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Congressman Butterfield visits area food bank

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By [ANDREW DOUD](#)

Reporter

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During these difficult economic times there are a lot of uncertainties.

As people continue to lose their jobs, they are faced with a number of questions, one of which for some is where their next meal might be.

Today, Congressman G.K. Butterfield took a first hand look at what's becoming a bigger and bigger operation at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern Carolina in Greenville.

“These people are humanitarians, they are about families and we have a hunger problem in the first congressional district. A lot of people don't realize that but families are desperately trying to make ends meet and at times they go without food,” Butterfield said.

Larry Motteler showed the congressman around the facility after he sat down to talk with representatives from area soup kitchens and food pantries that the food bank distributes to.

He also discussed some current issues with the economy and how the stimulus package that was passed last week may help.

The food bank serves more than 400 thousand people across 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. But Motteler says as the economy has continued to go down, that need has gone up.

He explained, “We used to average most of the time, every week, about two tractor trailer loads of food and we have increased to five tractor trailer loads of food now.”

With the need for help also growing, Congressman Butterfield says people need to pull together.

He said, “We are suffering. We have a lot of challenges in this area and people are losing their homes, their losing their jobs and the least we can do is help people out by providing food and other humanitarian assistance.”