



As we look to the future...

OUR CORE VALUES REMAIN THE SAME

Our **core values**, adopted by our Board of Directors in 2008, guide our responses to challenges and help us formulate our plans for the years of service ahead of us. These core values are **stewardship, urgency, collaboration, compassion, ethical, excellence, and diversity**. We will continue to strive to improve in each of these areas, and you can expect us to update you periodically on our progress. As friends of the Food Bank you should expect no less from us.

Stewardship -- We are challenged by the potential for reduced government support at all levels and many of our very generous supporters face similar challenges in their own businesses and lives. We have begun, with Feeding America's assistance, a complete evaluation of our fundraising program with an eye toward ensuring that even in hard times we will have sufficient resources to support emergency feeding programs.

Urgency -- People need help now. We are working diligently to expand our resources and capabilities. To ensure that food is available to as many people as possible, we are partnering with the other North Carolina Food Banks to encourage and facilitate participation in the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (food stamps). We have received a grant to hire a full-time individual, through September 2011, to assist in this outreach in Pasquotank County.

Collaboration -- We can not and do not attempt to operate alone. Similarly, we know we do not have all the answers to mitigate the challenges of hunger in northeast North Carolina. We are committed to treating our agencies and the other non-profits in our region as partners. For the first time, we are bringing the annual Agency Day presentations closer to the agencies. Instead of meeting only at the Food Bank, we will host three area meetings. Each one will be designed to collaborate with agencies in 5 rather than all 15 counties. Secondary goals are to increase the visibility of the collaboration in the Agencies' home counties as well as provide an opportunity for the public to become more aware of hunger in their communities and our collective actions to mitigate the effects. Additionally, we are continuing our partnership with the Elizabeth City Pasquotank Public Schools to bring afterschool snacks to children who are honing their math and reading skills.

Compassion -- We know there are people in our 15 counties who are underserved or un-served. One in six is in poverty, unemployment exceeds 10%. These individuals and their families are likely hungry at some point during the month. We are determined to work with our agencies and other organizations and churches in the region to reduce the risk of hunger and alleviate the suffering. We are now evaluating the incidences of poverty by ZIP codes versus our team's current performance in those ZIP codes. Using that information we will work to acquire local partners and sponsors to partner with us to reach more people through targeted distributions and agency establishment.

Ethical -- We will continue to be open in all of the things that we do. In that vein we welcome visits at any time to help you understand to operation of the Food Bank and its partner agencies.

Excellence -- We are committed to getting better every day. We will be most successful when we strive daily to improve our performance e.g. our delivery methodology -- the addition of the mobile food pantry. We welcome evaluation and ideas from Feeding America and other agencies to enable us to capitalize on best practices from across the network. We seek effective measurement tools to enable us to maintain direction and focus and openly discuss the options and alternatives.

Diversity -- Diversity means we will never discriminate in program design, hiring, or implementation based on any physical, religious, or unique characteristics or limitations of an individual or group. Hunger doesn't discriminate nor will we.

