



CORA FOOD PANTRY

Who We Are

The CORA Food Pantry has been providing emergency food assistance to Chatham County families for the past two decades. During this time we have provided a vital link in the safety network of health and human services agencies throughout our county. Our organization was founded in 1989 as the Chatham OutReach Alliance, Inc. (CORA) with the sole mission of providing emergency food to those in need throughout Chatham County. We are a 501(c)(3) designated nonprofit organization.

HOW WE SERVE THE HUNGRY

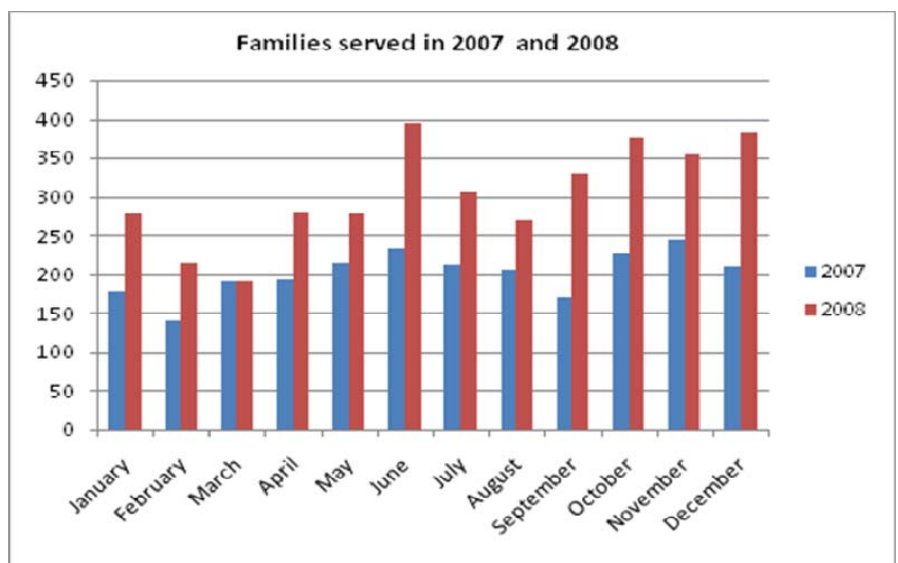
Our long-standing approach is to provide emergency food, not permanent assistance, to those individuals and families who are thrust into a crisis because of job loss, illness or other circumstance. We are attentive to serving those who really need help. Clients must be referred to us by a county social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

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

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

HOW WE ARE ORGANIZED

CORA is a **volunteer-based organization**. Well over a hundred women and men, and in the summer some teenagers, contribute selflessly to our mission. This past year our volunteers contributed more than 3,700 hours to transport food, sort food drive contributions, stock our shelves, 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 (20,000 pounds!) into the hands of hungry families every month. It takes a lot of people to make that possible. Because of the growing complexity and scope of our mission, we added our first paid staff members in 2007. These two part-time employees serve as pantry manager and executive director.

CHATHAM'S CHARITY FOOD NEEDS HAVE SOARED IN RECENT MONTHS

Overall demand for help remains far ahead of last year. From July 1 through December 31, 2008, CORA provided weekly grocery supplies to feed 2,019 families comprising 7,564 individuals. This represents a 74% increase in per-person weekly food rations compared to the same period last year.

NEED FOR DONATIONS HAS STEADILY GROWN

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 the United Way of Chatham County, the Chatham County government, Carolina Meadows Retirement Village, the Arthur Carlsen Fund of the Triangle Community Foundation, the Hillsdale Fund, Galloway Ridge, several family funds of the Triangle Community Foundation, and Kiwanis of Pittsboro among many others.

The 2008 Chatham Hunger Walk, CORA's biggest fundraising event, was held on November 2nd in Pittsboro. This year the event brought in \$41,000 even though many of our 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.

IN THIS TIME OF GROWING NEED . . . food pantries and soup kitchens across the U.S. are in an escalating struggle to provide food to the many people of all ages who are unable to feed themselves or their families. CORA remains steadfastly committed to provide for any residents 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:

Marci S. Whittaker
Executive Director
CORA Food Pantry
P.O. Box 1326
Pittsboro, NC 27312

919/545-3030
cfp.marci@embarqmail.com

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