

Executive Director's Message

It's hard to believe that I've been a part of this wonderful organization - this creative and supportive community - for a whole year! I stand in awe of the constant and enduring support that CORA receives day after day from our donors, volunteers, partners, Board of Directors, staff, and community leaders. It is my great honor to serve our shared vision of building a community without hunger.

We at CORA are incredibly proud of our accomplishments during the past fiscal year. Together, we made a difference in the lives of nearly 11,000 people experiencing hunger by providing nearly 1,000,000 meals. We strengthened our reach 17% over the prior year and have now begun to look ahead at new opportunities to reach even more families in Chatham County. We are already piloting programs that will enable us to reach further into the community via mobile pantry service, extending hours to those who might like to visit CORA on Saturdays, and providing additional food offerings to those families who may need to visit CORA just a few more times each year.

As you read our annual report, please do so with pride! Our accomplishments are your accomplishments. Community support is at the heart of all we do here at CORA. We THANK YOU for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Melissa Driver Beard
Executive Director



A Campaign to Help CORA Meet the Need

Last year we launched our capital campaign - A Campaign to Help CORA Meet the Increasing Need. The cornerstone of this campaign is our new 2,800 square foot warehouse and food pantry. While the county has most generously donated both the land and the building, CORA needed to raise \$150,000 to upfit the building to best accommodate the needs of our clients, community partners, and staff. We are happy to announce that we have reached that goal!

The new building will double our current space for the pantry and food storage. This larger space will allow us to streamline operations, more safely and effectively provide the maximum level of support for CORA's multiple programs and allow for a more pleasant shopping experience.

Relocation of the pantry will also enable us to create a spacious reception area, a larger children's room, and a resource room for clients in our current building. In addition, we will renovate the existing building for two community spaces for meetings and additional administrative offices to accommodate organizational growth.

Thank you to all who helped us reach our goal. We look forward to keeping you updated on the progress of this important project.



2019 HIGHLIGHTS

935,661

Meals Distributed

1,463

Children Served Through SNACK!

5,970

Gallons Of Fresh Milk Distributed

10,660

People Served Through the Pantry

84

Cents Per Dollar Go Directly to Programs

1,037,456

Pounds of Food Distributed

OUR MISSION

CORA is a nonprofit organization that provides food to individuals and families within our community who are in need during difficult personal economic periods.

OUR VISION

A community without hunger.

OUR VALUES

We embrace a culture where all individuals are treated with respect and equality, and we are committed to safeguarding their dignity and self-esteem by continuously taking actions that demonstrate sincere care, concern, and support. We operate by following strong ethical and moral standards to ensure that CORA's mission is achieved with fairness, compassion, and effectiveness

NOURISHING MINDS AT CORA

CORA is more than just a food pantry; it is a place where the community comes together to help those most vulnerable and provide a space of support. One unique way we do this is through our partnership with Book Harvest through their Community Book Bank Program.

The goal of our Community Book Bank is to provide ready access to books for children and families in communities that have historically lacked books for their children. The Book Harvest aspires to transform book deserts throughout our community into book-rich environments. Each month Book Harvest will stock CORA's Children's Area with books that children can take home. Currently there more than 50 Community Book Banks locations throughout the greater Triangle.

"CORA is so appreciative of this partnership with Book Harvest providing books to children who visit the pantry," shared Rebecca Hankins, Development & Communications Director. "We strive to provide our clients an atmosphere of empathy, support, and community and the children's area is critical to achieving this by giving our youngest visitors a place to access books that they might not have otherwise."



IT'S BETTER TO GIVE THAN TO RECEIVE

Volunteers are so crucial to CORA's mission and work. Ask any CORA volunteer and they will quickly explain that what they receive from their time spent in the pantry halls is far more than the hours that they give to the organization. At CORA the old adage, "it's better to give than to receive" is at the core of our volunteer program.

CORA has a unique and diverse community of volunteers from young professionals to retirees, stay-at-home moms and dads and their children, teenagers experiencing their first professional commitment, to even current and former clients. Everyone who walks through our doors can sense and appreciate the overwhelming atmosphere of community, inclusiveness, and family. CORA is a place you want to be to help your neighbors.

CORA also has diverse volunteer opportunities to suit different talents and interests. If you appreciate engaging with new people, you may enjoy a role as a Family Services volunteer, or helping in the office welcoming new families. If you thrive on organization and appreciate a bit of a workout, stocking is your calling! If community outreach sounds appealing, you can represent CORA at community festivals and events. We have many opportunities for individuals to give back and we are grateful to have so many local community members helping us in a variety of ways to carry out our mission of providing food security and community connection to our neighbors in need. If you are interested in volunteering, please email Isabella@corafoodpantry.org to learn more.



Thanks to all the volunteers helping make SNACK! a success!



SNACK! (Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids) is CORA's summer program that distributes much needed food to Chatham County children who normally receive subsidized meals at school during the academic year. In 2018, over 1,400 children participated in SNACK!, and this summer we have grown to serving almost 1,500 children in need.

Studies show that children who participate in programs like SNACK! receive the nutrition they need and experience many benefits. In the short-term, ensuring proper nutrition for children experiencing hunger can help mitigate summer weight gain, cognitive decline, and summer learning loss. In the longer-term, the lasting effects may help increase high school graduation rates and reduce susceptibility to chronic diseases, which are otherwise each accompanied by large potential costs to the children and their communities.

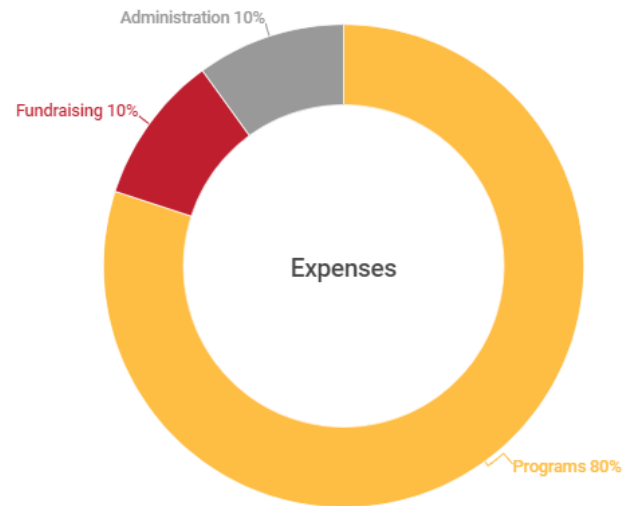
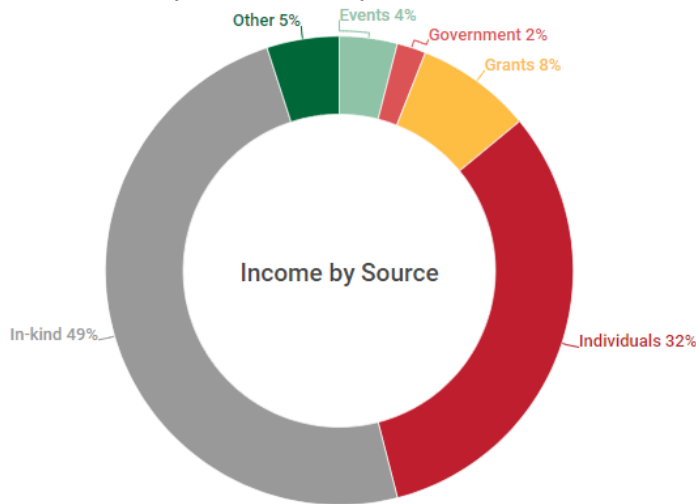
When families receive food through SNACK! it means that they have more money for housing, healthcare, education, childcare, transportation to work, and other resources that improve quality of life and opportunity.

If you are interested in supporting this important program this summer, please consider becoming a SNACK! Champion! It costs \$150 to provide these meals for one child for the entire summer. If you want to make a donation to SNACK!, please visit <https://www.corafoodpantry.org/our-work/snack/> or contact Rebecca Hankins at 919-491-5896.

Together we are building a community without hunger!

Taking care of the most vulnerable in our community.

CORA's impact on the lives of thousands of people across Chatham County is possible because you invest in our mission. We collaborate with many stakeholders from donors of food and funds, volunteers, our network of local farmers and retailers, county officials, and dozens of other community partners so that households at risk of hunger receive the assistance they need. In fiscal year 2019, we secured \$1,690,216 in support.



CORA's Long-term Financial Health

An operating reserve is an unrestricted fund balance set aside to stabilize a nonprofit's finances by providing a cushion against unexpected events and disasters, losses of income, or serious economic downturn. A commonly used reserve goal is three to six months' expenses. CORA's Board of Directors have set aside funds to cover five months' operations and program expenses.

Thank you for your continued support!

CORA's contributions come from three main sources:



Your gifts help buy bulk food, fuel our truck, and run the pantry, making it possible to build a community without hunger in Chatham County. In fiscal year 2019, we spent 84 cents from each dollar on programs.



Nearly half of the 1 million pounds of food distributed this year was **donated** from farms, grocery stores, and food drives.



Our 300 **volunteers** gave 9,833 hours, which equates to \$250,053 in value to CORA! Our amazing volunteers not only sort, pack, and distributed food, but they provide huge cost savings.

CORA
DRIVE OUT HUNGER!
ACC VS. BIG 10
GOLF CHALLENGE
Charity Golf Tournament

OCTOBER 21, 2019
GOVERNORS CLUB
SHOTGUN START AT 12:30PM
\$175 PER GOLFER

Registration fee includes green fees & golf cart, goodie bag, lunch, soft drinks/water and dinner at the awards event.

Questions? Contact Rebecca at 919-491-5896 or rebecca@corafoodpantry.org.

Share the work of CORA with your friends and family!

