

History of the Food Bank



FROM A HUMBLE BEGINNING . . .

The Food Bank opened in 1980 with a staff of one in a 3,600-square-foot warehouse in a Raleigh suburb. In 1981, we expanded our service area and founded our first branch in Sandhills to serve Lee, Moore, Scotland, and Richmond counties.

HOW WE'VE GROWN

On three separate occasions since then, the Food Bank has outgrown warehouse space due to increased food demand and distribution. In 1983, the organization moved to a 10,000-square-foot warehouse in Raleigh; seven years later, we moved into a 36,000-square-foot warehouse near the NC State Fairgrounds. By 1995, the number of partner agencies and distribution to these agencies had increased so much that another move was necessary. After Jack and Mary Hofler gifted the former PYA Monarch Foods warehouse at 3808 Tarheel Drive to the Food Bank in 1997, the board of directors and staff undertook a capital campaign, which enabled the Food Bank to move its administrative headquarters to the 40,000-square-foot warehouse in Raleigh.

OUR EVOLUTION IN RESPONSE TO HURRICANE FLOYD

In 1999, Hurricane Floyd devastated eastern North Carolina, and the Food Bank responded with the largest distribution in its history. The increased demand for food and emergency supplies in the severely affected east, along with increased demand from partner agencies not affected by the storm, meant that the Food Bank would distribute approximately 18.8 million pounds of food that year (FY 1999–00). Hurricane Floyd changed the Food Bank environment by forging deep relationships with communities in the east. These new relationships, coupled with new knowledge of needs acquired during the disaster, consistently increased distribution levels after the hurricane and the flood that followed.

ADDING BRANCHES TO INCREASE OUR IMPACT

To better meet the needs of those at risk of hunger in the service area, we established two new branch warehouses in 1999. The warehouse in Durham began distributing food to agencies in Durham, Orange, Vance, Person, Granville, and northern Chatham counties in June of that year. This warehouse has since relocated to a space that enables the branch to handle constant increases in food inventory and distribution

**FOOD
BANK**

**OF CENTRAL
& EASTERN
NORTH
CAROLINA**

Fighting Hunger in 34 Counties

Having distributed millions of pounds of emergency food after the flooding caused by Hurricane Floyd, the warehouse in Greenville began regular operations in December 1999. It serves agencies in Carteret, Craven, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, and Wilson counties.

The Food Bank of Coastal Carolina, serving New Hanover, Pender, Brunswick, and Columbus counties, became a subsidiary distribution organization (SDO) of the Food Bank in 1990 and a branch in December 2002.

WE CHANGE OUR NAME

Since its inception in 1980, the Food Bank of North Carolina had serviced largely the central and eastern part of the state. No other Food Bank existed in the state at the time of its inception, thus the original name, Food Bank of North Carolina. Since its beginning, five other Food Banks have been created that service other regions in the state. The Food Bank of North Carolina was renamed "**Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina**" in 2004 to better reflect the area we serve. The main office in Raleigh holds that name exclusively with branch warehouses renamed accordingly: **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Durham**; **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Greenville**; **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills**; and **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington**.

31 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD DISTRIBUTED

In 2005–06, the Food Bank continued to raise its level of performance for the community by distributing 26.4 million pounds of food to 879 partner agencies, a 539% increase from the 4.9 million pounds distributed in 1997–98. This record was broken once again in 2004–05 when distribution totaled over 31 million pounds, an accomplishment that only five food banks in the country have achieved. The organization has grown deeply aware of the level of trust it receives from communities and has readily accepted the opportunity to build and expand on its relationships with partner agencies.

In fiscal 2006, the Food Bank continued to raise its level of performance for the community by distributing 31.4 million pounds of food through more than 890 partner agencies. Since its founding 26 years ago, the Food Bank has distributed over 200 million pounds of food—112 million of that amount was distributed in the four-year period between fiscal years 2002 and 2006.

The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina is #8 in food distribution in the United States.

www.foodbankcenc.org

**FOOD
BANK**



**OF CENTRAL
& EASTERN
NORTH
CAROLINA**

