



FY24 IMPACT REPORT

TEN FOOD BANKS, ONE MISSION



WHO WE ARE

Feeding the Carolinas (FTC) is a network that unites the ten member Food Banks across North and South Carolina to tackle food insecurity. While each Food Bank does amazing work in its own communities, FTC coordinates and maximizes resources across both states. Think of FTC as the “air traffic controller” of the food bank world, managing resources to help our member Food Banks get healthy, nourishing food exactly where it needs to go – *in the homes of families who need it most.*

OUR VISION

Everyone in the Carolinas has equitable access to healthy food.

OUR MISSION

Engage, educate, and unite to achieve food security for all Carolinians.

A LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

In September 2018, on my birthday, I stepped into the role of Executive Director at Feeding the Carolinas (FTC). That same day, Hurricane Florence arrived in the Carolinas. From coordinating hurricane response and recovery in those first memorable weeks to leading FTC through a growing portfolio of services today, **I’ve had the privilege of witnessing the remarkable impact that FTC, together with our member Food Banks, has in the fight against hunger.**

Each year, even through the challenges of a global pandemic, we’ve seen our efforts yield strong and meaningful results. The 2023-2024 fiscal year was no exception. Here are a few notable highlights we’ve achieved together:



We transitioned NC state funding from a grant-based process to a direct appropriation, **doubling the appropriation from \$3 million to \$6 million** – the first increase in decades!



We collaborated with the SC Department of Agriculture to create a *Growing Agribusiness Fund*, which has generated **more than \$1 million in grant funds** for our SC Food Banks thus far.



We provided **\$4.9 million** in direct financial support to our member Food Banks.



Our Farm to Food Bank program continues to flourish, breaking records every year in the volume and variety of produce sourced within the Carolinas for our member Food Banks. This year, we sourced almost 76 million pounds of produce – making us the **second-largest source of produce in the Feeding America network!**

Whether through resource provision, advocacy, crisis support, or food and health guidance, Feeding the Carolinas remains a steadfast partner to our member Food Banks, working tirelessly to ensure that food reaches the families who need it most.

As we reflect on our successes, we remain committed to deepening our partnerships, expanding educational resources, and continuing our vital work of fighting hunger for our friends and neighbors across the Carolinas. We are honored to be a part of – *literally* – ‘Feeding the Carolinas!’

Sincerely,

Mike Darrow | Executive Director



THE REALITY OF FOOD INSECURITY

AND HOW IT'S AFFECTING OUR NEIGHBORS

There is a certain stigma around food insecurity, due to several misconceptions and stereotypes about the people who suffer from it. But the truth of the matter is that food insecurity is a complex issue that can impact anyone, regardless of their socioeconomic status.

The USDA defines food insecurity as “a lack of consistent access to enough food for every household member to live an active, healthy life.”

Every county in the Carolinas – all 100 counties in North Carolina and 46 counties in South Carolina – **experiences food insecurity to some degree.** This reality is staggering. Food insecurity is not limited to unhoused individuals, low-income households, or those who utilize food banks’ services. It can impact your neighbor next door. It can affect the kids who sit next to your kids in class.



1 in 7

CAROLINIANS

experience food insecurity.*



660,000+

CHILDREN

experience food insecurity in the Carolinas.*



64%

OF NEIGHBORS

already accessing the Feeding the Carolinas network consider themselves at risk of food insecurity.**

HERE'S WHERE WE COME IN

IT'S TIME TO BREAK THE STIGMA

Our purpose is simple: **to eliminate hunger in our communities.** By taking an intersectional approach informed by our neighbors, we can collaborate with our network to provide more resources and eliminate barriers to accessing food.

We must break the stigma and insecurities that can prevent individuals from seeking help. First, we work to **spread awareness.** Through social media, interviews, multimedia, and printed collateral, we're elevating the voices of those who are experiencing hunger. Second, we work to **decrease barriers to accessing food.** By engaging in advocacy efforts with our neighbors, community partners, government officials, and legislators to create equitable policies, we're providing opportunities for everyone to get the help they need *when they need it.*



*Map the Meal Gap (2022).
**DiMuzio, D. & Skrzypkowska, N. (2024). Carolinas Food Access Survey Report. Feeding the Carolinas. feedingthecarolinas.org/survey.

2023-2024 IMPACT

1 ADVOCACY ACTION MONTH RESULTS

This year, we launched our first-ever Advocacy Action Month in March! FTC’s Network Advocacy team worked together to achieve the following:

170+

STATE LEGISLATORS

were contacted by us with educational materials.

27

STATE REPRESENTATIVES

visited our Food Banks.

14+

VISITS

were made to state representatives’ offices.

7

VISITS

were made to federal representatives in D.C.

2 FARM TO FOOD BANK RESULTS

76M

POUNDS OF FRESH PRODUCE

sourced in FY24 to nourish our neighbors. That’s 76 million pounds of food that would otherwise end up in landfills!

↑

IN PRODUCE

we have increased the amount of produce sourced every year for the last 5 years.

50

CAROLINA FARMERS

worked with in FY24.

35+

VARIETIES OF PRODUCE

offered within FY24.

3 CRISIS SUPPORT RESULTS

We created an innovative program for “micro” disaster support so that our community food pantries can quickly respond to crises or natural disasters. Through FTC’s long-standing relationship with the **NC State Employees’ Credit Union Foundation**, we were able to secure **\$250,000** to launch the **SECU Foundation Disaster Quick Response Fund**.



MEET TONY

APPLE RIDGE FARMS – HENDERSONVILLE, NC

Tony works hand-in-hand with Cindy Stapleton as part of our Farm to Food Bank program. Through this partnership, Apple Ridge Farms has donated **3,592,498 pounds of apples** throughout its time with us! Tony says, *“This relationship has made a huge impact on business by providing the opportunity to get these fresh apples in the hands of people who deserve fresh produce.”* In addition to what he contributes through the Farm to Food Bank program, he continues to donate to his local Food Bank (MANNA Food Bank in Asheville, NC). *“We take comfort knowing that we are assisting in the effort to combat hunger. We have a healthy food item that fits well into the program of providing nutritious food to families in need. We are proud to be a part of that chain.”* Tony is a prime example of the ways in which we can support local farmers, as well as provide food for those who need it most!



JOIN US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER IN THE CAROLINAS



DONATE

Help friends and neighbors who need it most.



ADVOCATE

Use your voice to impact local legislators to make a difference.



LEARN MORE

Get educated on our four pillars and the resources we provide.

Hunger is about so much more than food. Visit our website to learn more about our mission and ways to take action! While you're at it, check out our new brand video too:



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