

PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING OUR 43RD YEAR OF RESTORING HOPE



**CABARRUS
COUNTY**

FOOD INSECURITY: ROOTED IN TRAUMA

On the last day of summer school, my son walked out of the building with a huge smile, proudly toting a large bag on his back, Santa style. His teacher had cleaned out the free snack bin and let him take it all. I was tempted to be embarrassed. My son has never experienced food scarcity in his life. But he deals with food insecurity, one of the most common issues experienced by children who have trauma in their stories.

Some might even dismiss his particular trauma. After all he has never experienced foster care, abuse, neglect, homelessness, or poverty. He was adopted at birth and his mother was young and healthy. But his neurological development was affected by the intense stress and emotional trauma his mother lived through while pregnant. Along with this, he lives with the heavy emotional weight of knowing his first mother gave him away—something he cannot fully understand until he is much older. The manner in which he responds to life circumstances, learning, loss, relationships and change are all influenced by this. His body carries a heavy level of anxiety for situations related to his safety and place in our family and whether his most basic needs will be met outside of his control, even with eight years of consistent provision.

Children are naturally concerned with the stability of their food and where it will come from and if there will be enough. This makes food an easy target for insecurity for any child who has lived through hard things outside of their control, whether the trauma was directly connected to food or not.

CCM | COOPERATIVE
CRISIS TO RESTORATION | CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

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These kids can't be simply told, "Let me know when you are full," or "Dinner will be ready soon." The structure and availability of food has to be carefully communicated in a way that consistently allows for the building of trust, security, and self-regulation. It can take years of intentional, consistent stability to heal the habits and tendencies of food insecurity that began in childhood as a result of trauma.

-Stephanie H. Cook, mother of four

INNOVATIVE SOLUTIONS: COLLABORATIVE EFFORT



ED HOSACK
CEO

Cooperative Christian Ministry spent \$93,000 in the recent twelve month period purchasing groceries to distribute alongside of donated food items through our food pantry network. Nearly double the amount anticipated for the period.

Bulk purchases have become necessary in order to meet the escalating burden on households in our community. The Rebuilders Campus at Brown Mill Commons will be home to a new Community Bulk Food Warehouse that will allow CCM to receive and distribute larger quantities via tractor trailer.

In our community we occasionally miss the opportunity to receive donations of large quantities of palletized non-perishable items due to our inability to receive a tractor trailer at our warehouse facilities or the lack of space to store bulk items. Just like CCM, many of our local hunger fighting nonprofits experience the same disappointment.

The new Community Bulk Food Warehouse will serve not only CCM's needs but will be available to other charitable food organizations in Cabarrus County to address the need to receive purchased or donated non-perishable food items in bulk.

Our Community Services Building on the campus will be operational in 2025 and we hope to invite other community service organizations to access the Bulk Food Warehouse in 2026.

Remembering Ed Dehlin:



The Community Bulk Food Warehouse on The Rebuilders Campus will support CCM's Main Food Pantry and our satellite pantry network. The facility will also provide opportunity for charitable food organizations across Cabarrus County to receive and store bulk quantities of perishable and non-perishable food items.

CCM has reserved the naming of the new warehouse loading docks to honor Ed Dehlin. Ed served CCM's food warehouse for more than twelve years with dedication and passion for those serving and those we served. Many who visited CCM's Crisis Center Food Pantry for donations or pick-ups knew Ed well. Anyone wishing to participate may contribute to the Ed Dehlin Loading Dock with a gift to CCM and noted Ed Dehlin or "Loading Dock".

TODAY on the Rebuilders Campus

***Ike's Construction Company** begins site preparation on infrastructure just outside the future Community Services Building.*

***Liles Construction Company** is performing critical repairs on the historic mill as part of major renovation.*



THE REBUILDERS CAMPUS UPDATE

CHECK OUT “THE RUN OF THE MILL” VIDEO SERIES AND REBUILDERS CAMPUS UPDATES

The housing crisis in Cabarrus County is real, and Cooperative Christian Ministry is responding with a bold and transformative solution: **The Rebuilders Campus at Brown Mill.**

This innovative campus will provide safe, supportive housing and essential resources for families, seniors, and individuals seeking stability. With amenities like the Brown Mill Commons retail and education hub, an activity center, and collaborative spaces for nonprofits, this campus is designed to empower residents and strengthen the entire community.

The Vision

- 48 initial family apartments: Providing stability for those in need
- Campus Activity Center: Childcare, after-school activities, and community events
- Brown Mill Commons: A retail, education, and wellness hub
- Vocational Training & Job Opportunities: Serving both campus residents and the wider community

Today, construction is underway—but there’s more to be done. Out of Cabarrus County’s households and businesses, **we are asking just 10% of the population** to step forward with a “Promise Level” gift of \$1,200. This could be a one-time donation, \$100 per month for a year, or \$35 per month over three years.

Why 10%?

If 8,000 households and businesses join us, we will raise the \$9.6 million needed to complete this life-changing campus.

Watch the Video Now: [The Run of the Mill](#)

Hear directly from our CEO, Ed Hosack, and see the vision come to life.

Join the Movement: Be part of this transformational project. Your contribution matters.

Make your Promise gift today and be a part of the 10% that makes a lasting impact!



YOUR WINDOW OF
OPPORTUNITY
CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

LEARN & GIVE



2024 FOOD PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT -- THE NEED IS GROWING!

- **1.26 Million** Pounds Food Distributed
- **1,860 Households** helped each month (including 1,100 at Crisis Center Pantry), a record and 17% more than in 2023
- **6,030 Individuals** helped each month, including 530 Preschoolers and 600 senior adults each month
- **2,500 Food “Backpacks”** distributed at 2 local schools
- **206 Average Households** served at 6 Mobile Food Pantries
- **11,000 meals** served through Samaritan's Table supper program

At the CCM Crisis Center Food Pantry, we put a big emphasis on providing healthy food options to our clients, including fresh produce. This is made possible through a lot of wonderful community partnerships. In 2024 we received the following:

- **82,000 lbs.** of “rescued” produce from Aldi, Earthfare, Food Lion, Harris Teeter, and Lidl stores
- **14,000 lbs.** of fresh-from-the-field produce from Barbee Farms, via a partnership with Society of St. Andrew and All Saints Episcopal Men
- **8,700 lbs.** of fresh-from-the-field produce from Lomax Research Farm
- **8,300 lbs.** of gleaned produce directly from Society of St. Andrew
- **3,800 lbs.** of fresh produce from the vendors at the Piedmont Farmers Market
- **2,400 lbs.** of fresh-from-the field produce from the YMCA's Share the Harvest Farm
- **1,300 lbs.** of fresh produce from Bethpage Presbyterian's Community Gardens
- **900 lbs.** of fresh produce from Calvary Lutheran's Community Garden
- **2,200 lbs.** of fresh produce from other local farms and gardens

We are SO grateful to our wonderful community which provided nearly 62 tons of produce for us to share with our clients in 2024!



THANK YOU



CCM would like to give a BIG shout-out to **Ketchie Inc.** for bringing out two teams this past holiday season to tackle volunteer projects. One team took on

a heavy duty beautification project outside one of our new locations, the Annex, involving tree work and painting. The other team helped inside one of our teaching houses, fast tracking our process to make it ready for the next resident. We are so grateful to be able to work with, and alongside of, such a group of incredibly capable and faithful individuals at Ketchie. Thank you!

JANUARY FOOD DRIVES

- **Kimball Lutheran** – over 200 lbs.
- **Hickory Grove School** – over 800 lbs.



UPCOMING EVENTS

JOIN US FOR THE ANNUAL CCM BUSINESS BREAKFAST



FEATURE PRESENTATION

HE DOES THE IMPOSSIBLE



Cooperative Christian Ministry (CCM) invites business leaders to our annual Business Breakfast at the City Club @ Gibson Mill. This special event provides a chance to hear ministry updates and learn how CCM continues to address hunger, financial crises, and homelessness in our community. This gathering is a meaningful way to connect with local leaders and discover how your business can be part of a positive impact.

Event Details:

Date: March 18th, 2025

Time: Doors open at 7:15
Starts at 7:30

Location: City Club @ Gibson Mill

There is no cost to attend, but reservations are required for entry. There is limited seating available so RSVP by March 12th. Register [HERE!](#)

Reserve your spot today and be part of the conversation that helps shape a stronger, more compassionate community.



CLICK TO VIEW
the full Strategic Plan

LEARN MORE

COMMUNITY PRAYER REQUESTS

Join with us in supporting our community through prayer. Watch as God works around us through our faithful prayers.

PRAY WITH US

FOOD RESOURCES

The 'Cabarrus County Food Resource Map', which was created by the Hunger Task Force, is available on our website. Please share this valuable resource with the community.

VIEW MAP



SENIOR RESOURCE GUIDE

We provide resources for housing, health, transportation, and more. Click the button to see all the resources we provide.

LEARN MORE



HELP with HOUSING

Our housing programs provide the opportunity for families with children, senior adults, and other adult individuals to stop the cycle of loss, establish sustainability, and achieve housing stability.

LEARN MORE



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>



COOPERATIVE
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APPLY

NEW! CCM Career Opportunities

246 Country Club Drive NE, PO Box 1717
Concord, NC 28026 TEL: 704-786-4709



GIVE ONLINE: www.CooperativeMinistry.com or TEXT: ccmhelps to 44321