

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BUILDING A COMMUNITY WITHOUT HUNGER



"Please accept my grateful appreciation for the food I have received a few times from CORA. Almost every time I've visited, I had nothing to eat in my home. Nothing at all! So, you can easily understand my urgent need and know that your volunteers, staff, and contributors have made a truly generous gift to my life and health."

– Fran, Siler City

WHY DOES CORA CHOOSE TO HELP?

Over 9% of Chatham County families fight poverty daily. CORA (Chatham Outreach Alliance) is a place where the community comes together to help ensure that none of its neighbors go hungry. Thanks to the vision, generosity, and hard work of hundreds of individuals, businesses, churches, and organizations CORA is a thriving organization helping Chatham County residents.

WHO DOES CORA HELP?

Any resident of Chatham County who is facing hunger is welcome. Those who are from other counties will receive assistance on their first visit and we give them the resources to find help in their own community.

WHEN AND HOW OFTEN CAN I GET HELP?

CORA serves any Chatham County resident who needs emergency food and we are open Monday through Thursday, between 10 am to 1 pm. Families can visit CORA twice a month.

WHAT SHOULD I EXPECT ON MY VISIT?

The Pantry is a place of hope and comfort for many in our community, a respite from their struggles where there is always an empathetic ear, supportive smile, and shelves of food to help meet their needs. Out of an abundance of caution due to COVID-19, clients will no longer be allowed to enter the Pantry to shop for groceries. Client intake will take place outdoors and clients will receive their groceries in their car. We do have an easy and private registration process where we collect minimal information.

HOW DO I GET TO CORA?

We are located just off HWY 87 at 40 Camp Drive, across the street from the Chatham Community Library in Pittsboro.



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WHAT WILL I RECEIVE ON MY VISIT?

As a temporary measure, while we navigate COVID-19, we have restructured our direct service strategy. At CORA, keeping our clients, volunteers, and staff healthy is our top priority. At present, clients cannot enter the Pantry to shop for groceries. We are distributing pre-packed bags of shelf-stable food including canned fruits and vegetables, rice or pasta, soups, breakfast cereal or cereal bars, and a variety of other nutritious food. We supplement these staples with fresh produce, bakery items, milk, and eggs.

DOES CORA HAVE ANY OTHER FOOD ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS?

CORA strives to address food insecurity through many partnerships in Chatham County. Currently, our two biggest initiatives are SNACK! and the Mobile Market.

SNACK! - Each summer CORA distributes food to more than 1,100 hungry kids who depend on federal school meals for adequate nutrition during the school year, but who have little or no replacement for this nutrition when school is not in session. SNACK! provides food for 21 meals for 10 weeks mid-June through mid-August.

Mobile Market - Due to COVID-19 we are currently distributing food via a drive-through model. Families stay in their car and pre-packed groceries are placed in their vehicle. Each person receives enough food for 21 meals at each visit. This program helps us reach those in need of food far beyond the boundaries of our Pantry location. Approximately 50% of those we serve do not live in Pittsboro and lower-income areas in western Chatham County are home to several food deserts. Each month we host a Mobile Market in Siler City, Natures Trail (a Mobile Home Community in Chapel Hill), and other strategic points around the county where food insecurity is the greatest.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

We have many different ways that people in the community can help us fulfill our mission. If you would like to volunteer, contact Meredith Katibah, Community Support Manager, at meredith@corafoodpantry.org to learn more. Opportunities are available for both groups and individuals. CORA also deeply values both monetary and food donations. Please visit our website to find out more or contact Rebecca Hankins at rebecca@corafoodpantry.org.

WHAT ARE CORA'S REGULAR HOURS OF OPERATION?

CORA's office hours are Monday through Friday, 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. The Pantry is open Monday – Thursday, 10 am to 1 pm.

