

PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING OUR 41ST YEAR OF RESTORING HOPE

From Our Chief Executive Officer, Ed Hosack

THE HUNGER TASK FORCE: CABARRUS COUNTY



Cabarrus County's Hunger Task Force represents the efforts of dozens of local initiatives working together to address the reality of hunger and food insecurity in our community.

As the need accelerates across our county, aggressive collaboration is our best strategy for success. I, for one, am grateful to every entity feeding the hungry in Cabarrus County today, but especially those who are willing to overcome barriers and embrace the effort to multiply our impact through collaboration, shared initiatives, and innovative co-creation of new strategies.

The Hunger Task Force anticipates the day when we establish ourselves as a Food-Secure Region. It is an achievable goal toward which a plan of action is being developed.

continued >>

REDUCE
HUNGER PAINS



COOPERATIVE
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

FOOD, FINANCIAL, AND HOUSING RELIEF MINISTRY

What does it mean for a region to be **FOOD SECURE?**

- **Food is available** to every person through an infrastructure that reflects the unique needs and challenges of people who are food insecure, provides both the quantity and quality of food needed to support healthy living and is sustainable through good times and bad.
- **Awareness and capacity to respond to food insecurity** are widespread across sectors, demographics, and geography.
- **The entire community actively participates** through investments of time and money.
- **The community culture nurtures residents' dignity** and allows people to access help without judgment.



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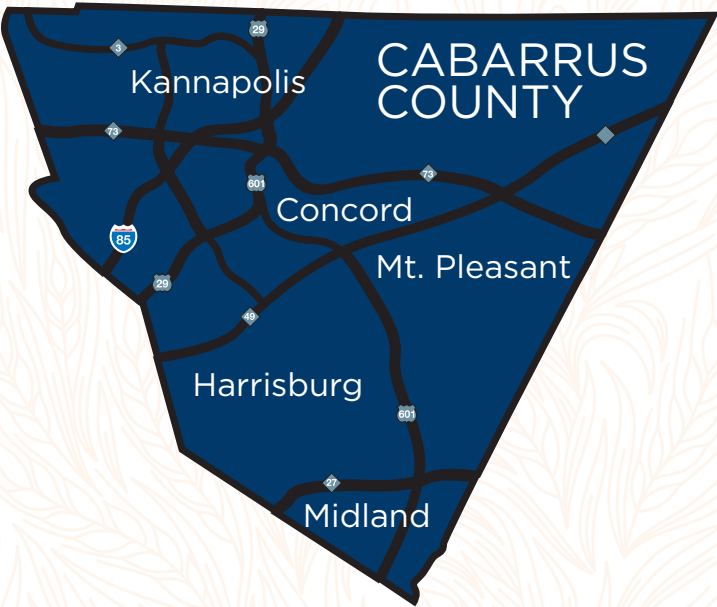
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The Hunger Task Force:
CABARRUS COUNTY



VISION

“For Cabarrus County to be a Food Secure Community by 2025”

MISSION

Organize our Cabarrus resources to maximize access to nutritious food for vulnerable populations.

GOALS/OBJECTIVES

- Establish partnerships
- Reduce waste and duplication
- Develop innovative approaches and education
- Continuously evaluate for future growth

STRATEGIES

Maximize impact and community awareness, resulting in a food-secure community through **Technology, Marketing & Education, and Service Delivery**

To learn more about the Food Secure Community initiative, contact ccm@cooperativeministry.com
Next Meeting: March 8th, 2023

From Our Chief Relationship Officer,
Jeremy Burleson

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR?



As eloquently as He so often does through Scripture, Jesus answers the question, “Who is my neighbor?” in Luke, Chapter 10 by telling the story of the Good Samaritan. In and through the telling of that story, Jesus impresses the need for us to hear and understand clearly the Greatest of Commandments.

Inspired by the commandment to **love our neighbor** and recognizing an ever-pressing need of families in our Cabarrus and Southern Rowan county communities who are facing grocery budgets increasingly impacted by inflation, Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) continues to serve those affected through our **Samaritan’s Table** evening meal program.

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and the first commandment. And the second is like it: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets.”

- Matthew 22:37-40

In our 15th year in partnership with local churches who not only serve as hosts of the Samaritan’s Table evening meals but also as meal providers, this program makes a significant impact on the families which we serve.

The benefits of this evening meal program have surpassed CCM’s expectations over the years, as many of those we’ve served were unaware of the resources available to them or simply didn’t know how to access them. Moreover, this program has been opportunistic for CCM staff and collaborating church members and volunteers to pray with and witness to those we serve.

We invite YOU to consider a partnership with CCM through our Samaritan’s Table program. Our current need involves providing and serving meals once a month on a Thursday evening at Kimball Lutheran Church in Kannapolis, N.C.

As God stirs in your heart to be a part of this evening meal blessing to our community, we invite you to PRAY alongside us and ENGAGE with CCM. Click below to learn more!



Getting 400 micrograms of folic acid before and during pregnancy can help prevent serious birth defects of the brain and spine. Learn how you can get the recommended daily amount of this important nutrient.

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Nonprofit Collaboration in Cabarrus County

The collaboration that exists among the nonprofit sector here in Cabarrus County is unparalleled. There's certainly no better example of that than when executives and leadership from nearly every nonprofit organization in our beloved community gather once per quarter to share challenges and celebrate successes that make Cabarrus County better. These gatherings represent the best of those that recognize the importance of investing back into our community with offerings, services, and resources that only make this a better place to call home. By nature of how these meetings were designed, each non-profit will have the opportunity to host at their respective location to share first-hand the details of what they do.

"Giving frees us from the familiar territory of our own needs by opening up our mind to the unexplained worlds occupied by the needs of others."

- Former first lady, Barbara Bush

From representatives of our hospital system to our health authority, to those focusing in on our housing needs (emergency, transitional & stable), to those entrenched in addressing food and/or financial insecurity, and to those who are keen on the needs of **ALL** ages of our community ... the collaboration that's resulted from this collective group very simply defines the word **TEAMWORK**.

If you are a nonprofit organization that calls Cabarrus County home and may have interest in joining

this collaboration effort, please email CCM's Chief Relationship Officer, Jeremy Burleson - jburleson@cooperativeministry.com



CCM's 2021-2022 Annual Report is available now.

Congratulations Yesenia!

*"It's really incredible to see the effect and partnership that nonprofits in Cabarrus County have on one person. The homeowner whose house we (Habitat) dedicated last Thursday started her journey at **Cooperative Christian Ministry** where she then learned about our homeownership program. We are a community united, and we are so happy that this family received services from several of our partner nonprofits! To all the nonprofits in Cabarrus County: thank you for being so supportive. We appreciate it."*

~ Habitat for Humanity Cabarrus County



Thank you!

Pastor / Leader Breakfast

Thank you to the more than **40 local church Pastors and Leaders** who gathered to hear updates on CCM's NEW Horizon Strategic Plan & BOLD New Initiatives. Church partnerships are vital to CCM's success, and we are grateful for our strong partnerships with the local church.

Thank You to the **Community Collaboration** for the Annual Point-In-Time Count.

All of our housing nonprofit partners, especially;

- **Hellfighters Ministry**
- **The S.T.U.D.I.O.**
- **Opportunity House**

for conducting the PIT count of our "unsheltered" neighbors.

Our **Education & Support Services** team would like to Thank -

The SALT Group at Connect Christian Church for donating a recliner and two TVs for our Housing Residents.

RCCC - Stormie Starks for working weekly, 1 on 1 with one of our Teaching House Residents and those that come to the Dream Center on Thursdays from 9am-1pm.

NC Works - Jasmine Barchus for working with those that come to the Dream Center every other Tuesday from 9am-4pm.

Thank you to everyone who hosted a Food Drive in January to help feed our hungry neighbors!

- **W. M. Irvin Elementary - 1,425 lbs.**
- **SHOE SHOW - 649 lbs.**
- **FedEx Ground employees provided 200 peanut butter sandwiches for our clients.**
- **Carolina Tree for the donation of a whole pallet of rice & bean meal kits, enough for 10,000 meals!**
- **Grace Covenant Preschool in Kannapolis collected and donated 209 lbs. of food**
- **The local chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority - 533 lbs**
- **MLK Celebration in Kannapolis "Stuff the Bus" - 1,221 lbs.**



UPCOMING EVENTS

WE CAN SHAPE OUR FUTURE



BUSINESS BREAKFAST MARCH 14, 2023

City Club at Gibson Mill

CONCORD
NEIGHBOR
HELPING
NEIGHBOR

Sign up to round up your monthly City of Concord Utility bill to the nearest dollar and help keep the air, heat, and lights on for hundreds of families in need.

Visit: <https://concordnc.gov/Departments/Customer-Care/Neighbor-Helping-Neighbor>



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