

A close-up photograph of a child's hand holding a ripe red apple. The child is wearing a white shirt with colorful polka dots. In the background, a large basket filled with many similar red apples is visible, slightly out of focus. The overall scene is bright and natural, suggesting an outdoor setting like a farm or market.

TEN FOOD BANKS,
one mission:
**END HUNGER IN
THE CAROLINAS**



FY26 IMPACT REPORT

ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES

Over the past year, Feeding the Carolinas launched exciting organizational changes to provide clarity around our work, deepen our impact, and better meet the needs of our network. The first of those changes was a timely refresh to our mission and vision statements—keeping our member Food Banks at the center of our work:

OUR MISSION

To coordinate, support, and advocate for member Food Banks across the Carolinas to create lasting solutions to address hunger.

OUR VISION

A network of member Food Banks building and sustaining hunger-free communities in the Carolinas together.

We also welcomed Ann Edmondson as our new Executive Director. Ann brings more than two decades of leadership experience in membership associations in the Carolinas, along with specialized expertise in communications and government relations. Under her leadership, Feeding the Carolinas looks forward to further strengthening its support of our member Food Banks in their efforts to create lasting solutions to address hunger in our communities.



Ann Edmondson

HUNGER IN THE CAROLINAS

The need for hunger relief is present in every county in America, and the Carolinas are no different. **More than 2 million people face food insecurity in the Carolinas.** The sharply rising cost of living and funding cuts to national food assistance programs have led to historic rates of food insecurity across our communities.

According to Map the Meal Gap, as of 2024:

1 in 6
PEOPLE*
in the Carolinas is **food insecure**
**Up from 1 in 7 in 2023.*

741,000
CHILDREN
in the Carolinas are **food insecure**

The rising cost of food not only affects our
for every 2 dollars we raised; this year, the rising costs have cut that to only 5 meals for every 2 dollars raised.

OUR FY26 IMPACT

✓ **MEMBER RESOURCES**
\$2.5 million provided to our member Food Banks, totaling **6.4 million nourishing meals** for our neighbors in need across the Carolinas.

✓ **FARM TO FOOD BANK**
74.1 million pounds of fresh, local produce sourced, totaling **61.7 million meals** for families across the Carolinas.

✓ **ADVOCACY**
FY26 marked our **most robust advocacy campaign** to date, addressing the federal government shutdown in fall 2025. We created partner pantry resources for advocacy engagement for the first time, equipping more stakeholders to advocate alongside us, resulting in **record-high engagement** during our third annual Advocacy Action Month.

Impact Report

ADVOCACY IN ACTION

Amid the surge in hunger, a federal government shutdown dramatically increased the need for food in our communities. SNAP Benefits were delayed for millions of families across the nation, diminishing their ability to put food on the table when many were already struggling to afford groceries.

Our member Food Banks rallied with urgency to support our neighbors and strategically address the crisis through mobile distributions to federal workers and contractors whose paychecks were delayed, as well as those families whose SNAP benefits were delayed. We knew this was a temporary solution—for every meal our Food Banks provide, SNAP can provide nine.

Together with hunger relief organizations across the Carolinas, we set ambitious goals to address the ongoing need:

- 1. Raise public awareness of near-unprecedented hunger in the Carolinas
- 2. Educate decision-makers and staff on the impact of federal food flow and long-term impacts of funding cuts
- 3. Encourage stakeholders to recognize the importance of increased and sustained investments in food purchase funding

We urged leaders in Congress to work together to reopen the government and fully fund programs like SNAP that keep children healthy and families strong. Our network of Food Banks, partner pantries, anti-hunger organizations, and concerned community members came together and took action through:

- Widespread, grassroots email campaigns to legislators
- Network-wide sign-on letters to state and federal representatives
- Collaborative press releases and earned media engagement
- Food Bank site visits with key legislators

These combined actions resulted in our network’s largest collective advocacy campaign in the organization’s history.

THE OUTCOME

Increased community awareness, **over \$2.2 million raised** in additional funds for food, **nurtured relationships** with key legislators, and **fed more neighbors** in need. **This is the power our network yields when we work together.**



THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS

The incredible impact of our network would not have been possible without the generosity of thousands of individuals, businesses, and organizations who supported Feeding the Carolinas. A special thanks to:



- Retail Consumer Alliance Foundation
- Share Our Strength

- Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina
- Vanguard Charitable

feedingthecarolinas.org

Thank you!

OUR TEAM

Executive Director
Ann Edmondson

Farm to Food Bank Director
Cindy Stapleton

Lead Ag Sourcing Specialist
Erica King

Compliance Manager
Tina Newsom

Advocacy & Communications Specialist
Jamie Butler Alt



Join us in the fight to end
hunger.
feedingthecarolinas.org/action



OUR MEMBER FOOD BANKS



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