

COME TO THE TABLE:

How People of Faith
Are Relieving Hunger
and Sustaining Local Farms
in North Carolina

Second Edition
2015



RAFI
NC Council of Churches
Resourceful Communities

Supported by
The Duke Endowment

This is the second edition of the Come to the Table Guidebook released in 2008, which was authored by Claire Hermann, Chris Liu-Beers and Laura Beach.

The authors of this edition are deeply grateful to the many who made this publication possible: The Duke Endowment, for their generous support of the Come to the Table Project; the United Methodist Church, for connecting us to clergy and lay leaders across the state; the founders of Come to the Table and authors of the original guidebook, for laying the groundwork; our colleagues, for pitching in and going above and beyond; our contributors, for their greathearted sharing of stories and wisdom; and most importantly the many diverse faith and community based projects that live a deep commitment to relieving hunger while strengthening just and sustainable agriculture.

While this guide approaches the theology of food and farming from a Christian perspective, the calling to feed our neighbors and steward the earth is central to many religions. We hope the content of this book is useful to people of all faiths.

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RAFI

<http://rafiusa.org>

The Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA (RAFI) cultivates markets, policies and communities that sustain thriving, socially just, and environmentally sound family farms. In partnership with the NC Council of Churches, RAFI directs the Come to the Table project and hosts regional convenings every other year. RAFI is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization based in Pittsboro, North Carolina and incorporated in 1990.



Resourceful Communities

www.resourcefulcommunities.org

Resourceful Communities is part of The Conservation Fund, a national nonprofit that has protected more than 7.5 million acres across the US. www.conservationfund.org. Resourceful Communities supports a network of faith-based groups, community organizations, small towns and resource partners. The triple bottom line – environmental stewardship, social justice and economic development – is the foundation of our work.



North Carolina
Council of Churches

The North Carolina Council of Churches

www.ncchurches.org

The North Carolina Council of Churches is a statewide ecumenical organization promoting Christian unity and working towards a more just society. Founded in 1935, the North Carolina Council of Churches enables denominations, congregations, and people of faith to individually and collectively impact our state on issues such as economic justice and development, human well-being, equality, compassion and peace, following the example and mission of Jesus Christ. Our members include 25 judicatories of 17 denominations and eight individual congregations.

James B. Duke

THE DUKE ENDOWMENT

The Duke Endowment

<http://dukeendowment.org/>

Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$3 billion in grants. The Endowment shares a name with Duke University and Duke Energy, but all are separate organizations.

Come to the Table Guidebook

Introduction

"It is both possible and morally necessary to find ways for farmers and others to make a fair living while providing accessible, healthy food to their communities."

— Claire Hermann, Come to the Table co-founder

When Come to the Table was conceived in 2007, it was grounded in this ambitious belief of Claire and the members of the Rural Life Committee. The committee, led by RAFI-USA, the North Carolina Council of Churches and The Duke Endowment, proceeded to invite an unlikely group of guests to an unusual series of conversations.

In an era where specialization is prized and polarization is the frightening norm, it seems like it would take a miracle to gather contrasting interests around the same table for a common cause. And yet, members of the Come to the Table network include conservatives and liberals, rural residents and urbanites, farmers, farm-workers, hunger relief advocates, elected officials, and community members from diverse backgrounds.

Since our first gatherings in Asheville, Cedar Grove and Goldsboro in 2007, we have continued to convene regionally every other year, and each time we have grown. At our 2013 gatherings over 600 people came together, nearly double the attendance the previous year. Together we set not one table, but many, and have been humbled over and over again by the abundance of people, fellowship and good work that has emerged over the last eight years.

In response to the growth of the Come to the Table community, the persistent problem of hunger in North Carolina, and our commitment to finding holistic solutions to food access, we have expanded the scope of our work. Some of the partners who came together around this table have taken on supporting farmers' markets in diversifying their customer base and reaching out to



serve SNAP recipients. We have also commenced a participatory research project to understand the barriers and opportunities for farmers selling to low-income consumers. Some of the initial research results are included in these pages.

Our first guidebook contained ideas and inspiration for people of faith interested in starting or expanding a food ministry, supporting local farms, starting a summer feeding program, founding a community garden and more.

In this second edition of the guidebook, we reflect on how faith and community groups are living out their calling. In partnership with the Resourceful Communities Program, we bring you snapshots of community groups that have pioneered innovative food access work. We also detail the current status of hunger and agriculture in North Carolina and nationally, and offer new resources and stories from faith leaders and from the field.

We hope this guidebook will help you take your own next step to reflect, plan and act to relieve hunger while strengthening just and sustainable agriculture.

— Francesca Hyatt
Beyond Hunger Relief Director at RAFI

BEYOND HUNGER RELIEF:

Community Project Snapshots

By Resourceful Communities

Project Summary

With generous support from The Duke Endowment, RAFI has embarked on a three year participatory research project to understand the barriers and opportunities for farmers selling to low-income consumers. In particular, RAFI is exploring entrepreneurial solutions to increasing food access. The results of this project will help shape programming to strengthen community efforts aimed at addressing hunger.

Community-based organizations frequently play a pivotal role in increasing access to fresh, healthy foods in vulnerable rural communities. In order to delve

more deeply into this role, RAFI collaborated with The Conservation Fund's Resourceful Communities program. We explored trends in rural communities that affect access to local produce; developed materials highlighting a range of innovative projects based on participatory research; and outlined resources and planning tools to support program improvements or new projects.

Resourceful Communities interviewed representatives of eight community organizations and performed site visits to observe their operations. Snapshots of four of these organizations are included in this guide: a community farm, a food donation program, a cost share community supported agriculture program, and a farm to school initiative.

Context and Trends

Despite an abundance of rich agricultural land in rural areas, many communities in North Carolina experience high food insecurity rates.

According to the US Department of Agriculture, a household is considered "food insecure" if it was, at times in the previous year, unable to acquire adequate food for one or more household members because of insufficient money and other resources for food. North Carolina consistently ranks among the top 10 for highest hunger rates in the nation.

While North Carolina's urban centers are home to larger, and denser, populations, the state's rural residents are disproportionately living in poverty; are unemployed and often uninsured; and are food insecure. People of color experi-





Food Insecurity

The USDA defines food insecurity as a condition of limited or uncertain access to adequate food, distinct from hunger.

Households that were unable to obtain sufficient food, at least at some point in the year, are considered food insecure. Food insecure households are further classified as having either low or very low food security:

- low food security indicates impaired diet quality, but little change in food intake
- very low food security indicates reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns

Food security, on the other hand, means having access at all times to enough food for an active, healthy life.

	2001-03 average	2008-10 average	2011-13 average
food insecurity			
U.S.	11.0%	14.6%	14.6%
N.C.	13.7%	15.7%	17.3%
very low food security			
U.S.	3.4%	5.6%	5.7%
N.C.	4.5%	5.2%	6.3%

USDA Economic Research Service. Coleman-Jensen et al. *Household Food Security in the United States in 2013*. September 2014.

The average poverty rate for all urban residents is 16%, compared to the average poverty rate of 19% in all rural counties, rising to 23% in Tier One counties. Within these areas, people of color experience the highest rates of poverty.

Source: NC Rural Center Data Bank, <http://www.ncruralcenter.org/>

ence even higher rates of poverty and hunger, especially within these rural areas.

At the same time, the number of small farms and land in production across North Carolina is rapidly decreasing. Moreover, farmers are an aging population: The average age of farmers in North Carolina is 60. Many farmers and small-scale producers report sincere interest in selling locally and supporting low-income consumers. However, challenges such as limited time, staffing, and resources, make it difficult to market, distribute, and sell food locally while also meeting their own bottom line.

North Carolina's rate of farm loss exceeds the national average, and the largest farm loss is happening among farms under 50 acres. However, small farms still represent 48% of all farms in the state.

Source: 2012 Census of Agriculture

Rural areas face many unique challenges. A wide geographic spread means that accessing markets requires transportation and extra time. Both can be challenges, especially in rural areas that frequently lack public transportation, a common need for low-income consumers. Historic barriers such as racism, segregation, discrimination and classism must also be acknowledged: Patterns of exclusion and marginalization can inhibit market participation for low-income community members and people of color.

In response to these challenges, many community groups have launched innovative efforts to address community hunger and health. Projects include alleviation of food insecurity, access to local healthy food, and related programs to improve health and economic outcomes. For a number of reasons, community organizations are also providing traditional social services in addition to existing programming. This means already limited resources – staff, volunteers, funding and supplies – are stretched even more.

While traditional hunger relief programs address an immediate crisis, they rarely resolve root causes of food insecurity (such as unemployment or lack of transportation) or support small farm production. Community organizations and small farmers are developing innovative and entrepreneurial models that go beyond the immediate-relief food donations – in short, looking beyond hunger relief.

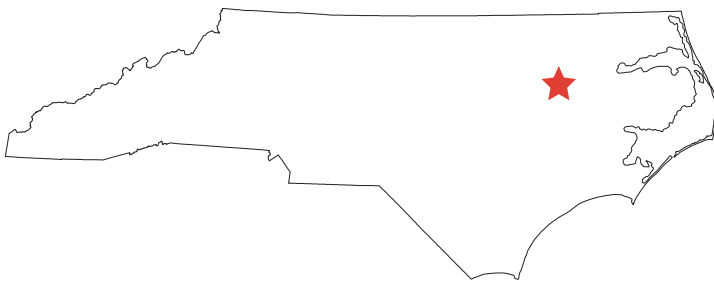
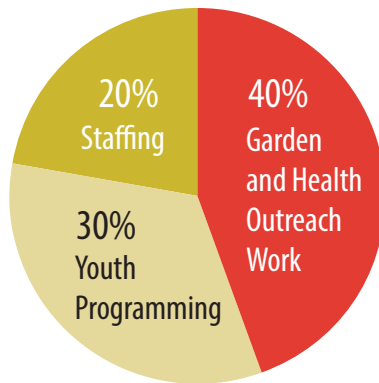
The following community project snapshots highlight some of these efforts. With the featured groups' approval, we're pleased to share overviews of their projects, keys to success, and lessons learned. We hope this information provides strategies to support or connect to this work – or inspiration to adapt these approaches for your own community.

SNAPSHOT | Conetoe Family Life Center (CFLC)

*Community Farm,
Agriculture Enterprise
Training and Mobile
Market*

Conetoe, Edgecombe County,
N.C.
<http://conetoefamily.webs.com>
501(c)3

Critical Budget Items



Overview

Conetoe Family Life Center (CFLC) operates a 25-acre community garden and a community center that offers mentorship, resources, and afterschool programs to the town of Conetoe, population 292. Conetoe is located in Edgecombe County, which has the highest rate of diabetes in North Carolina's 100 counties, and ranks 96 in overall health outcomes. CFLC opened in 2007 after Reverend Richard Joyner noticed that the health issues within the church and town were rampant: He presided over 30 funerals for congregants under the age of 32 in one year. A health assessment of the congregants showed that 65% of congregants were obese, and the same percentage unemployed. Most were uninsured and lived in poverty.

CFLC's programming takes a comprehensive approach to these challenges. The center provides after-school and summer camp programs for youth aged 5 to 18 at community gardens where they plan, plant and harvest produce. The produce is distributed among community members, and sold at farmers' markets, roadside stands and to restaurants. Youth



Potential for Connection with Faith Communities

CFLC is a strong example of an initiative supported by a faith community. Outside of their own community and congregation, CFLC partners with 21 other local churches to advise their health programming and church gardens. CFLC also sells produce to a dozen churches for their church dinners and events. They are working to expand these types of partnerships.

also manage beehives to pollinate the crops, and produce and distribute honey, learning entrepreneurial skills along the way. The revenue they generate supports school supplies and scholarships.

Key Elements of Success

- **Strong community buy-in:** CFLC was run entirely by volunteers for the first few years. Even with two part-time staff members, the majority of garden work, after school programming, and produce distribution is completed by volunteers. CFLC has ~15 volunteers that are there every single day, many working at least 40 hours/week. In the summer, their total volunteer hours nearly double.

- **Youth leadership:** CFLC truly embraces a youth-empowered model, where youth are involved from the beginning in decision-making for programming and take active leadership roles in a variety of ways.

- **Strong partnerships:** CFLC has built strong partnerships with local agencies and entities, including public, private, and nonprofit organizations, universities and hospital systems.

- **Mobile Market:** Through the sale of their vegetables, CFLC was able to purchase a unit for a mobile market, allowing them to set up and sell in different areas. This helps to address the barrier of limited transportation. They set up at a public housing community, outside of a local hardware store, and in the parking lot of the center.

- CFLC recently became SNAP authorized and will accept EBT payments through its mobile market and other points of sale starting in 2015.

Lessons Learned

- Programming should be comprehensive and incorpo-



CFLC youth in the garden

rate holistic healing – spiritual, physical, and economic – for the community.

- If you are interested in breaking cycles of poverty and disenfranchisement within your community, you have to take new approaches and try new methods. One strong example happened when one of the youth stole money from the church. The leaders and church elders' first reaction was to press charges, but youth leaders intervened and pointed out that this approach to discipline would only lead to one more young Black man with a record; it wouldn't have addressed the bigger issues at play in that situation – poverty, gang activity, etc. Instead, youth suggested that the young man perform community service in the garden. Now, he is one of the leaders, graduated high school, attends community college, attends services weekly, and wants to be an entrepreneur. Reverend Joyner points to this situation as one example of how new thinking and new approaches can lead to more innovative answers and help to shift trends.

- “One key lesson learned was how to engage the local community to invest in addressing their own health issues. CFLC brought in experts from outside of the community to do train-the-trainer workshops – so that we then had experts in our own community who could resonate with the individuals here. This way, through

“ We have to use holistic approaches that address the whole person — spirituality, physical well-being, everything — so that we can get to the core of the work — and that’s what we’ve done at CFLC. ”



the house meetings, phone calls, and health fairs, we were able to hold people more accountable to their health issues, whereas doctors couldn’t have that level of personal accountability. In this way, we were partnering with people within the medical community to make sure we had the right information and resources to address our own health needs.”

- “We realized that it all starts with us: We’re not putting the responsibility of our health on our doctors, we’re putting that responsibility on the community that we live in – holding each other accountable, and helping ourselves to make those changes.”

- At CFLC, youth are engaged in every level of the programming and take leadership at every level. Donna Latimer, CFLC Program Manager, says, “This is a holistic approach to leadership and entrepreneurship development. We have to raise up the youth in the program to be leaders. Even those who may have a ‘bad attitude’ at first. It’s being involved in leadership development that can give someone hope and change their attitude.”

- “Communities can be so beat down by systems that when you begin to address the issues, you have to be very strategic in connecting the dots. When people have lived in and internalized oppression for so long, they think that their way of living is the norm – poverty, lack of resources, lack of information – it breeds the continuation of all of these things that keep people in these same conditions. We have to use holistic approaches that address the whole person – spirituality, physical well-being, everything – so that we can get to the core of the work – and that’s what we’ve done at CFLC.”

Reverend Richard Joyner

SNAPSHOT | Share the Harvest

Food Donation Program

Greensboro, Guilford County, N.C.

www.sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org

501(c)3 nonprofit

Budget: Less than \$2,500

Critical Budget Items

- Cold Storage
- In-Kind Support (transportation, space, food donations, volunteer time)

Overview

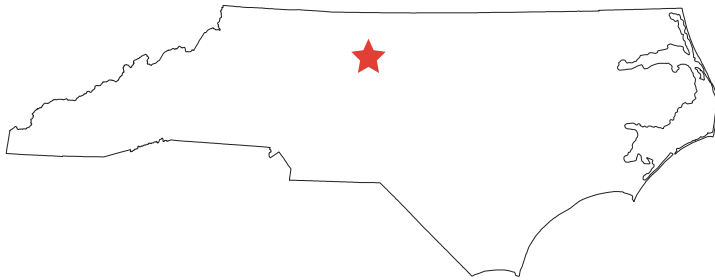
Share the Harvest in Guilford County collects, aggregates and distributes fresh produce to agencies that have food pantries or prepare meals, ensuring that those in need have access to fresh produce.

In 2009, people representing several church community gardens in Greensboro began sharing their community garden experiences. As the amount of produce being harvested grew, garden leaders realized that fresh produce was being distributed to food pantries and individuals in a mostly ad hoc way. In the fall of 2011, garden leaders met with Karen Neill, an Urban Horticulture agent with Guilford County Cooperative Extension, to find a way to more intentionally, effectively and equitably

distribute donated produce. With input from local food pantries, the group proceeded with a plan to create a centralized location to aggregate, store and distribute donated produce.

Fresh produce is collected from a variety of places, including: community and individual gardens, local grocery stores, farmers' markets donations and more. Coordinated collection sites are located throughout the county. Share the Harvest currently has seven collection sites – designated places and set times when people/ groups can drop off fresh produce. Most produce is brought to Share the Harvest's main distribution site in downtown Greensboro, where

a large cooler is used to store food. Distribution is coordinated; agencies sign up for a time slot to pick up fresh produce (currently, either Monday mornings or Thursday afternoons). Distribution is limited to agencies that have food pantries or serve meals; individuals are not eligible to receive donations. With a few exceptions, food pantries are required to pick up the produce; deliveries are made to food pantries on rare occasions. SignUpGenius (<http://www.signup-genius.com/>), a free online sign up system, is used to coordinate both distribution volunteers and pick-up by food pantries.



Potential for Connection with Faith Communities

Church partners have been critical to the program and provide support in all aspects of Share the Harvest to ensure its success. Volunteer recruitment, produce donations and outreach to food pantries is done mostly through affiliated churches, their various networks and congregation members.

Churches are the primary source of donated produce and dedicated volunteers. Churches also serve as collection sites and a few serve as satellite distribution sites.



The program currently serves about eight food pantries and an additional eight organizations that prepare meals for the hungry. These programs serve a variety of people: refugee and immigrant communities, homeless populations, low-income individuals, and other individuals in need.

Before Share the Harvest was established, those who wanted to donate fresh produce might not have known where to take it or might even have been turned away (if food pantries did not have the capacity to store fresh produce, for example). By providing food pantries with a set time to collect fresh produce, pantries can plan accordingly. Pantries can distribute the produce to their clients immediately and eliminate the need for expensive cold storage that would normally be required to distribute fresh produce.

Key Elements of Success

- Cold storage was critical for donations of perishable goods. A make-shift cooler was constructed using CoolBot technology (<http://storeitcold.com/>), and a partnership was established with the Interactive Resource Center, a local organization dedicated to assisting the homeless population of Guilford County, to house the cooler and serve as the distribution site.

- The program needed a dedicated, core group of

volunteers to coordinate the collection and distribution of produce.

- Partnerships are key. Guilford County Cooperative Extension was instrumental in gathering church community garden leaders; providing assistance in starting community gardens; and helping with garden challenges. Some churches serve as collection sites, and many provide volunteers and donations of produce.

Lessons Learned

- Having dedicated collection sites with set collection times scattered throughout the county is a win-win: Programs that provide food to the needy can plan consistently, and donors know where and when to take perishable goods.

- Maintaining one major distribution site with smaller satellite distribution centers that have cold storage capacity is key to ensuring that fresh food donations aren't wasted and reach more people in need.

- Limiting eligible recipients to food pantries and those who prepare meals ensures food reaches intended recipients. These organizations are also more likely to know their clients and choose foods that are culturally appropriate or likely to be used by their clients.

“ These programs serve a variety of people: refugee and immigrant communities, homeless populations, low-income individuals, and other individuals in need. ”

SNAPSHOT | High Country Community Supported Agriculture

Cost-Share Community Supported Agriculture (CSA)

Boone, Watauga County, N.C.

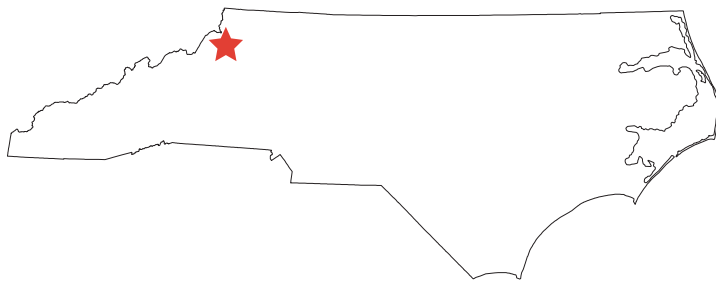
www.highcountrycsa.org

Project of WAMY

Community Action, a 501(c)3

Critical Budget Items

- Coordinator Salary
- Discount for cost-share
- Supplies for recipe demos



CSA Structure

HCCSA was the first rural CSA in Western North Carolina to accept EBT.

Their CSA structure follows:

- Members sign up and prepay to receive weekly produce boxes, choosing either:
 - A large produce box featuring a variety of vegetables – \$30/week
 - A small produce box – ½ size, 4-6 vegetables for \$15/week (Most Cost-Share subscribers choose this option.)
 - A variety box – ½ size produce plus value added local goods for \$30/week
- Members pick up their prepaid produce box weekly at a central location.
- Cost share members typically pay 1/3 of the standard price
- Members who pay with their SNAP benefits are able to pay on a weekly basis to accommodate SNAP regulations.

From 2007 to 2012, 166 new community supported agriculture (CSA) programs were created in North Carolina. With a total of 579 CSAs in 2012, North Carolina had the third highest number in the country, coming in after only California and Texas, and before New York. — USDA NASS Census of Agriculture

Overview

High Country Community Supported Agriculture (HCCSA) began as a project of the nonprofit Maverick Farms in 2005. In 2014 HCCSA transitioned to a project of WAMY Community Action, a nonprofit that has been active in Watauga, Avery, Mitchell, and Yancey Counties since 1964. WAMY works to promote individual and family self-sufficiency, end poverty at the root level, and enhance the quality of life for residents of service counties.

HCCSA's multi-farm, member-subscription model creates economic viability for local sustainable farmers. Their cost-share program provides reduced-cost shares to low-income community members, who can pay with SNAP benefits or cash. These low-income shares, subsidized by grant funding, make up 30% of the total CSA shares.

HCCSA's model aims to solve several problems: to make small-scale organic farming economically possible, and to solve the constellation of dietary, health and food access problems of poverty. They provide nutrition education to their members in the form of weekly recipes and demos throughout the season, giving residents of the community hands-on opportunities to build healthy eating habits while supporting environmentally responsible farming methods that provide income to local farms.



Potential for Connection with Faith Communities

At the moment, HCCSA does not have formal partnerships with faith-based organizations, though they do see the potential. A possible connection with churches is to establish a cooperative buying model through a church or network, where multiple people from the same congregation could buy shares, sponsor low-income shares, and/or host a CSA pickup site.

Key Elements of Success

- HCCSA's biggest strength is successfully introducing the CSA model to NC's High Country. The coordinator, Elliot Rhodes, states: "We were the first, and pretty geographically isolated. Starting a multi-farm CSA demonstrated the capacity of the community to support that model. Now, almost all of our partnering small farms have their own CSA because we were able to demonstrate the viability of that model." Again, HCCSA's model generates revenue for local farmers and provides consistent access for low-income consumers.

- Strong support of community members and local organizations who support the cost share program, many even approach HCCSA and offer hosting fundraisers

- Strong partnership with WAMY, which provides "the flexibility to provide programming that's accessible"

- Partnership with local community clinic: Members have the option of taking their shares into the community clinic's diabetes/nutrition education class to learn how to prepare healthy, nutritious meals. This started as an informal partnership, and last year, 10 cost-share members participated.

Lessons Learned

- "Changing people's eating habits requires a holistic model. We need to think about 'wraparound' services and not just handing people a box of food without direction."



- "[In a CSA] people think they're buying produce, but what they're really buying is relationships with their farmers."

- This type of project and model takes more time than expected – especially marketing, production planning, and organizing the pickup site logistics.

- "This model of supporting low-income consumers from the beginning works best as a project driven by an organization whose goal is to meet community needs. A multi-farm CSA is a great model, but it would be more difficult to start from there and move towards a more inclusive model without the support of an organization like WAMY."

- HCCSA believes that a multi-farm model is most functional in areas where CSAs don't already exist.

- "Realistic business planning needs to happen before anything else gets off the ground. This seems obvious, but I think it's really easy, especially for nonprofits who want to solve problems, to want to just jump in."

“ “ [In a CSA] people think they're buying produce, but what they're really buying is relationships with their farmers. ” ”

SNAPSHOT | Working Landscapes: Chopped Produce Initiative

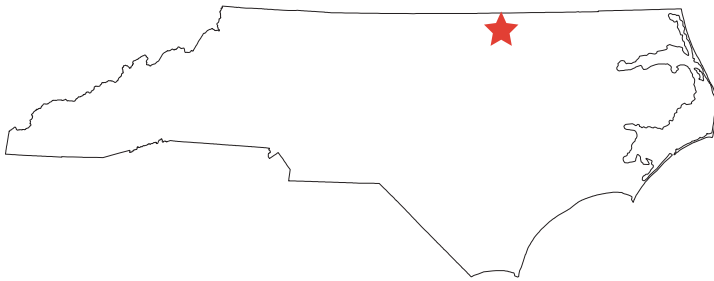
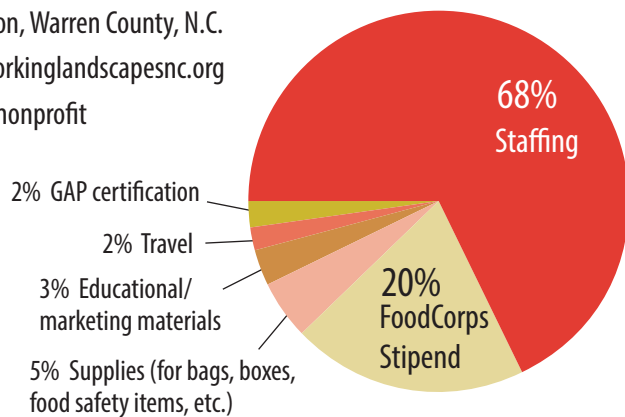
Farm-to-School Program

Warrenton, Warren County, N.C.

www.workinglandscapesnc.org

501(c)3 nonprofit

Critical Budget Items



Overview

The Chopped Produce Initiative is managed by the Warren County nonprofit, Working Landscapes. Working Landscapes aims to create more sustainable livelihoods for people in the region through stewardship of natural and cultural resources. Their Chopped Produce Initiative currently supports three local farmers and gets cafeteria-ready fresh collards and cabbage to four school districts (Bertie County, Hertford County, Northampton County, Warren County and Weldon City) and a childcare center in Durham. The initiative meets many goals: improving local food access and community health; increasing revenue for local farmers; providing education on nutrition and farming to local residents; promoting a healthy local agriculture economy; and preserving regional culture.

The Chopped Produce Initiative emerged out of Growing Local, Buying Local (GLBL, 2010-2011), a participatory research project which emphasized

community input and a high degree of local engagement. Grounded in practical goals informed by the community, the GLBL process identified a need to re-establish a connection between local farms, area produce markets and existing infrastructure.

The project is housed at the Warren County Produce Center, located at the site of a former flour mill & cotton gin on Warrenton's Franklin Street. Gabe Cumming, food economy facilitator with Working Landscapes, says they established the Produce Center at this site as a means to "bring back to life" a facility that was once important to the local agricultural economy. Repurpos-



“It's important to inspire action and change and celebrate assets that we do have to engender a culture of possibility.”

Potential for Connection with Faith Communities

Local churches are not currently involved in the project, though staff regularly present for local groups. For faith groups interested in an entrepreneurial approach to healthy food access, supporting an organization such as this could be a great fit.

ing historic agriculture infrastructure is a particular interest for Working Landscapes. Conservation efforts tend to focus on “green infrastructure” or land resources, which is critical for growing food, but that food also has to be aggregated, prepared and distributed. Connecting local farm-to-fork infrastructure helps rebuild local economies and reinvigorates hope in the community.

How it works: Fresh produce is harvested by local farmers and brought to the inspected processing facility. There, the produce is chopped and bagged by local workers. The cabbage and collards are then distributed to participating school districts.

Key Elements of Success

- **Farmer partnerships and capacity:** Three participating farmers are now GAP certified and can accommodate increased output as the project grows. Working Landscapes would like to add farmers from each school district, but current farmer capacity is sufficient and has room for increased output.

- **Strong partnerships:** Partnerships include local leaders, Warren County Schools’ Child Nutrition Program, Warren County Cooperative Extension Service and Warren County FoodCorps. Three key contacts, involved from the start, helped launch the initiative: Victor Hunt is a former ag teacher and local grower who identified a farm-to-school model in Florida to explore; Jeff Bender is a full-time farmer who understands production agriculture in Warren County; and Robert Parker, Warren County Schools Child Nutrition Director, was critical in informing school needs and investing as a lead customer.

- **Community engagement:** The initiative resulted from a stakeholder process and community conversations, ensuring that the effort was locally driven and informed.

- FoodCorps and Working Landscapes staff have provided effective in-school programming to encourage children to eat the initiative’s chopped greens and have



increased awareness of the local farm culture and good nutrition.

Lessons Learned

- “We had local school representatives involved all the way and that enabled the school to provide input into what kind of products they wanted as well as product specifications.” This informed the chop-and-bag process.

- Community engagement is critical to project success. In communities that experience high levels of isolation, poverty and “brain drain,” hope can be in short supply. It’s important to “inspire action and change and celebrate assets that we do have to engender a culture of possibility.”

- Strong local relationships, built throughout a community engagement process before launching the initiative, informed the project and garnered a high level of community trust.

- “Listening is key to how we operate.”

- Projects and success look different in each place depending on interests, goals and resources. Right-sizing an effort is critical.

- Local and regional food economies need new metrics of success. They will never be as efficient as corporate systems, but the advantages to local life, culture and environmental health are significant.

- Issues facing the broad food system are so big; focusing on local is tangible and a place where you can progress, have results.

- Repurposing historic infrastructure to support emerging local food economies can breathe new life into small communities.

Barriers & Opportunities

For each of the programs profiled in this set of community project snapshots, a number of issues stood out as shared barriers. Since these challenges are consistent for multiple organizations with widely varying structures and approaches, they represent opportunities for funders and resource providers to provide targeted support to strengthen the current efforts of many organizations at once.

Barriers

Staffing: Many initiatives have no paid staff or low numbers of paid staff, and paid staff members often work more than their committed hours. Staff positions are usually funded by grant support. This means staffing might be inconsistent or that knowledge and skillsets gained can leave with the temporary staff members, requiring repeated training and oversight.

Some local farmers would participate in smaller markets if staffing were provided on their behalf. Small-scale farmers target markets that generate the highest return and frequently can't participate in multiple markets. Many of these smaller markets serve rural, low-income areas.

Cultural Barriers: A long history of marginalization in the food system, especially along racial and socioeconomic lines, impacts some individuals' relationships with and ability to access local food. To include just one example, there can be stigma associated with using SNAP/ EBT cards (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program / Electronic Benefits Transfer, formerly known as food stamps). Because of payment methods, using EBT at many farmers markets or other local food venues can be more visible than using EBT at a larger grocery store.

Infrastructure: Groups wishing to distribute fresh produce often have insufficient or no cold storage. Without cold storage, fresh produce degrades quickly. Many also lack staff to process fresh goods or lack access to a com-

SNAP and Farmers Markets: In pursuit of systemic solutions to food access, connecting SNAP (formerly food stamps) recipients with local, fresh fruits and vegetables is emerging as a solution with real potential for consumers as well as farmers. However, there are challenges with staff capacity, infrastructure and cultural barriers to be addressed when equipping farmers markets to accept SNAP and other federal benefits as payment.

Connect2Direct, a new initiative of RAFL and Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) is addressing the issue of SNAP at farmers markets by researching and piloting programs like Double Bucks incentive programs that increase farm direct sales and expand local food access. This work has been generously funded by the Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust among others. ***Resourceful Communities*** provides technical support on SNAP / EBT to specific markets. Connect with these groups and initiatives through our Resources section."

mercial kitchen. Transportation to markets, especially in rural areas, is also needed.

Opportunities

Funders: Funding is needed by many organizations for staff capacity, cold storage, refrigerated trucks and/or mobile delivery equipment for food as well as materials for SNAP acceptance – tokens, double bucks programs, coordinator salaries and marketing materials. One area that is often overlooked is funding for staff training in areas identified as needed skills. Funding professional development and skills training can go a long way in supporting a program's sustainability.

Resource & Technical Assistance Providers: Trends across surveyed groups reflect a major need for training on marketing and



outreach, market management (for those with mobile markets or farmers markets), and information on season extension and crop planning for growers. Many groups would also benefit from strategies to sustain consistent staffing, especially “hybrid” business planning and staff retention strategies, as well as increased capacity for financial tracking and oversight. Facilitating connections to peer groups and resource groups also provides opportunities for troubleshooting and idea sharing among those running similar projects.

Faith Communities: There are many opportunities identified by the organizations we surveyed for faith communities to support initiatives that connect people with local food. Here are a few:

- **Donations** - Channel direct donations to subsidize CSA shares for low-income families or double-bucks programs for SNAP incentives at farmers markets.
- **Volunteer** - Partner with a local organization to provide a consistent base of volunteers.

Farmer Foodshare Donation Stations at many local farmers markets allow customers to donate money or market produce which the organization delivers to local hunger relief organizations. Farmer Foodshare LOVES and relies on volunteers. Congregations can volunteer with an existing Donation Station or partner with Farmer Foodshare to get one started. Connect with Farmer Foodshare through our Resources section.

- **Assets** - Lend equipment for use, such as church vans to deliver food or provide space for cooking demonstrations, nutrition education classes and value-added production. Congregations could use their property as a drop off and pickup point for local hunger relief organizations, or allow use of parking lots for markets / deliveries outside of religious service times. Many congregations donate produce from their community garden or partner with a local organization to engage the wider community.
- **Church Meals** - Support local small farmers and community agriculture projects by buying produce from them for church events.

Conclusion

Understanding the barriers and opportunities that are shared by many different organizations allows funders, resource providers, and faith communities to see where their services are most needed – and how to target support for greater impact. For faith communities considering establishing or expanding a food ministry, learning about existing programs is a great way to get started. We hope these snapshots provided insight into some of the exciting initiatives in North Carolina and inspire the hearts and minds of all who are engaged in identifying their role in this important work.

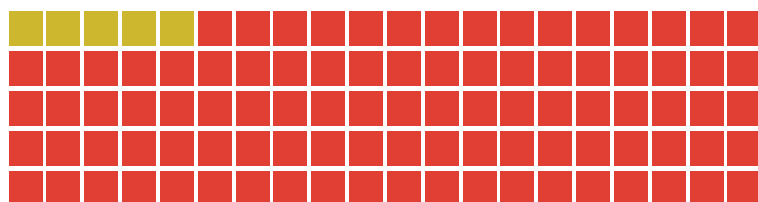
Elon Community Church Farmer's Market is a great example of a church offering their assets of space to local farmers. Check them out in our resource section — they are happy to talk with congregations interested in starting a congregation supported farmers market.



Hunger and Agriculture

Farmland Loss

■ per 1 percent of farms lost in N.C. from 2007 to 2012



From 2007 to 2012, North Carolina lost 5.1% of its farms, at an average rate of more than 500 farms per year.

Over the same period, the area of farmland in N.C. fell by 59,915 acres — a decline of less than 1%, but equivalent to more than half the area of the city of Raleigh. These losses mirror national trends: In the U.S. as a whole, almost 100,000 farms and over 7.5 million acres of farmland were lost between 2007 and 2012.

North Carolina's food banks serve 1,385,100 unique clients annually.

Food Insecurity in the U.S.

In 2013, nearly 1 in 5 (19.5%) households with children experienced food insecurity.



This compares to about 1 in 7 (14.3%) of all households.



SNAP Participants

The USDA's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the largest federal food assistance program.

An average of 1.6 million North Carolinians per month participated in SNAP in 2014; nationally, monthly SNAP participation averaged 46.5 million Americans.

\$257 **\$550**

The average monthly SNAP benefit in 2014 was about \$257 per household, or about \$125 per person.

The amount that the average American household spent per month on food in 2013.

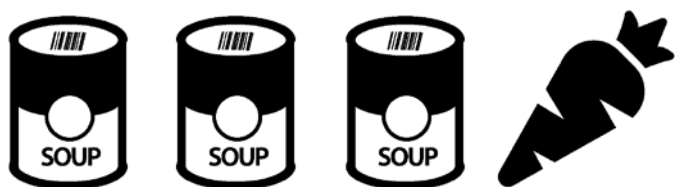


According to Feeding America, about one in four (26.8%) food-insecure people in North Carolina - 5% of all North Carolinians - have incomes above the cutoff for SNAP and other federal programs, and may be ineligible for public assistance.

Faith & Community Response

67% of the partner agencies working with NC food banks to distribute food are **faith-based organizations**. Nationally, **62%** of partner agencies are faith-based.

N.C.'s food banks distributed nearly 152 million pounds of food in fiscal year 2013-14.



Four food banks, representing almost two thirds of this total, distributed an average of 25% produce by weight — one pound of fresh produce in every four distributed.

Community Gardens

700%

The amount that the number of community gardens grew from 2008 to 2014 in NC, based on the NC Community Garden Partners Directory listings.

Be counted

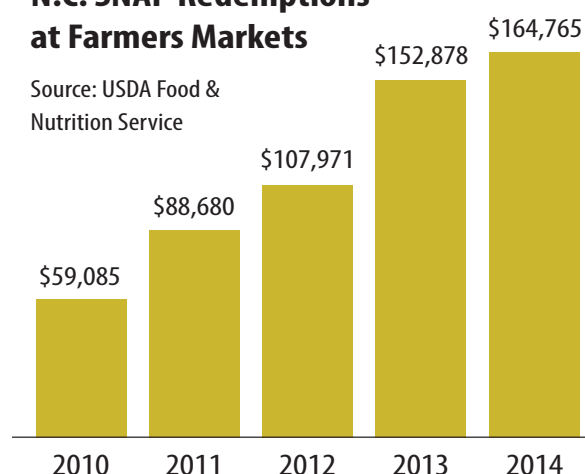
Registering your community garden with the North Carolina Community Garden Partners allows others to connect with you. Plus it helps all of us know how many gardens exist in our state! Register today: www.nccgp.org/garden_directory

SNAP at the Farmers Market

An increasing number of farmers markets accept SNAP benefits, including some also offering community-raised “Double Bucks” for SNAP recipients to increase direct purchases of local food. In North Carolina in 2014, \$164,765 was redeemed at farmers markets out of the state total SNAP redemptions of \$2,383,571,501. While this represents only a tiny fraction of all SNAP benefits, the number continues to increase annually. In North Carolina, 14% of farmers markets were authorized to accept SNAP.

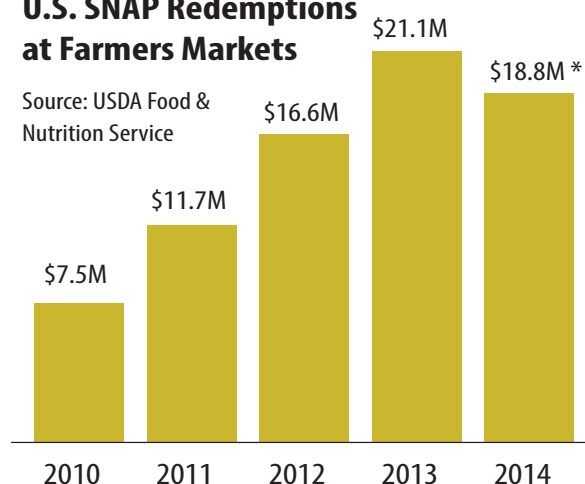
N.C. SNAP Redemptions at Farmers Markets

Source: USDA Food & Nutrition Service



U.S. SNAP Redemptions at Farmers Markets

Source: USDA Food & Nutrition Service



*This is a preliminary figure. A decrease may reflect reduced SNAP redemptions at all retailers.

SEED, SCALE, SUSTAIN:

Growing Goodness in North Carolina

By Kristen Richardson-Frick
and Robb Webb

If you ask nonprofit or faith community leaders what a funding organization can do to help them, you will probably get one simple answer: “Give us money to do what we want to do to make our community a better place!” It seems obvious, doesn’t it?

When you examine the question through the eyes of a funder, however, things get more complex and nuanced. Funders have many tools to help faith-based groups and other nonprofits to impact their communities for good, and those tools can all be used in different ways to give various kinds of aid as deemed appropriate.

At one recent conference for foundation leaders, the speaker summarized what funders do with “the three S’s:” Seed, Scale, Sustain. To *seed* a project, a funder provides assistance to a group to begin a new ministry or project, either in the form of money or by using another tool. To *scale* a project or program means to take it to the next level, or to help it take the next step in its plan. To *sustain* a project means to provide ongoing assistance that keeps the program going at its current level of service.

Thinking organically, we may think of *seed-ing* as planting the seed that will take root and grow in its own environment, with the re-

sources of its native soil, air, water, and sun (local congregation and community resources). Using this analogy, a funder could be involved in very early stages of developing a food program in a congregation and then move away as the congregation and its community take over the work of growing the program. *Scaling* may be thought of as helping to move the seedling from the pot to the field, or as putting fertilizer into the soil around the plant. In scaling, as in seeding, a funder’s work and tools are temporary, and the environment (community) around the growing plant (organization/program) provides the rest of what is needed for further development as well as for the sustaining of the project at its new level of operation. When a funder chooses to be a part of *sustaining* an organization or a congregation, or its programs or ministries, it chooses to become like the sun, the air, the water, or the soil-- a part of the group or project’s permanent environment. Most funders do not have the resources to sustain programs as a matter of common practice; thus, they reserve their financial assistance primarily for seeding and scaling.



Athan Lindsay, Come to the
Table Project Director

Thank You

The Duke Endowment has provided sustaining support to the Come to the Table Project since 2007. We are deeply grateful for a relationship with funders who share a profound commitment to our mission, and whom we consider partners in the work.

Rev. Edgar de Jesus at
Anathoth Community Garden



It is important to note that it isn't just grant money that funders can offer organizations in the seeding or scaling process, or even in a commitment to help them sustain. People who fund or offer other assistance to congregations or grassroots organizations know both what those groups are doing and the lessons they've learned. For this reason, funders can be wonderful networkers for groups trying to do good things, connecting them to similar groups who are doing good things so that they can share best practices and lessons learned. A funder can also connect these organizations to other funders who may have an interest in helping these organizations in their work. In the case of The Duke Endowment and the faith-based food programs with which we've been involved, we have begun to hold regular convenings that bring food ministry leaders together to learn from each other, to assist one another, and to form new relationships that can sustain impactful programs. We consider this initiative to be as important as our grant-making.

In addition to funding and networking, funders can also provide for what is commonly called "technical assistance." In other words, foundation staff can directly

aid an organization or congregation's leaders as they seek to offer programs that make lasting and meaningful change in their communities. Some funders also provide technical assistance through intermediaries.

Using the three main tools of grants, relationships and guidance, funders all seek to do the same thing -- grow goodness in the communities they serve by helping effective organizations to seed programs that will feed their communities, to scale projects that can produce more good fruit for the better health of all people and, in certain cases, to sustain those things that are nourishing the world with grace and excellence.

Kristen Richardson-Frick is an ordained elder in the South Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and a program officer for The Duke Endowment's Rural Church Program.

Robb Webb is an ordained deacon in the Western North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church and director of The Duke Endowment's Rural Church Program Area.

“ When a funder chooses to be a part of sustaining an organization or a congregation, or its programs or ministries, it chooses to become like the sun, the air, the water, or the soil — a part of the group or project's permanent environment. ”

EATING WELL:

An Updated Resource for Congregations

By the NC Council of Churches



In 2012, the North Carolina Council of Churches developed “Eating Well: For Ourselves, For Our Neighbors, For Our Planet,” a comprehensive, intergenerational curriculum focused on the food we eat and why it matters. It features seven lessons with Scripture, prayers, resources, and activities for young children through adults, “Eating Well” will challenge and inspire your church or community group.

Recently updated, the purpose of this study is to highlight the interconnectivity between food and respecting creation, having enough, loving neighbors, valuing diversity, and working towards peace from a faith and social justice perspective. Additionally, you will be equipped and empowered to take action at personal, communal, regional, and political levels. As sisters and brothers in Christ, we are called to be good neighbors to each other, good stewards of creation, and good caretakers of the body God has given us. Our relationship with food touches our relationship with just about everyone and everything else.

Below is an example from the first chapter including abbreviated activities for you to try at your congregation.

Opening Prayer

Almighty God, as we gather together to learn about the glory of your creation, we ask that you open our hearts and minds so that we can recognize your good gifts in the world around us and interact with them in a way that is pleasing to you. We are dependent on one another.

Opening Reflection

People tend to have powerful memories and emotions related to food. What is your earliest food-related memory? Why do you think the emotion related to that memory is so powerful?

Scripture

- You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbor as yourself. (Luke 10:27)
- The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)

Activity for Primary & Intermediate Students

- Just what is “everything”? Have the students brainstorm all the things that God owns. If you have a large soft ball, you may have the kids stand

For more tools and activities, you can download the Eating Well curriculum from the North Carolina Council of Churches website: <http://www.nccchurches.org/food-curriculum>



in a circle and throw the ball to one another. Each person who catches it says, “God owns ____.” Encourage them to think big (mountains, cities, countries) and small (lady bugs, toys, themselves). Play long enough so that everyone has a turn to speak two or three times.

- Once the children have had an opportunity to brainstorm, unroll a length of butcher paper or pass out a couple large pieces of newsprint or poster board along with art supplies. Along the top write, “The Earth is the Lord’s and Everything in It.” As a group, they will create a picture showing all the things that belong to God. Remind the kids of all the things – big and small – that they listed in their brainstorm.

- When the pictures are complete, have the children come back together as a whole group. Read Luke 10:27 to them again. Using their posters as examples, show them that they can love God by loving and caring for all the things that God owns. Since they belong to God, all the other things that belong to God are their neighbors, and they should try to love them and take care of them. God creates the food we eat, and God wants all of us to have enough. Close with a prayer.

Youth & Adult Activity

Watch “Nourish” (a 30 minute PBS special that is available to borrow from the NCCC library or bought online at a discount for congregations). After watching “Nourish,” discuss the following questions in small groups or all together as one group:

- What traditions does your family have around food?
- What are some of the connections you see between your religious beliefs and food?
- How does food connect all of God’s creations?

Youth-specific Questions

- What kinds of foods are served at your school, church, or neighborhood or family meals?
- What steps can be taken to make those foods healthier?
- How often do you talk to your parents/guardians about food? Do you get to help make dinner or decide what you will eat that week?

Adult-specific Questions

- What needs does this video point out that may be filled through Christian mission or ministry? Does your faith community already have missions or ministries that address these needs? How can you participate in, support, or start missions or ministries that address those needs?

Closing Prayer

Almighty God, you have called us to tend and keep the garden of your creation. Give us wisdom and reverence for all your plants and animals who share this planet with us and whose lives make possible our own. Help us to remember that they too love the sweetness of life and join with us in giving you praise.

(National Council of Churches Earth Day Sunday 2001 resource packet)

“ “ *The earth is the Lord’s and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it. (Psalm 24:1)* ” ”

STORIES FROM THE FIELD:

A Beloved Garden

By Wesley Morris

For over twenty years, the Beloved Community Center (BCC) of Greensboro, NC has worked with a belief rooted in Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s legacy of proactive struggles at the intersections of social and economic justice. The BCC is committed to grassroots empowerment, especially among marginalized groups, within the spirit of forging a beloved community for all. During my seven years of service, I have found no greater joy than the opportunity to build sustainable, enduring and life-affirming relationships that have an impact in our local community.

When the need for access to healthy and affordable food emerged as a critical issue in our city, the BCC saw our work of community building as an indispensable gift to the movement for food justice. Our work nestled in the corner pocket of downtown Greensboro, at Faith Community Church (FCC) was reenergized. We felt our great commission of faith to care deeply for our neighbors and to show this care in acts of love and justice. Hunger and food security are issues that affect all of us, but they impact marginalized groups living in poverty even more.

In 2007, the BCC, in partnership with our homeless neighbors, created a community garden behind our Hospitality House. This partnership was made possible by fifteen plus years of service to our homeless



Beloved Community Center Staff and garden volunteers

community. The garden started as a small plot of land, yielding modest harvests of tomatoes and various beans and peppers. Even with this new beginning, the community needed much more.

Recently, Greensboro was recognized as one of the worst food deserts in the United States. Taking the initiative, our staff conducted neighborhood surveys to see which vegetables and other produce families most needed. We eventually began to recruit volunteers and even shifted our organizations yearly work plan to integrate this most important work into what we were already doing.

Our shared work with the Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC) produced other organic connections. FLOC organizes workers and allies to fight for the complex issues faced by migrant farmworkers and the immigrant justice movement. Our work around the "Fight for 15" (raising the minimum wage to \$15/ hr for fast food workers) revealed the deepening economic divide between rich and poor in our community. These and more struggles converged on our

Thoughts to ponder from Wesley

- Can we build a local economy that uses community gardens in our city to create jobs and opportunities for youth and build relationships with local restaurants?
- What type of trainings can we offer in gardening that help produce healthier lives?
- What is the role of our diversity of faith teachings on food justice and how do we practice them?
- What intergenerational teachings can be learned from our experiences gardening to draw us closer together within our families and communities?



little plot of land as we began to see how interconnected the struggles of justice are to our community.

In the following year, the BCC, through its relationship with Faith Community Church, moved to the larger area of land behind the church. With a few dedicated volunteers and a few handy tools from the shed, we began the work of expanding our reach. As our capacity to make fresh produce available to the community grew, we opened a community curb market, offered tours and made plots of land available to local businesses. The garden emerged as a powerful classroom for all of us. In all of these projects, the community was thoroughly involved and deeply invested in the work.

One Saturday morning, the church planned a workday for students from North Carolina Agricultural & Technical State University. It was a powerful to see 15 college students awake and ready to garden at 8:00 AM! Only three students had prior experience working in gardens, but they were all quick learners, as they used a tiller to turn soil, rake leaves, plant seeds and paint our cistern with words of inspiration such as, "Hope" and "Faith". We were also joined by Margarita, the owner of Manny's Café, a local restaurant that uses our garden to plant vegetables for her restaurant. It was an amazing day of

possibilities for all of us and magnified our vision of how communities can work together.

Many, including myself, commented on the healing we received by feeling the soil with our bare hands and participating in the collective work of weeding, planting and building fences. Conversations about cooperative economics, skill trainings for young people, promoting workdays for local college students, research based initiatives and sharing our vision with more churches are still happening. It's amazing to see how a backyard has become a workshop for community building.

Community gardens have their own way of producing more than just the vegetables from the ground. The Community Garden on 417 Arlington St. has produced friendships, fruits of the spirit and renewed hope for many of us through gardening.

Wesley Morris was a community organizer and youth coordinator for the Beloved Community Center in Greensboro from 2008 - 2014. He is currently pursuing a Masters in Divinity at Union Theological Seminary in New York.

“ It was an amazing day of possibilities for all of us and magnified our vision of how communities can work together. ”

STORIES FROM THE FIELD:

Interview with Jose Godinez, Youth Leader

By Emily Merletto



PJC Youth at the Garden

NC FIELD, an organization based in Kinston, N.C., that fills service gaps and increases awareness on farmworker issues, convenes a farmworker youth council, called Poder Juvenil Campesino (PJC or Rural Youth Power). PJC has

been sparking positive change in Eastern North Carolina since 2009. Its members participate in youth leadership development activities that prepare them for community action and participation in surrounding farmworker issues. The group promotes the well-being and dignity of all farmworkers, speaks out against child labor and practices environmental sustainability, through participation in educational and creative projects. NC FIELD's Emily Merletto sat down with youth council member and former farmworker Jose Godinez to discuss youth leadership and farmworker justice. Here's what he had to say:

Farmworkers in Peril

Agriculture continues to be the economic backbone of N.C., yet farmworkers live and work in unjust conditions. Farmworkers are the second lowest paid workforce in the nation; those living on the East Coast annually earn around \$7,000, and despite working in food crops for twelve-hours days, they constitute the most food-insecure demographic in the state. Thousands of NC's farmworkers are children, whose developmental stage renders the high pesticide exposure, injuries, heat stress, and undignified work conditions that characterize this work even more harmful.

Source: NC Council of Churches Farmworker Factsheet

EM: What does it mean to you to be a youth leader in your community?

Being a youth leader means taking responsibility for everyone around you. Here in Lenoir county as a whole, there are people who don't have a voice. They can range from child farmworkers to poorly paid parents. Our community is one we care about greatly, and since it's often overlooked it needs youth leaders to help it be recognized by as many influential people as possible.

EM: What three words would you use to describe a good youth leader?

Oratorical, passionate, and organized. An oratorical person isn't afraid to speak up about issues. Individuals with this trait know how to speak naturally and make conversations go in the way they want. A passionate person expresses the most interest in their topic or area of experience. They take the time to make sure their work stands out and is identified by their peers as a prominent driving force for their success. Among many youth, staying organized is a day-to-day task, especially being organized for school. However, someone who can organize things in their life, as well as for their community, is a person who knows how to run a group well and plan efficiently.

EM: What are some ways adults can empower youth?

As youth, we like to consider ourselves independent and when we are, we

To learn more about PJC and NC FIELD visit <http://www.ncfield.org/>. You can also watch a video interview of Neftali Cuello, another dynamic PJC youth leader at www.rafiusa.org/cttt/videos.

craft some of our best ideas. However we still need adults to continue supporting us; it's great to have them around complimenting our work or giving us tips in case something seems out of place. When we're given the power to run things our way, it means they trust us and that makes us release our creativity to greater a extent. By helping us with their support, they empower us to be better individuals through positive role modeling.

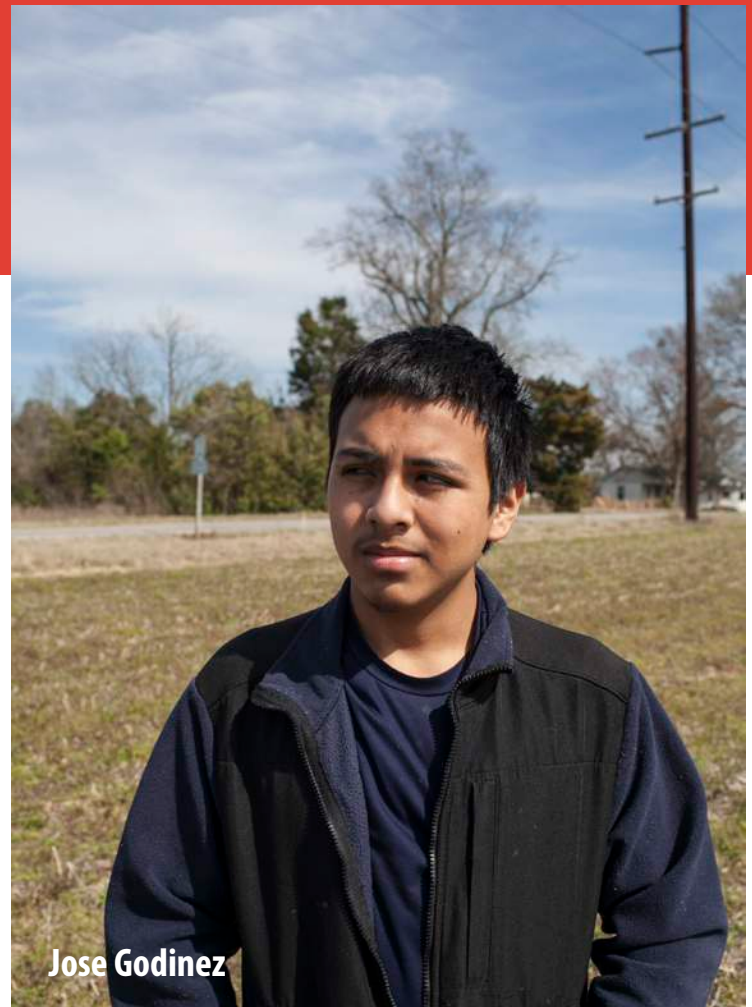
In May 2014, the Human Rights Watch released "Tobacco's Hidden Children: Hazardous Child Labor in United States Tobacco Farming," a 140-page report detailing health, safety and wage concerns for farmworkers. Members of PJC and NC FIELD were instrumental in making connections to farmworkers and providing interviews. To download the report, visit www.hrw.org.

EM: As a farmworker youth, what tools do you need to succeed or to feel empowered?

Better public speaking skills, continuous feedback, and constant opportunities. Public speaking is a skill that isn't easy to hone-- it requires lots of practice, but its payoff is tremendous since you get your point across well when speaking to large crowds of people. It's great to have some feedback to work with, whether negative or positive. Feedback helps us stay on track or become better at something we need to improve on. Opportunities for us usually vary and when something big in our scope of interest happens, we make sure to do our part. These may not be physical tools but they're very important to us so we can keep moving ahead.

EM: How have you used skills learned in your youth council to act on something important to you?

One of our signature events, YouthSpeak, was formed so we could educate people in our community about



struggles we and the people in our area had. This was made possible with an opportunity given to us by NC FIELD. We went forward with this idea and decided to make it into a panel-forum style event where we each had to speak about our experiences. Many of us who hadn't been accustomed to speaking publicly and shyed away at the idea, made our voices heard. One of my main focuses when it comes to educating those in our communities is the need to provide a safer working environment for the immigrants. I've spoken publicly about these issues before to important people in charge of bills and regulations. It's something that's important to me since many often overlook what happens in fields and how very little the workers are given to either protect themselves or even clean themselves from pesticides.

Emily Merletto was a co-founder and director of NC FIELD from 2009-2012 and continues to support the organization as Development Coordinator. She farms with her husband at Little Sprout Farm in Moncure, NC.

CLERGY REFLECTIONS:

God is Up to Something

By Rev. Grace G. Hackney



It has been ten and a half years since Bill King was murdered in broad daylight in Cedar Grove, North Carolina. This white man's tragic and senseless death – a single shot in the back of the head for a handful of cash -- became the catalyst for a revolution of sorts because a small group of people dared to believe that their lives did not have to be dominated by fear. The story of Anathoth Community Garden has been told over and over again, and it has entered into the stories of numerous people who have come to this small plot of ground in Orange County to learn, to dig in the soil, to work alongside The Other, and to be gifted with food, as well as friendship. I have both told and heard the story of how a man's murder sparked the imaginations and resolve of a people to refuse death as the end of the story.

The conversation about food, faith, and farms has exploded in the past ten years, as is evidenced in the stories and numbers highlighted in this publication. I am convinced that God is up to something. The "something" God is up to has been revealed in both ordinary and extraordinary circumstances. It is as ordinary as growing and eating food together; it is as extraordinary as bearing witness to the death of a man named Bill. Meaning was cultivated through uniting a divided community, an overgrown piece of land, and people across racial, ethnic, political, and economic lines.

We live in an age of terror. There is nothing new about terror, except, perhaps, it has become closer to us through the technological wizardry of television, radio, and the internet. Any close reading of history will tell us that terror has dominated the imaginations of the world for ages. But I wonder - is the fact that technology brings terror to our homes on a daily basis actually an opportunity for people of faith to boldly stare it in the face and bear witness to a resurrected and redeemed life – from the soil, to the kitchen, to the table, and to the health of community?

You see, I have come to be convinced that the reason Anathoth Community Garden happened at all is because the terror that caused the Son of God to be murdered at 3:00 in the afternoon was consumed forever three days later by an empty tomb. Perhaps the only way we can make sense of a garden being raised from the hard and rocky soil of an empty field is because, finally we come to see that, indeed, God is up to something no less than the salvation of the world. And, as both history and scripture prove over and over again, God prefers to use ordinary folk like you and I as participants in something so large as thy Kingdom come.

Every day someone dies a senseless death – a shot in the back of the head, a stomach shriveled up from lack of nourishment, clogged arteries that block blood from giving life, manufactured “food” that costs pennies and fills an empty spot with seeds of disease that masquerade as nourishment. I refuse to believe that this is the end of the story. I dare to believe that God is up to something. God is causing ordinary folk like you and I to pay attention. To pay attention to death is to see the possibilities of life.

In 2008, Dr. Norman Wirzba was hired at Duke Divinity School as the first ever Research Professor of Theology, Ecology, and Rural Life (not only first ever in NC, but first ever anywhere.) He followed Dr. Ellen Davis, professor of Old Testament Studies and author of the definitive book on an agrarian reading of the Bible (*Scripture, Culture, Agriculture, An Agrarian Reading of the Bible*, Cambridge Press, 2009). Would be theologians and pastors came to NC from around the world to study with them. The future clergy of our churches are agrarians. God is up to something.

Young people are joining the more seasoned pilgrim in choosing a way of life that is lived close to the land. A young man in Saxapahaw opens a butchery, and prepares a hot meal to be distributed with the weekly food pantry. A single mother in Orange County uses her Harvest Share box to feed herself and to cook for her neighbors. A building contractor in Durham County helps build a small raised bed garden for a family who lives without running water, but who dreams of having a garden with fresh vegetables for their diabetic daughter. Angelina opens a restaurant in Chatham County and names the food she fixes after the farmers she buys her food from (such as Farmer John’s Beef Stew).

There is still work to be done.

A new farmer recently lamented that although she had paid fair wage to her employees, she had yet to pay herself. “If Christians bought only 10% of their grocer-

ies at farmer’s markets, I could not only pay myself, but could thrive.” A local chef questioned, “Why do church people eat so poorly ... it doesn’t make sense.”

I wonder what would happen if every place of worship spent some serious time with this question: “What does the way you eat and invite others to eat say about your relationship to God and neighbor?” Is your God a god who gives food to some and not to others? Is your God a god who asks us to get food however we can, by whatever means, with no regard for the health of soil, water, and neighbor? This is a damning question. This question won’t let us ignore the food we put in our mouths

or on the plates of our neighbors if we believe in a God who has created and who has, through Christ, broken into the world so loved to continue the new creation of peace and plenty.

This question won’t let us ignore the truth that the church fails when it disregards the plight of the ones who are called to grow, sell, cook, and serve our food, or when it fails to see such work as sacrament.

What if churches made it a practice to name the source of the food we eat and share? Can you truly give thanks for it? Was the way it was grown, harvested, and prepared reflective of the God of Creation and our role as participants in the New Creation made possible through Christ? We know that for many, this will be hard work. But we are also convinced that the time is right. God is up to something. We are being led to the Table so that the Table will spread into the streets of our communities.

Rev. Grace G. Hackney is the Director of Life Around the Table (LATT), a new mission of the Corridor District of the United Methodist Church, and was the co-founder of Anathoth Community Garden. Grace promotes Food that Laughs, which is Local, Accessible, Uncomplicated, Good, Healthy, and Seasonal. To learn more, contact her at lifearoundthetable@gmail.com



“ I wonder what would happen if every place of worship spent some serious time with this question: “What does the way you eat and invite others to eat say about your relationship to God and neighbor?” ”

Glossary of Hunger & Agriculture Related Terms

Below are some definitions of terms used when talking about food systems, hunger relief, and agriculture that may be useful for the readers of this guidebook.

CSA

Community Supported Agriculture is a term used to define a particular arrangement between a farmer and a group of consumers. Typically, members of a CSA pay a lump sum at the beginning of a season and receive a weekly box of farm goods. CSA members are considered informal shareholders and sometimes contribute to the farm by volunteering.

EBT

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) is an electronic system that allows a recipient to authorize transfer of their government benefits from a federal account to a retailer account to pay for products received. The Food and Nutrition Services program uses the EBT to disburse SNAP benefits. These can be used at authorized Farmers' Markets.

Food Desert

A district in an urban or rural setting with little or no access to large grocery stores that offer fresh and affordable foods needed to maintain a healthy diet. Instead of such stores, these districts often contain many fast food restaurants and convenience stores.

Food Insecurity

Access to adequate food in a socially acceptable way is limited by a lack of money and other resources. For a more detailed definition, see page 5.

FNS

The USDA's Food and Nutrition Service, which administers 15 nutrition assistance programs including SNAP and WIC.

Farm Bill

Omnibus legislation passed by the US Congress every 5 to 7 years that authorizes agricultural programs including stabilization of farm income, research, conservation, rural development and nutrition programs.

FSA

The Farm Service Agency is the agency of the USDA that administers federal programs for farmers including stabilization of farm income, lending and recovery from disasters.

NCDA

The North Carolina Department of Agriculture.

SNAP

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) is the nation's most substantial food assistance program for millions of eligible, low income Americans. Formerly called Food Stamps.

TEFAP

The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) is a Federal program that helps supplement the diets of low-income Americans, including elderly people, by providing them with emergency food and nutrition assistance at no cost.

USDA

The United State Department of Agriculture is the federal agency that administers programs for agriculture, including soil conservation, research, nutrition and efforts to stabilize the farm economy.

WIC

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides Federal grants to States for supplemental foods, health care referrals, and nutrition education for low-income pregnant, breastfeeding, and non-breastfeeding post-partum women, and to infants and children up to age five who are found to be at nutritional risk.

Resources

North Carolina is blessed with many communities and organizations that address the needs of farmers, the food insecure, and faith leaders. This list is made up of organizations that have attended Come to the Table events or partnered in our work. It is meant as a starting point and certainly not comprehensive.

The organizations on this list work primarily on:



Agriculture



Food security and hunger relief



Faith

American Indian Mothers, Inc.

1211 Wagonwheel Rd, Shannon, NC 28386

(910) 843-9911

<http://americanindianmothers.com/>

AIMI is committed to compassionate services that will improve the quality of life for the disadvantaged families through a shield of prevention, family counseling, self-awareness, respect, health services, educational programs, educational programs, cultural sensitivity.

Ample Harvest

www.ampleharvest.org

Ample Harvest educates, encourages and empowers growers to share their excess harvest with the needy in their community instead of letting it rot in the garden.

Anathoth Community Garden

PO Box 138, Cedar Grove, NC 27231

(336) 408-0968

www.anathothgarden.org

Anathoth Community Garden's mission is to cultivate peace by using good food and sustainable agriculture to connect people with their neighbors, the land, and God.

Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP)

A729 Haywood Rd. #3 Asheville, NC 28806

Phone: (828) 236-1282 | Fax: (828) 236-1280

www.asapconnections.org

ASAP is a non-profit organization that supports farmers and rural communities in the mountains of Western

North Carolina and the Southern Appalachians by providing education, mentoring, promotion, web resources, and community and policy development. ASAP is known for its annual local food guide and its advocacy for starting the "Appalachian Grown" label.

Ashe Outreach Ministries

P.O. Box 157, Creston, NC 28615

(336) 385-3663

www.asheoutreach.org

Ashe Outreach's mission is to eliminate food security and feed people with food, fellowship and love. Each month, more than 2300 people in the area - children, shut-ins, families - receive much-needed food from a community of efforts.

Beloved Community Center

417 Arlington Street, Greensboro, NC 27406

(336) 230-0001

www.belovedcommunitycenter.org

The Beloved Community Center of Greensboro, North Carolina (BCC) is a community-based, grassroots empowerment oriented organization committed to grassroots empowerment, especially among minorities, within the context and spirit of forging a beloved community for all residents. They operate a feeding ministry, a community garden, and work in partnership with Grace Community Church.

Blue Ridge Women In Agriculture

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 67 Boone, NC 28607

Physical Address: 171 Grand Blvd Boone, NC

(828) 386-1537

www.brwia.org

Blue Ridge Women in Agriculture (BRWIA) is dedicated to strengthening the High Country's local food system by supporting women and their families with resources, education, and skills related to sustainable food and agriculture.

The Bountiful Cities Project

Asheville, NC

www.bountifulcities.org

Bountiful Cities is an Asheville based organization dedicated to teaching sustainable agriculture skills in urban environments. They seek to create, on urban land, beautiful community spaces that produce food in abundance and foster a learning environment for social justice and sustainability.

Carolina Farm

Stewardship Association (CFSA)

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 448 Pittsboro, NC 27312

Physical Address: 287 East St. Suite 421 Pittsboro, NC 27312

Phone: (919) 542-2402 | Fax: (919) 542-7401

www.carolinafarmstewards.org

CFSA is a membership-based non-profit that promotes local and organic agriculture in the Carolinas by advocating for fair farm and food policies, building the systems that organic family farms need to thrive, and educating communities about local, organic farming.

Center for Community Action (CCA)

PO Box 723, Lumberton NC, 28359

910-739-7851

www.centerforca.org/

The Center for Community Action (CCA) is a private, nonprofit, community-based organization that utilizes the strategies of grassroots empowerment, racial inclusion, and multi-sector collaboration as the foundation for its work in sustainability and social justice.



Center For Environmental Farming Systems (CEFS)

Campus Box 7609, NCSU, Raleigh, NC 27695

Phone: (919) 513-0954 | Fax: (919) 515-2505

www.cefs.ncsu.edu

CEFS was established by North Carolina State University, North Carolina A&T State University, and the North Carolina Department of Agriculture to promote just and equitable food and farming systems that conserve natural resources, strengthen communities, improve health outcomes, and provide economic opportunities in North Carolina and beyond.

Center for Participatory Change (CPC)

PO Box 17137, Asheville NC 28816

(828) 232-2049

www.cpcwnc.org

CPC's strives to strengthen grassroots capacity, build collective power, and create equity in western NC through grassroots organizing, capacity building, networking, and grant-making.

Connect2Direct (C2D)

www.connect2direct.org

Connect2Direct is new initiative of RAFI-USA and Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project (ASAP) aimed at increasing farmer direct sales and expanding local food access. The initial focus is on equipping farmers markets and other direct sales outlets to diversify their customer base and increase SNAP / EBT sales through piloting programs at select markets throughout North Carolina.

Conetoe Family Life Center

205 Factory Street

PO Box 302

Conetoe, NC 27819

<http://conetoefamily.webs.com/>

Conetoe Family Life Center, a ministry that grew out of Conetoe Missionary Baptist Church, operates a 25-acre community garden and a community center that offers mentorship, resources, and afterschool programs to the town of Conetoe, NC population 292.

The Duke Endowment

800 East Morehead Street Charlotte, North Carolina 28202

Phone: (704) 376-0291 | Fax: (704) 376-9336

www.dukeendowment.org

Based in Charlotte and established in 1924 by industrialist and philanthropist James B. Duke, The Duke Endowment is a private foundation that strengthens communities in North Carolina and South Carolina by nurturing children, promoting health, educating minds and enriching spirits. Since its founding, it has distributed more than \$3.2 billion in grants. The Duke Endowment works in collaboration with the NC and Western NC conferences of the United Methodists Church and Duke Divinity School to help rural churches serve their communities.

Eat Smart, Move More NC

www.eatsmartmovemorenc.com

Eat Smart, Move More North Carolina, is a statewide movement that promotes increased opportunities for healthy eating and physical activity wherever people live, learn, earn, play and pray.



Elon Community Church Farmers Market

271 N Williamson Ave

Elon, NC 27244

www.eloncommunitychurch.org

Elon Community Church (ECC) hosts a weekly farmers market on the church grounds. The mission of Elon Community Church Farmers Market is to encourage the community to gather around local fresh food, to support community farmers, bakers, crafters and the local economy and to become better stewards of the earth.

Episcopal Farmworker Ministry

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 160, Newton Grove, NC 28366

Physical Address: 2989 Easy Street, Dunn, NC 28334

Phone: (910) 567-6917 | Fax: 910-567-6854

www.episcopalfarmworkerministry.org

The Episcopal Farmworker Ministry works with farmworkers at 47 migrant camps in eastern NC, responding to their physical, emotional, and spiritual needs, and working to change the system that them in poverty and subhuman conditions.

Farmer Foodshare

105 Hood Street #5, Durham NC 27701
(919) 360-6358
www.farmerfoodshare.org

Farmer Foodshare connects people who grow food with people who need food. Simply put, we strive to make fresh, local food available to everyone in the community, and to make sure farmers growing it make a healthy living. We do this through our Donation Station Program and our POP wholesale market, which supports both the farmer and the recipient organizations whom we serve.

Farmers and Hunters

Feeding the Hungry

www.fhfh.org

Farmers and Hunters Feeding the Hungry is an outreach ministry of the people of God called upon to feed venison to the hungry among us nationwide.

Farmers Market Coalition

P.O. Box 499 Kimberton, PA 19442
www.farmersmarketcoalition.org

The Farmers Market Coalition is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to strengthening farmers markets across the United States so that they can serve as community assets while providing real income opportunities for farmers.

Food Bank of the Albemarle

Mailing: PO Box 1704 Elizabeth City, NC 27906
Physical: 109 Tidewater Way Elizabeth City, NC 27909
Telephone: 252-335-4035 | Fax: 252-335-4797
www.afoodbank.org

The Food Bank of the Albemarle is a member of America's Second Harvest that fights hunger and poverty by serving 15 counties in northeast North Carolina.

Food Bank of Eastern and Central Carolina

3808 Tarheel Drive Raleigh, NC 27609
Phone: (919) 875.0707 | Fax: (919) 875.0801
www.foodbankcenc.org

Established in 1980, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina is a non-profit organization that provides food to people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina.

Food Research and Action Center (FRAC)

1200 18th Street NW, Suite 400, Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 986-2200 | Fax: (202) 986-2525
www.frac.org

FRAC is the leading national nonprofit organization working to improve public policies and public-private partnerships to eradicate hunger and undernutrition in the United States.

Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center

5710 Red Springs Rd., Red Springs, N.C. 28377
910-843-9484
<http://hawkeyeindianculturalcenter.com/>

The Hawkeye Indian Cultural Center, Inc. is an American Indian nonprofit, multi-program, family-orientated health and human service center. Included in their center is a two acre organic farm. The farm, through the Sustainable Lifeways Project, has a goal of providing the community and beyond with organically grown produce as well as educating the public on how the organic growth and cultivation process benefits the environment as well as the people that consume the organic products.

Heifer International Appalachia - Southeastern Program

212 S. Broad St., Suite C, Brevard, NC 28712
www.heifer.org
Phone 828-862-5534
Fax 828-862-5929

Heifer International works with communities and groups throughout the food system who experience genuine need either because of poverty, food insecurity, social disadvantage, high risk, or isolation.

High Country CSA

www.highcountrycsa.org

High Country CSA is a cooperative of over 15 farms and producers growing with organic standards in the High Country of North Carolina. We offer 20-week CSA share options from June through October, with choice in box size & drop-off location. Their multiple-farm model offers a great variety of vegetables throughout the season. HCCSA accepts EBT/SNAP and offers reduced-cost shares for low-income folks.

Inter-Faith Food Shuttle (IFFS)

Mailing: P.O.Box 14638 Raleigh, NC, 27620

Physical: 1001 Blair Drive Raleigh, NC, 27603

Phone: (919) 250-0043 | Fax: (919) 250-041

www.foodshuttle.org

The IFFS, a member of America's Second Harvest, alleviates hunger by developing systems to recover, prepare and distribute wholesome, perishable food for the area's poor, hungry, undernourished and homeless in seven counties in central North Carolina. IFFS's programs include culinary training, children's programs and teaching farm.

Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust

128 Reynolda Village, Winston-Salem, NC 27106

(336) 397-5500, www.kbr.org

The Kate B Reynolds Charitable Trust was established in 1947. The mission of the Trust is to improve the quality of life and quality of health for the financially needy of North Carolina. The Trust makes grants through their Health Care Division and their Poor and Needy Division.

Land Loss Prevention Project

Mailing: P.O. Box 179 Durham, NC 27702

Physical: 401 N. Mangum St. Durham, NC 27701

(800) 672-5839, (919) 682-5969

<http://landloss.org/>

The Land Loss Prevention Project (LLPP) was founded by the North Carolina Association of Black Lawyers to curtail epidemic losses of Black owned land in North Carolina. LLPP broadened its mission in 1993 to provide legal support and assistance to all financially distressed and limited resource farmers and landowners in North Carolina.



MANNA Food Bank

627 Swannanoa River Rd, Asheville, NC 28805

Phone: (828) 299-3663 | Fax: (828) 299-3664

www.mannafoodbank.org

Manna Food Bank, a member of Feeding America, links the food industry with over 248 member agencies in 16 counties of Western North Carolina.

MAZON

10495 Santa Monica Blvd, Ste 100 Los Angeles, CA 90025

Phone: (800) 813-0557, (310) 442-0020 | Fax: (310) 442-0030

www.mazon.org

Founded in 1985, MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger is a national, nonprofit agency that allocates donations from the Jewish community to prevent and alleviate hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds. Each year, MAZON grants over \$4 million to more than 300 carefully screened hunger-relief agencies, including emergency food providers, food banks, multi-service organizations and advocacy groups that seek long-term solutions to the hunger problem.

Mountain Voices Alliance

P.O. Box 4093 Asheville, NC 28805

Phone: (828) 255-8537

www.mvalliance.net

Mountain Voices Alliance works to preserve and protect the environment, including the natural beauty, abundant resources, quality of life and cultural heritage of western North Carolina communities by working with local governments, developers, organizations and individuals to encourage responsible and sustainable development that is in the best interest of citizens, visitors, and future generations.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

North Carolina State Office:

4407 Bland Rd., Suite 117, Raleigh, NC 27609

Phone: 919-873-2100 | Fax: 919-873-2156

www.nrcs.usda.gov

The Natural Resources Conservation Service works with America's private land owners and managers to help them conserve their soil, water, and other natural resources by providing technical and financial assistance for conservation activities.

NC Choices

P.O. Box 7609, Raleigh, NC 27695

www.ncchoices.com

NC Choices promotes sustainable food systems through the advancement of the local, niche and pasture-based meat supply chain in North Carolina. NC Choices provides information, technical assistance, educational programming and networking opportunities for farmers, extension agents, meat processors, buyers, distributors and consumers.

North Carolina Council of Churches (NCCC)

1307 Glenwood Ave., Suite 156 Raleigh, NC 27605

Phone: (919) 828-6501 | Fax: (919) 828-9697

www.nccouncilofchurches.org

The NCCC is a statewide ecumenical organization that enables denominations, congregations, and people of faith to individually and collectively impact the state on issues such as economic justice and development, human well-being, equality, compassion and peace, following the example and mission of Jesus Christ.

North Carolina Cooperative Extension

Campus Box 7602, NC State University

Raleigh NC 27695-7602

Phone: (919) 515-2813

www.ces.ncsu.edu

North Carolina Cooperative Extension gives NC residents easy access to the resources and expertise of NC State University and NC A&T State University. Through educational programs, publications, and events, Cooperative Extension field faculty deliver unbiased, research-based information to North Carolina citizens.



North Carolina Focus on Increasing Leadership and Dignity (NC FIELD)

Kinston, NC
www.ncfield.org

NC FIELD's mission is to forge relationships that fill service gaps in the farmworker community, while increasing awareness of the plight of the farmworker. One of their projects is Poder Juvenil Campesino (or Rural Youth Power) a farmworker youth group promotes the well-being and dignity of all farmworkers.

North Carolina Forest Service

1616 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1616
Phone: 919-857-4801 | Fax: 919-857-4802
www.ncforestservice.gov

The North Carolina Forest Service's primary purpose is to ensure adequate and quality forest resources for the state to meet present and future needs.

NC Dept of Health and Human Services

2001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-2001
Phone: 919-855-4800
www.ncdhhs.gov

The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services is responsible for ensuring the health, safety and well being of all North Carolinians, providing the human service needs for fragile populations like the mentally ill, deaf, blind and developmentally disabled, and helping poor North Carolinians achieve economic independence.

North Carolina Nutrition Services Branch

1914 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1914
www.nutritionnc.com

The NC Nutrition Services Branch of the NC Department of Public Health promotes sound nutrition habits among infants, children and women in their childbearing years. They administer the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP) and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CAFP).



Presbyterian Hunger Program

100 Witherspoon Street
Louisville, KY 40202
(800) 728-7228
www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/hunger

The Presbyterian Hunger Program provides grants to programs addressing hunger and its causes in the United States and around the world in five program areas: direct food relief, development assistance, influencing public policy, life-style integrity, and education and interpretation.

Rural Advancement Foundation International-USA

274 Pittsboro Elementary School Rd, Pittsboro, NC 27312
(919) 542-1396
www.rafiusa.org

RAFI-USA cultivates markets, policies and communities that support thriving, socially just and environmentally sound family farms. Among RAFI's projects is the Come to the Table Project and Connect2Direct.



Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina 🍏

500 Spratt St. Charlotte, NC 28206

Phone: (704) 375-9639

www.secondharvestmetrolina.org

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHFBM) strives through education, advocacy, and partnerships to eliminate hunger by the solicitation and distribution of food in 16 counties in North and South Carolina.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC 🍏

3655 Reed Street Winston-Salem, NC 27107

Phone: (336) 784-5770 | Fax: (336) 784-7369

www.hungernwnc.org

Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina's ministry is to reduce hunger and malnutrition in the eighteen counties of northwest North Carolina.

Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC 🍏

406 Deep Creek Road, PO Box 2009 Fayetteville, NC 28302

Phone: (910) 485-6923

www.ccap-inc.org/foodbank

A part of the Cumberland Community Action Program, the Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast North Carolina serves 7 counties in southeastern North Carolina.

SEEDS 🚚 🍏

706 Gilbert Street Durham, North Carolina 27701

Phone: (919) 683-1197 | Fax: (919) 688-1249

www.seedsnc.org

info@seedsnc.org

SEEDS is a non-profit community garden whose goal is to teach people to care for the earth, themselves, and each other through a variety of garden-based programs. They offer an after-school and summer program for children as well as Durham Inner-city Gardeners (DIG), a youth-driven, urban farming leadership development program that empowers teens by teaching organic gardening, sound business practices, healthy food choices, and food security values.



Share the Harvest 🍏

Greensboro, NC

www.sharetheharvestguilfordcounty.org/

Share the Harvest collects, aggregates and distributes fresh produce to agencies in Guilford County that have food pantries or prepare meals, ensuring that those in need have access to fresh produce.

Slow Food USA 🚚 🍏

www.slowfood.com

For NC chapters websites and contact: <http://www.slowfoodusa.org/local-chapters>

Slow Food counteracts fast food and fast life, the disappearance of local food traditions and people's dwindling interest in the food they eat, where it comes from, how it tastes and how our food choices affect the rest of the world.

Society of St. Andrew (SOSA) 🍏

SOSA Durham Main Office: P.O. Box 25081 Durham, NC 27702

Phone: (919) 683-3011, Toll free: (866) GLENNC | Fax: (919) 682-3349

www.endhunger.org

SOSA is a Christian ministry dedicated to gleaning America's fields and feeding America's hungry, providing healthy, nutritious produce to society's most vulnerable through innovative, cost effective programs.

Student Action with Farmworkers (SAF) 🚚

1317 W Pettigrew St. Durham, NC 27705

Phone: (919) 660-3652 | Fax: (919) 681-7600

www.saf-unite.org

SAF brings students and farmworkers together to learn about each other's lives, share resources and skills, improve conditions for farmworkers, and build diverse coalitions working for social change.

Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) 🍎

(919) 807-3505

<http://childnutrition.ncpublicschools.gov/>

(search for summer food service)

The North Carolina Summer Food Service Program is now operated by the Department of Public Instruction. It assists schools, local government agencies, and private non-profit organizations to feed children during the summer. Organizations that serve meals during the summer to eligible low income children are invited to become SFSP sponsors and will be reimbursed the cost of food provided.

Working Landscapes 🏡

108 South Main Street, Suite 1, Warrenton, NC 27589

(252) 257-0205

www.workinglandscapesnc.org

Working Landscape's mission is to create more sustainable livelihoods for people in the Warren County region through stewardship of natural and cultural resources, with a focus on supporting the production, aggregation, processing, and distribution of local agricultural products.



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COME TO THE TABLE

A project by RAFI with NC Council of Churches



Rural Advancement Foundation International
P.O. Box 640
Pittsboro, NC 27312

www.rafiusa.org
www.rafiusa.org/cttt