

Chatham OutReach Alliance, Inc.

CORA is a member agency of Chatham County United Way

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Chatham OutReach Alliance (CORA) is dedicated to acquiring and distributing emergency food to Chatham County residents who need temporary community support to keep themselves and their families fed.

CORA By the Numbers (7/1/2012–6/30/2013)

- **5427** Families Served (**17,427** Individuals) through the pantry
- **191** Tons of food distributed
- Enough food for **362,754** Meals
- **986** Children received food for weekday meals in the summer **SNACK! Program**
- **11** Backpack Programs received monetary and technical support.

Revenue from Hunger Walk Down, Demand for Food Remains High

Last year's Chatham Hunger Walk in November, 2012 raised \$47,000 for CORA Food Pantry – good news in a year when client numbers reached an all-time high: 5427 families (17,247 individuals) served with a week's worth of groceries (21 nutritionally balanced meals for every family member). When our summer 2013 numbers climbed above 500 families in July – a 25% increase over the previous two years – we made an extraordinary appeal to our supporters via email. You came through for us

with the \$8000 needed to make the crucial food purchase that would carry us into October, when Hunger Walk revenues began to arrive.

This fall's Hunger Walk, however, was not as successful. Our most recent Hunger Walk on October 27 raised \$35,000, well below our expectations of at least \$50,000. Unfortunately, this comes at a time when demand for our services is at an all-time high, exceeding our original expectations.

The need for emergency food assistance has in-

creased steadily since 2008. In the year ending in June 2013, CORA provided an average of 3.5 tons of food a week to people in crisis, more than twice that of fiscal year 2008. In our current year, 2013/2014, the average number of families served per month is 508 (a little over 1500 individuals) with numbers likely to reach more than 550 families during the winter holiday months. The government sequester earlier this year and the recent shut-down have

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Children who get the proper nutrition perform better in school, are healthier as adults and are less likely to continue the cycle of poverty. You can make the future brighter for a Chatham County Child.

Be a SNACK! Angel: Sponsor a Child for 2014

For only \$13 a month you can give a child a hunger-free summer.

Fifty-percent of Chatham County school children receive free or low-cost meals at school through the federal school lunch program because their families live at or near poverty level. Without these meals during the summer, these kids get little proper nutrition if any. SNACK! (Summer Nutritional Assistance for Chatham Kids) fills this

food gap for 1000 children every summer. Your sponsorship of \$13 a month for 12 months provides a low income Chatham County child with food for 5 breakfasts, 5 lunches and healthy snacks every week during the summer break. It also helps provide more fresh fruit, fresh vegetables, and more milk to children whose families too often

make less healthy choices due to low income. You can also sponsor a child for a one-time donation of \$150 or three monthly donations of \$50 each. Please see the enclosed CORA donation form for information and instructions on how to become a SNACK! Angel for the Summer of 2014.

Demand for Food Support at an All-Time High (continued from page 1)

had a noticeable impact on the need for food assistance as we began to see in July. In addition, the recent decreases in food stamp benefits and the state's reduction

of unemployment benefits have also had a marked effect on the number of people requesting food support. Demand for food assistance is the highest in our 25-year history.

We estimate we will need an additional \$23,000 above our original food budget of \$205,000 to meet the increase in demand for 2013/2014. What can you do to help us meet

the need for food support? Send a donation, have a food drive, share this newsletter. Share the Bounty of the Season by your continued support for CORA.

Thank you!

The average cost of groceries for a meal in North Carolina is \$2.25. The average cost for that same meal in Chatham County is \$2.72. CORA can provide a meal for only 60 cents!

Where We Get Our Food

Last year CORA distributed 191 tons of food from the pantry. 40% was donated by individuals, local grocery stores and farmers, neighborhood PORCH programs and food drives by churches, schools, businesses, county departments and civic groups. We also receive food once a month from the USDA surplus program. The re-

maining 60% is purchased by CORA at an average 87 cents per pound. We keep our food costs low by purchasing large quantities from Project Preserve, a Feeding America Food Bank in Tennessee. We also purchase food weekly from the Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC in Durham,

from Lowes Foods at Cole Park Plaza, and from MR Williams wholesale foods in Henderson. If you would like to donate food or conduct a food drive, call us at 919-545-3030 or email info@corafoodpantry.org. For a list of currently needed food items, visit the web site at www.corafoodpantry.org.

What Makes CORA Special? Here are just two of the many reasons. . .

CORA is set up like a grocery store. Clients "shop" for food with the assistance of a volunteer, selecting food in quantities based on family size. This gives clients a feeling of empowerment in a time of great difficulty and helps to reduce food waste..

The Birthday Closet. Every child should be able to celebrate a birthday. When clients come through our pantry, a CORA volunteer asks if a child in the family has a birthday that month. If so, the client can choose a gift bag full of supplies and treats for a small

birthday party from our Birthday Closet. Each bag also contains a toy, stuffed animal or book. If you would like to donate one or more birthday bags or items to go into bags, go to our web site at www.corafoodpantry.org and click on the birthday cake for information.



What Can You Do?

Volunteer Orientation is held at the Pantry on the 4th Wednesday of the Month. To attend call: 919-542-5020 Or email volunteer@corafoodpantry.org

Volunteer. CORA is a volunteer-based organization with more than 200 volunteers who sort food drive contributions, transport food, stock our shelves, directly serve our clients, and provide administrative and fundraising support.

Donate. CORA is a private nonprofit organization recognized under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. Your gift is tax deductible to the fullest extent allowed by law. For your convenience, a donation form is included with this newsletter.

88 cents of every dollar you give goes directly to CORA food programs.