

Chatham OutReach Alliance, Inc.

CORA is a member agency of Chatham County United Way

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CORA Outgrows Facility, Seeks More Space

Jim Farrington, volunteer, experienced stocker, CORA Board Secretary and retired newspaperman, writes about CORA's biggest challenge for 2016.

When CORA moved to its present location in 2007, no one could have predicted the phenomenal growth that would take place in the following eight years. There was more than enough room to distribute the 77.3 tons of food to the 2,907 families that were served that year.

The very next year, the period of rapid growth began with the closing of the chicken plants in Siler City, the beginning of the great recession and cutting of government safety net programs like food stamps and unemployment benefits.

In the last fiscal year, CORA served 5,968 families 220 tons of food, almost three times the number of tons distributed the first year of operation in the present facility.

The largest number of families served in a single day is 62. This is an enormous problem as the building was not designed for shoppers. It was an office building and the families have to move through a series of rooms with narrow

doorways to select their food. Congestion is now a daily occurrence.

But the vast increase in clients and tonnage processed only begins to tell the story of the strain being put on the facility. Since moving there, CORA has added a Backpack program providing food to children in 11 Chatham County Schools. We've added a SNACK program which now serves over 1,000 children in the summer. Adding to food donations are now Porch programs in nine Chatham County neighborhoods. The largest of these is in Farrington Village and it brings in an average of 2,000 pounds of food each month, and 3,500 pounds just this November. Area supermarkets have stepped up donations, added seasonal Feed-the-Hungry programs, and now provide food seven days a week.

The number of seasonal food drives has increased steadily since 2007. All these programs bring in much needed food which is weighed and sorted by volunteers before being distributed to clients. Each new program that has been added increased space requirements. Often every inch of space in CORA is used. All closets have been converted for food

Continued next page...

CORA By the Numbers

2015 Fiscal Year

- **5,968** families served (**19,068** Individuals)
- **220** tons of food distributed (215 previous year)
- Enough food for **400,428** Meals
- **1,054** Children received food for weekday meals in the summer **SNACK! Program.**
- **11** Backpack Programs received monetary and technical support.

Become a CORA Sustainer

An Easy and Convenient Way to Make a Difference

You sign up only once with your (secure) credit/debit card information, and you are done! You donate the same amount each month for as many months as you choose. We will automatically charge your card on the tenth of every month until you tell us to stop. It's an easy, convenient way to help CORA provide emergency food to those in need year-round. You can fill out and mail the **enclosed donation form** (also available on the website at www.corafoodpantry.org/donate) or call **919-545-3030**. **Every \$10 you give each month feeds one person for an entire week.**



Unloading trucks and food drives is a physically demanding multi-step process due to lack of space.

CORA Outgrows Facility (continued from page 1)

storage. The tops of all storage racks are being used even though it increases the likelihood of falling boxes.

In addition to these locally donated food deliveries, CORA makes bulk food purchases from organizations that sell only to food banks, food

pantries and the Feeding America Network. This presents another problem because the building was not built for these deliveries. It has no actual receiving area with wide doors and the trailer trucks have to be unloaded in the parking lot with all the products then brought in on hand trucks

by our volunteers.

This summer, CORA's Executive Director, Beth Budd, and I made a presentation to the Chatham County Commissioners seeking help. The Commissioners by unanimous vote directed the County Manager to begin exploring solutions. Un-

der consideration are the reconfiguration/expansion of the existing location or acquiring a suitable property for CORA's use.

Hopefully, room for growth and a facility better designed for shopping with ample storage and delivery logistics are in our future.

CORA's Programs for Children

SNACK!

CORA provides food during the summer for more than 1000 children. Each child receives food for 10 nutritionally balanced meals each week for 10 weeks. You can help us reach more of the 4000 children who need this critical nutrition by sponsoring a child for summer 2016. See the enclosed donation form for details.

Details on the SNACK! Program can be found at www.corafoodpantry.org.

Sustainers may designate their donations for SNACK!

BACKPACK

CORA supports 11 Backpack programs in Chatham that provide food to kids on weekends and holidays. We accept monetary donations for three of these programs making these donations tax deductible. We also provide financial assistance to any programs that need and request it. You can designate your donation to one of the schools listed on the "Backpack" page of our web site. You may also donate to CORA's Backpack Support Program.

What Would You Do?

One of our volunteers, who also volunteers with Communities in Schools as a mentor for Chatham students, came into the pantry not long ago and told of the following experience. Late in the afternoon one day the volunteer suggested to a student that they stop for the day because she didn't want to make the student late for dinner. The student replied, "Oh, that's OK. It's not my turn to have dinner."

You can help CORA provide food for healthy balanced meals to food insecure families so no child ever has to say "It's not my turn."

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

DONATE FOOD OR HAVE A FOOD DRIVE



Chatham OutReach Alliance, Inc.
Street Address: 40 Camp Drive
Pittsboro, North Carolina 27312
919-542-5020
Deliver Food: M-F 10am - 2pm
Food Drive Coord: Patricia Jackson
919-932-6188

Most needed items!!

- Canned Salmon – 14.75 oz.
- Canned Ham – 1 lb.
- Soups: Cream of Chicken, Other Chicken and Beef Soups, Chowders – 10.75 – 20 oz.
- Canned Fruit : light syrup or natural fruit juices – 15 – 20 oz.
- Canned Beans: Kidney & Black, 15 – 16 oz.
- Dried Beans: Black and Black Eye – 1 lb.
- Canned Vegetables: Collard Greens, Mixed Greens, Tomatoes, Potatoes – 14.25 – 20 oz.
- Maseca Corn Flour: 2 lb.
- Boxed Cereals: healthy, low sugar varieties: 14 – 18oz.
- Shelf stable Milk: 32 oz.
- Pasta: Pasta varieties other than spaghetti – 1 lb.
- Grits – 1 lb. 2 oz.
- Toiletries: toothpaste, shampoo, bath soap, etc.
- Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Kleenex, Paper Towels



PLEASE! NO GLASS CONTAINERS!

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. To attend an orientation: call 919-542-5020 or email volunteer@corafoodpantry.org

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 –

Or Donate On Line at www.corafoodpantry.org