

## A friend in your neighborhood

**E**ach year, food relief organizations find themselves facing a drop in donations when spring and summer roll around. The five warehouses of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina face the same plight. Unfortunately, there is an increase in individuals who find themselves in emergency situations.

More than 870 rescue missions, after-school programs, food pantries, group homes, senior and day care programs have been stretching the food items that we provide to go as far as possible to help feed the more than 400,000 at risk of hunger in our 34 counties.

Last spring, we received a big boost of support with donations from The News & Observer's new Feed the Need project. Your donations provided more than 336,000 meals that helped us feed more of our neighbors in need during the spring and summer.

You will discover throughout this insert that there are those in your neighborhood who lack the means to provide meals for their families, and who depend on the Food Bank and our partner agencies to maintain a steady supply of food to sustain them in their time of need throughout the year.

There is hope on the horizon. We thank the News & Observer for leading the charge for such a huge

community event this spring by recognizing the shortage and taking action again this year to keep our shelves stocked.

With the continued extraordinary support of this compassionate community – individuals, families, schools, civic groups, faith institutions, corporations and media partners — our collaborative efforts can continue to provide hope.

Most importantly, we thank you for supporting two friends that are already in your neighborhoods — The News & Observer and the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina — and for being a friend in your neighborhood through your generous food and financial donations during Feed the Need.

**Peter Werbicki, President and CEO**  
*Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC*

