



YOUR SUPPORT IN ACTION

QUARTERLY REPORT: JAN - MAR 2024

A LETTER FROM OUR CEO **L. RON PRINGLE**

Dear Friends,

As we emerged from the busy holiday season and began 2024, our minds turned to the future. The months have flown by as we continue recovering and distributing food to thousands each week through our agency partnerships. We are also refining our strategic plan so that -- with all of you contributing in many ways -- we can maximize our mission to reduce the number of neighbors in our communities who face food insecurity.

Hunger shows up in different ways in our communities, impacting individuals, families, children, seniors, working people, and entire rural and urban communities. So, this mission to end hunger can be moved forward on many fronts.

That means we continue to provide school pantries and Backpack Buddies to keep children nourished and free their minds for learning. We continue to care for our seniors by enabling our volunteers to deliver grocery bags of nourishing food. And we are strengthening and building innovative programs to improve skills, improve health, address workforce and economic development needs, and provide educational opportunities around food systems. We are also advocating for benefits, laws, regulations, and policies that tackle systemic barriers to food access and economic security.

Food security for all is the first step in creating stability and equity, so that our neighbors are nourished, healthy and empowered to build full and financially secure lives. Relief from the daily burden of hunger, having opportunities to grow and achieve -- these things create the hope that our neighbors need to tackle challenges and persevere. As we commit to strengthening our impact, we are grateful the community stands behind us.

Please enjoy this report on our varied activities and partnerships over the past quarter. We thank you for being with us. We look forward to sharing our upcoming plans in detail and moving toward a brighter future together.

Yours in service,

L. Ron Pringle
President and CEO



Addressing Root Causes: Action Against Food Insecurity

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle recognizes that addressing the root causes of hunger is vital to fighting food insecurity. Through multifaceted initiatives, we are actively working to provide real solutions and self-empowerment to our communities.

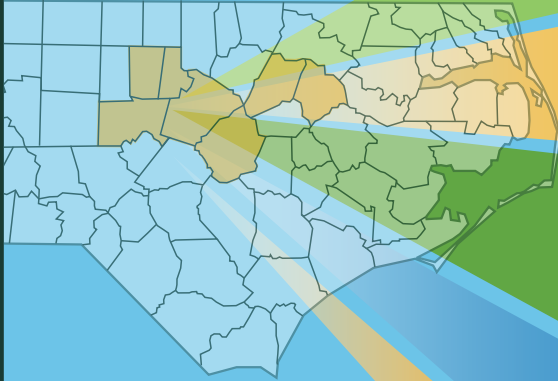
Central to this mission has been an increased focus on workforce and economic development. Our Culinary Apprenticeship Program (CAP) has started a new cohort and is poised to grow. We seek to provide an economic boost to BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) farmers in an initiative that includes purchasing produce to fill local pantries and streamlining the supply chain process.

Further, we believe knowledge is key to self-sufficiency. Our neighbors are learning and improving their skills through our unique educational offerings, including gardening and agriculture workshops, nutritional education, and our free online Food Shuttle Academy -- informative, self-paced courses covering a range of topics from cooking skills to healthy living.

As we strive to create lasting and tangible change, we remain steadfast in tackling the underlying causes of food insecurity head-on.



JANUARY - MARCH 2024 IMPACT



COUNTIES WE SERVE:

Orange
Durham
Wake
Chatham
Johnston
Nash
Edgecombe

CHILD HUNGER

27,071 Backpack Buddies distributed
9,704 Families served through school pantries
251 Community Health Education participants

SENIOR NUTRITION

3,889 Grocery Bags for Seniors delivered
42 New enrollees in Diabetic Education for Seniors

FARMS & GARDENS

103 Gardens For Everyone built
120 Agricultural Education participants

FOOD RECOVERY & DISTRIBUTION

3,150,642 Pounds of food distributed
321,418 Neighbors served through all our programs

VOLUNTEERS

6,472 Volunteer hours engaged across all our programs



EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: GABRIELLE BUCHANAN

Gabrielle Buchanan, Volunteer Services Coordinator, was recently recognized for her achievements by NC State University. She initially intended to focus her career on agricultural sales but then later transitioned to community engagement, realizing her preference for direct interaction with people and supporting our local community. Graduating in December 2022, she earned an agricultural science degree with minors in horticulture science, business management, and extensions education, all completed online. Gabrielle was able to effectively manage her demanding schedule through her study time. While completing a degree online presents unique challenges, Gabrielle's dedication and adaptability have been evident throughout.



GRANT UPDATE: GIFTED VEHICLES MAXIMIZE AGENCY PARTNER IMPACT

Last year, Food Shuttle received an \$800,000 Retail Agency Capacity Building Grant from Feeding America and the Walmart Foundation. This grant allowed us to purchase new service equipment on behalf of partner agencies. During the past quarter, we gifted four vehicles and accompanying equipment to Lincoln Park Holiness Church, Greater Waltoyn United Holy Church, Clayton Vineyard Church, and Western Wake Crisis Ministry. Now, our partners are more equipped than ever to pick up additional donated healthy food from grocery stores, handle it safely, and continue increasing their capacity to serve neighbors facing hunger.

PARTNERSHIPS IN ACTION

The partnerships featured below reflect how closely our community works with us to create a hunger-free environment. We thank you for being a crucial part of our mission!



Oak Foundation and **4 Others Foundation** were our incredible match partners for our end-of-year giving campaign, matching each gift up to \$100,000. Thanks to their partnership and the generosity of our community, we raised \$492,188!



Mike Kasopsky has been volunteering with Gardens for Everyone nearly once a week since April 2023, assisting with 31 total garden builds, 6 of them between January - March. He is a joy to work with and always available for last-minute needs.



In March, we partnered with **Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC** to join nearly 200 other Feeding America food banks for a “fly-in” to D.C. There, we forged relationships with **lawmakers** and advocated for stronger support of vital nutrition programs in the federal “Farm Bill.”



The Black Resource Group of IBM organized a Volunteer Day in honor of MLK Day of Service, in collaboration with **United Way of the Greater Triangle**. Collectively, 1,000 family meal boxes containing over 17,000 meals were assembled and distributed to communities in Middlesex, Zebulon, Siler City, and Durham.



Glenwood Elementary's 4th-grade teacher, Sheryl Kirkey, inspired her students to organize a food drive for Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. They collected 3,890 items, three times more than their initial goal, fostering community connection while demonstrating empathy.



The Starbucks Foundation, supporter of the Food Shuttle since 2021, surprised us with their largest award through the new Inclusive Communities Neighborhood Grant. These funds will strengthen our food access, education, and agriculture initiatives across our 7-county service area.

CULTIVATE AN END TO HUNGER ALL YEAR LONG



Our food insecure neighbors have strengths, dreams, and goals. We stand behind them to ease hunger every day and to offer paths to self-sufficiency.

As a **CULTIVATOR Monthly Sustaining Donor**, you will be a leading partner in building a stronger community where all residents have access to the healthy food, knowledge, skills, and opportunities they need to thrive all year long.

Visit www.foodshuttle.org/cultivators to learn more and become a Cultivator today!

STAY ENGAGED!

- 1** Donate and partner with us to improve the health and well-being of our communities.
foodshuttle.org/givenow
- 2** Volunteer in-person or virtually with us.
foodshuttle.org/volunteer
- 3** Sign up for our e-newsletter. Follow us on social media and use our hashtags!



@foodshuttle

#FoodShuttle #FeedTeachGrow #HungerisFixable

Learn More



INTER-FAITH
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