

PERSPECTIVE

FROM THE FRONTLINES

CELEBRATING OUR 41ST YEAR OF RESTORING HOPE



From Our Chief Executive Officer, Ed Hosack

HUNGER SENDS THE WRONG MESSAGE!

According to local data, nearly half of our Cabarrus County households live at or below 80% of the area median income (AMI) averaging around \$46,000 per year. The North Carolina Housing Coalition states that 26% of Cabarrus County households are cost burdened, which translates to 18,708 households likely containing 13,500 children. Cost burdened implies 30% or more of their household income is spent on housing (rent + utilities).

At \$46,000 per year, cost burdened households are spending more than \$1,150 per month for housing; leaving \$2,600 for all other household expenses. The new \$15 per hour minimum established by many employers at forty hours per week yields \$31,200 per year. Many of Cabarrus County's healthcare workers, childcare workers, retail and hospitality staff average less.

Families in financial crisis will often protect the roof over their head first. Satisfying the landlord by the fifth of the month gets priority over utility bills. With electricity next, and transportation and

childcare necessary to continue to work, groceries fall to an unimaginable 5th or 6th place in the order of dispersing income. Unexpected medical, repair or education expenses make the week or month unrecoverable.

Fortunately, charitable food relief is available in our community. Unfortunately, it requires more time and transportation to access multiple outlets and it is still not enough to alleviate hunger, let alone anxiety. The least expensive items are often highly processed or are out-of-date. Corner stores that are more accessible and perhaps offer credit are by
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REDUCE HUNGER PAINS



COOPERATIVE
CHRISTIAN
MINISTRY

FOOD, FINANCIAL, AND HOUSING RELIEF MINISTRY

HUNGER SENDS THE WRONG MESSAGE CONT.

nature more expensive. Purchasing smaller packages is necessary to get through a day, but also drives up unit cost of virtually everything. The effects of inflation simply add to the desperation.

So, what does hunger say to the mind of a child? We know that poor nutrition affects cognitive development in our young children, and that hunger interferes with academic performance in youth, but how does food insecurity translate in the mind of a child? Today's eight-year-olds will be driving in eight years. In ten years, they will be voting, defending our country, providing our workforce, and perhaps raising their own children. Strong children make for a strong future!

I believe there is enough food that spoils in Cabarrus County to address all of the food insecurity and hunger combined. In the past, when we have leveraged food recovery efforts, we were always overwhelmed with the volume of recoverable food. The greatest challenge is having the ability to transport and refrigerate perishable and prepared foods. These initiatives ran their course when the ability to guard against spoilage was not sufficient.

CCM's Strategic Facility Plans envision a Community Food Warehouse that will support bulk food receipts and storage for many of our local food pantries and food relief organizations. Our strategic plans will require refrigerated trucks to transfer perishable items, especially on our warmest days. The plan includes expanding warehouse walk-in freezers and refrigerators, which are vital to support Cabarrus County's hunger relief programs.

There is a strong message that needs to be sent regarding HUNGER in Cabarrus County; LET'S SEND IT!

IN THIS EDITION...

From Our Chief Relationship Officer.....	3
2025 New Horizon Strategic Plan Updates	4
Community NEWS.....	5
Thank You!	6
Upcoming Events.....	7



PARTNER SPOTLIGHT



Together We CAN End Hunger

CCM Received the Second Harvest "Agency Award" in March for 2022. Three Awards are given annually by organization size/volume. CCM was recognized among our peers.

Both founded in 1981, Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHMetrolina) and CCM have enjoyed a partnership for more than **25** years. The organization's focus on education, advocacy and resources with motivation to eliminate hunger aligns seamlessly with our ministry's present-day Strategic Plan.

CCM is blessed to call Second Harvest a true community PARTNER and we look forward to many years of working together!

SHMetrolina Fast Facts:

- Serves a total of 24 counties in NC (14) and SC (10).
- Provides food for over 950 partner agencies.
- During its 2022-2023 fiscal year, Second Harvest is on target to distribute over 75 million pounds of food throughout its 24 county service region... 40+ million of that is fresh produce.
- Nearly 490,000 individuals living within the organization's service region are considered food insecure ... 159,000 are children and 52,000 are senior adults.

From Our Chief Relationship Officer, Jeremy Burleson

A FOOD SECURE COMMUNITY BY 2025!



The VISION of the Cabarrus County Hunger Task Force team, which is comprised of representatives from dozens of local organizations, is best described by reading of the title this article... to be FOOD SECURE BY 2025! While that may seem quite the insurmountable task to some, understanding what being 'food secure' means

certainly helped to guide my confidence in achieving that goal.

To be FOOD SECURE, a region must recognize that:

FOOD IS AVAILABLE to every person who is food insecure.	AWARENESS and CAPACITY to respond to food insecurities.
The ENTIRE COMMUNITY PARTICIPATES through investments of time and money.	The COMMUNITY CULTURE NURTURES RESIDENTS' DIGNITY and allows access without judgement.

To effectively achieve this level of food security, this task force defined its MISSION to read:

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

Further collaboration produced goals, objectives and strategies with emphases on partnerships, waste reduction, innovative approaches and growth evaluation. Let's concentrate on one of the strategies that ties back into community awareness and impact to better understand the approach of this task force.

In order to create attainable results through metrics, three separate focus groups were formed with attention to maximize community impact and awareness:

TECHNOLOGY & DATA – led by Alicia Primus, Community Impact Director with the Cabarrus Health Alliance, this group utilizes data through technology to develop and track metrics that indicate progress through each defined objective of the task force.

MARKETING & EDUCATION – Introduction To Your Potential founder, Solomon Hall leads the efforts here, as this group hones in on ensuring that our community is aware and able to respond to these needs through all communication possibilities.

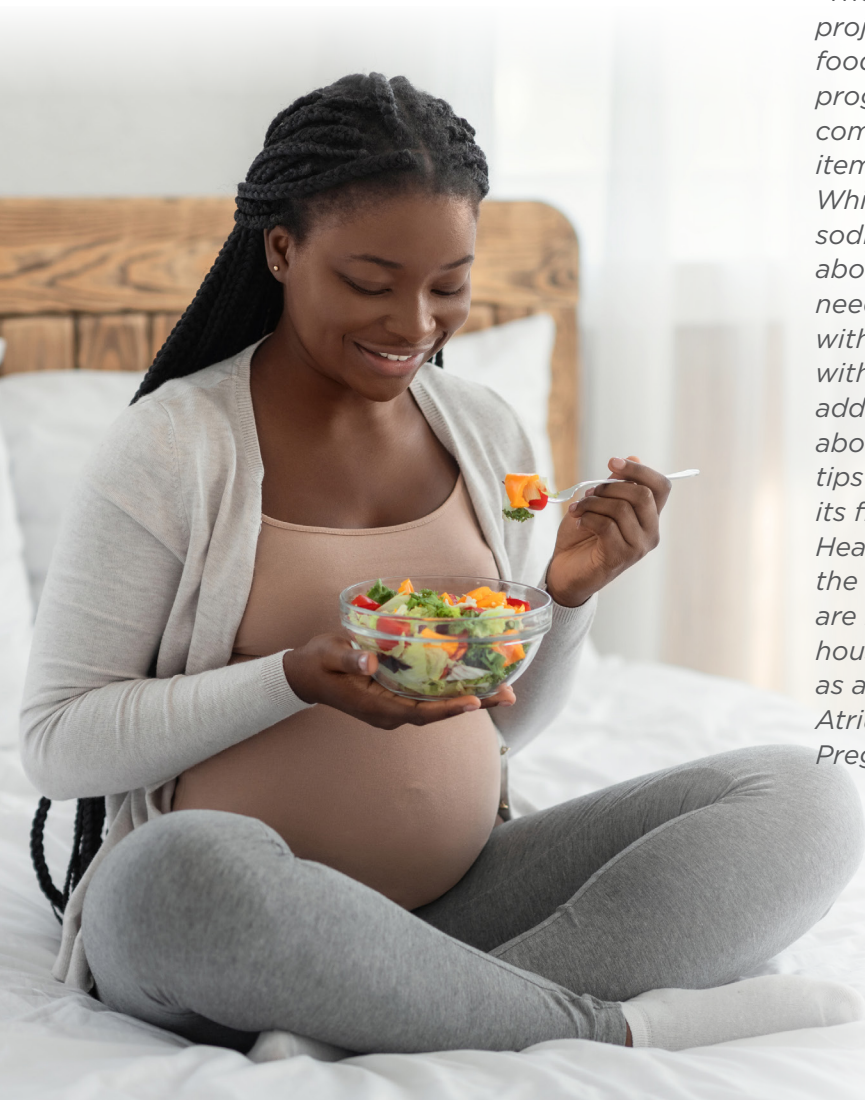
SERVICE DELIVERY – Feeding Kannapolis Hunger leader, Jim Bramlett leads this group's work to identify and address the various needs of our community pantries.

Now that the team has a plan in place, measurable results are surely inevitable. As we've often said here at CCM, when there is an identified need, the Cabarrus County community responds!

We invite you to **PRAY** alongside us, and **ENGAGE** with CCM.

CLICK HERE to learn more about the Cabarrus County Hunger Task Force team!!





"The CCM Food Program recently launched a new project to provide special boxes of non-perishable foods to expectant mothers who are food-insecure. This program leverages CCM's expansive pantry network and community partnerships to provide curated nutritional items to pregnant women in food insecure households. While standard pantry donations often include high sodium, processed foods, these prenatal boxes include about 14 lbs. of nutritious items based on their dietary needs. For example, pregnant women require foods with increased iron, folic acid, and omega-3 fatty acids, with lots of whole grains, low-sodium items, and no added sugars. The boxes also contain information about WIC, NFS/SNAP, other local food resources, and tips on prenatal nutrition. CCM recently assembled its first round of boxes with guidance from Cabarrus Health Alliance to ensure the boxes' contents reflected the needs of this priority population. The boxes are being distributed among eligible food-insecure households at CCM's Crisis Center Food Pantry, as well as at the Cabarrus Health Alliance Maternity Clinic, Atrium Health's Copperfield OB/GYN Clinic, and Gate Pregnancy Resource Center."

- Kris Edscorn, Food Program Manager

[CLICK TO VIEW
the full Strategic Plan](#)

[LEARN MORE](#)



WINDOWS OF OPPORTUNITY

[[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)]

GRACE PLACE

**REBUILDERS
CAMPUS**

COMMUNITY NEWS

YOU CAN HOST A

SUMMER FOOD DRIVE

Summertime typically is a very low time for non-perishable food donations to CCM (and most other food pantries!), as families focus on vacations and many community groups take a break. However, food insecurity **DOES NOT TAKE A VACATION**. In fact, this year we already are seeing a considerable increase in requests for food assistance. The high inflation and skyrocketing housing costs are placing tremendous pressure on lower-income households. And during the summer, those households with children have the additional pressure of more mouths to feed. Now is the time to take action and help our neighbors in need by **HOSTING A FOOD DRIVE**.

NOT SURE WHERE TO BEGIN?

Here are a few ideas for summer food drives:

Youth Group Canned Food Scavenger Hunt: This is a great way for your youth to have a blast, get adults involved, and help out your community. It is easily adaptable no matter if your group is 5 or 50.

Neighborhood Food Drive: If you want to help organize a food drive for your whole neighborhood, let us know. We can help provide some great suggestions to make it a success.



OUR CURRENT PANTRY NEEDS ARE:

- Canned Chicken
- Other Canned Meats except for tuna
- Canned Vegetables
- Low salt corn and green beans
- Canned Fruit except pears
- Canned Beans except pintos
- Rice (1 or 2lb. bags please)

As always, we especially seek low sodium, no sugar-added, and whole grain items.

Thank you!

Thank you to the **F3 Afton Group** that came and made quick work of some painting on the front and rear porches of one of our teaching houses, and also did some landscaping out front.



Connect Church came out to do a beautification project which included tree and shrub trimming, weeding, edging and flower beds.



Congratulations to the CCM Frances Black Holland Scholarship Award Winners...



Jacob Martin

A.L. Brown High School

In May our Education and Support Services hosted **Money Smart**, a financial literacy workshop, as part of their Pathway to Progress Series. Kimberle Beasley, Client Relationship Consultant with U.S. Bank was the presenter.

Thank-You to **Kimberle Beasley, U.S. Bank** and the **City of Concord Housing Technology Center**, for hosting.



Laurel Keasler
Frances Black Holland Scholarship

Laurel Keasler

Concord High School

You can watch Laurel receive her award [HERE](#).



CCM is so appreciative of the Letter Carriers who once again conducted their annual **Stamp Out Hunger** food drive in May. All the food collected at the Concord Parkway post office was donated to the CCM Crisis Center Food Pantry. So far we have received a total of **1828 lbs.** of non-perishable foods. In addition the Kannapolis Post Office donated all they received to one of CCM's satellite pantries, the Kannapolis Food Pantry at West Point Baptist Church. They received **2,431 lbs.** of food. Food collected by other local post offices went to other local pantries. Thanks SO much to all those in our community who supported this drive with donations, and certainly thanks to the Letter Carriers who did the extra work of collecting and delivering the food.

EVENTS

Attention all Nonprofit
Leaders, Staff, and Volunteers!
SAVE THE DATE!

SHAPING THE FUTURE TOGETHER

CABARRUS COUNTY
NONPROFIT WORKSHOP
AUGUST 24, 2023

8:30 AM – 1:00 PM AT CROSSROADS CHURCH
220 GEORGE W. LILES PARKWAY, CONCORD



SAT. JUNE 3

3:00 – 9:30 PM

Midland NC

FREE ADMISSION †

ArborFest is a **FREE** Christian Music Festival hosted by Bethel Church in Midland, NC. Just outside of Charlotte, come join us under the historical Arbor to hear amazing music from Deeper Shade of Blue, Sweet Potato Pie, and Chosen Road!

Next Mobile Food Pantry

June 29 (Thursday)

Elevation Church Concord parking lot

545 Concord Pkwy N, Concord, 28027
(the old K-Mart Parking Lot)

Sponsored by Elevation Church

10:00-12:00



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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