



CORA FOOD PANTRY

Who We Are

CORA Food Pantry's mission is to provide emergency food to those in need throughout Chatham County.

HOW WE SERVE THE HUNGRY

Our long-standing approach is to provide emergency food, not permanent assistance, to those individuals and families who are thrust into a crisis because of job loss, illness or other circumstance. We are attentive to serving those who really need help. Clients must be referred to us by a county social service agency or church.

Nearly half of those we serve are children; many others are seniors.

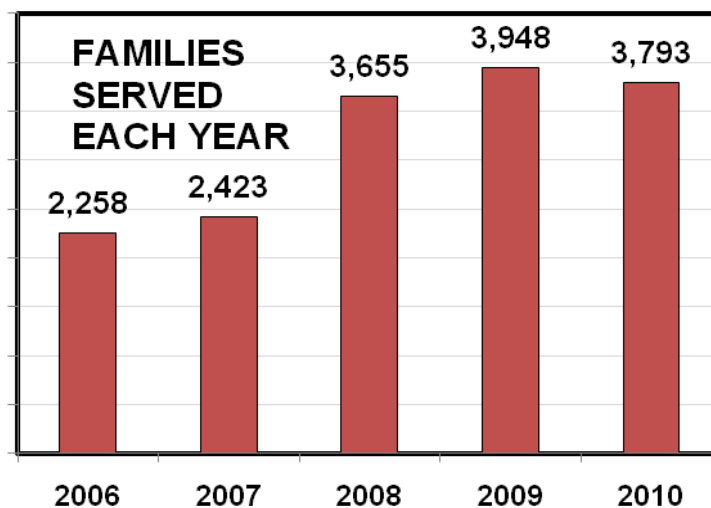
CORA is the largest food pantry in Chatham County. We are open five days a week year round. Families and individuals can receive a week's worth of groceries up to six times in a 12-month period. These weekly food allotments are selected to provide 21 nutritionally balanced meals for each family member.

Because so many of Chatham County's children live in poverty - 40% actually – many depend on school-provided meals. However in the summer, this source is unavailable and many poor children have little or nothing to eat. Seeking to address this sad problem this past summer CORA, along with seven other organizations, implemented a program that provided ready-to-eat meals for 735 low income children while school was not in session.

RECENT ACTIVITY

The number of families relying on CORA for food support has grown substantially over the past five years. From 2,258 family units in 2006, the volume of families served increased 62% to 3,793 in 2010 after peaking at 3,948 in 2009. The accompanying graph illustrates these changes.

The actual number of weekly food rations which these families received was much larger. In 2008 CORA provided food for 13,548 people. This increased to 14,691 weekly rations in 2009. The following year the per-person volume decreased to 12,966. On a per meal basis, that translates to more than 272,000 meals which CORA provided in 2010.



HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

CORA is a **volunteer-based organization**. Two hundred women and men contribute selflessly to our mission. This past year our volunteers contributed 3,800 hours to transport food, sort food drive contributions, stock our shelves, and directly serve our clients along with a host of other tasks supporting administrative and operational needs.

It's a big job. Volunteers place upwards of 10 tons of groceries into the hands of hungry families every month. It takes a lot of people to make that possible. And it's all done by volunteers plus three part-time staff employees.

NEED FOR DONATIONS CONTINUES AT A HIGH LEVEL

CORA relies on the support of hundreds of private donors for its continuing operation. Many churches in Chatham County also contribute regularly. Our major donor and foundation support includes Sisters of Mercy Foundation, Carolina Meadows, United Way of Chatham County, the Chatham County government, the Arthur Carlsen Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation, Galloway Ridge, a number of family funds, and several local corporations which include Talecris, RTI International, Pharma BioStaffing, Statistical R, and Carr Amplifiers.

The annual Chatham Hunger Walk, CORA's biggest fundraising event, is held in Pittsboro each year. In 2010 the Walk brought in \$40,000 even though many supporters have been forced to cut back in the face of their own budget struggles. It attests to the caring nature of so many people in Chatham County.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Organize a food drive. Send a donation. Volunteer at the pantry. We especially need people with trucks and large vehicles who can help pick up food once or twice a week and at special events, and client service volunteers who meet and help serve clients at the pantry.

IN THIS TIME OF GROWING NEED . . . food pantries and soup kitchens across the U.S. are in an escalating struggle to provide food for people of all ages who are unable to feed themselves or their families. CORA remains steadfastly committed to provide for any resident in need throughout Chatham County. We are profoundly grateful for the continuing flow of community support that helps to make that possible.

For more information please contact:

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