two individuals who were so dear to the Food Bank.**

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

### DONATE MONEY & ASSETS

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

For more information, visit [foodbankcenc.org/donate\\_money](http://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](http://foodbankcenc.org/donate_food)

### DONATE TIME: VOLUNTEER

**Volunteer hours = 111 full-time employees.**

For more information, visit [foodbankcenc.org/volunteer](http://foodbankcenc.org/volunteer)

# DISTRIBUTION TO SENIORS PROVIDES ENLIGHTENING EXPERIENCE

As a long-time supporter of the Food Bank and a member of the Full Plate Circle, Chris Rieser helps feed our friends and neighbors who are struggling on a regular basis. Looking for a more hands-on experience, Chris spent a day in Halifax County helping Food Bank staff distribute CSFP boxes to seniors. CSFP is a USDA program 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.



"It's hard to believe that people could survive on so little," Chris said after looking at the qualifications for the CSFP Program. "Unfortunately, it is all too real." Nearly 50,000 seniors in our 34-county service area live at or below the poverty level.

This includes 84-year-old Nello, a lifelong resident of Enfield. "As long as we were working we didn't worry about food," said Nello. But that changed when he retired more than 20 years ago. "We can't pay off all the bills. My gas bill is sky high. In the winter, I know we won't catch up then."

Fortunately for Nello and many seniors in our service area, they are able to receive a box of staples every month from the Food Bank. It is all thanks to donors like Chris that we are able to provide this life-sustaining food. Though Chris was very aware of the problem of hunger, she found it an eye-opening experience.

"It was very enlightening, in the almost literal sense of shedding light on the circumstances of the people who need this type of help."

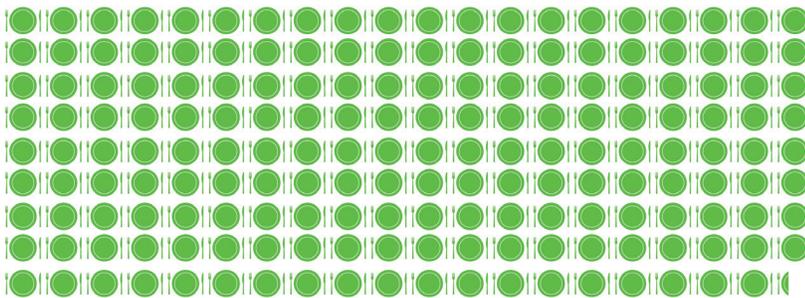


# HURRICANE FLORENCE

## Disaster Relief by the numbers

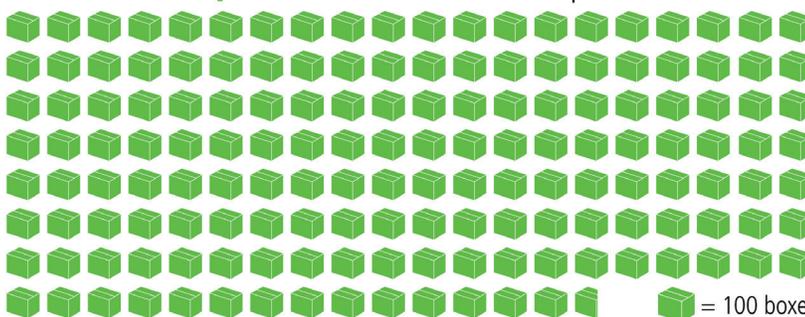
as of 12/4/2018

**5,382,975** meals distributed



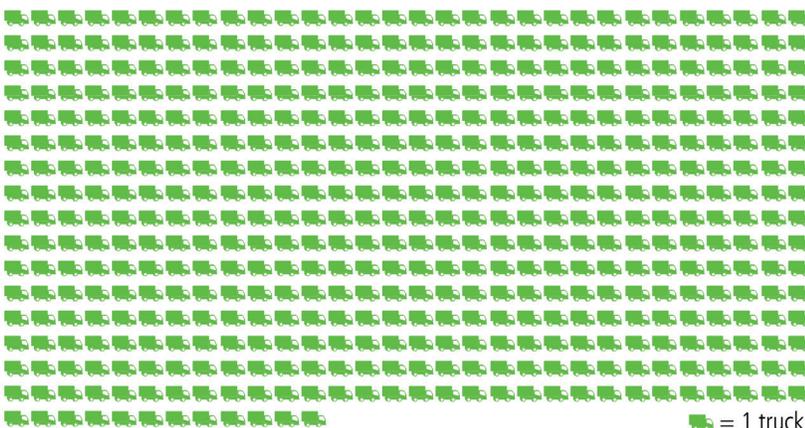
● = 30,000 meals

**15,480** disaster relief boxes packed



■ = 100 boxes

**461** truck-loads of disaster relief distributed



🚚 = 1 truck

**31** counties receiving disaster relief



■ = Counties in our service area receiving disaster relief.

■ = Counties in our service area.

■ = Counties outside our service area receiving disaster relief in partnership with our sister food banks.