



Leading the effort to eliminate hunger
in our community

Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia
800 Tidewater Drive
Norfolk, VA 23504



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T: 757.627.6599
Toll Free: 877.486.4379
F: 757.627.8588
www.foodbankonline.org

Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia Fact Sheet

The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia (FSEVA), founded in 1981, is leading the effort to eliminate hunger in our community. Our service area includes a large contingency of working individuals and families, many of whom are affected by very high rates of poverty, malnutrition and related health problems. Overcrowded, sub-standard housing is the norm, not the exception, and problems such as broken families, unemployment and underemployment round out this picture of hopelessness for many of our neighbors. Many children are at-risk, and nutrient deficiencies can lead to serious health problems and poor academic performance. Additionally, the elderly population is now impacted due to the rise in cost of living expenses outpacing their fixed income. Young and old, these are the faces of hunger — the faces that we, as a community, lend a helping hand to every day.

The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia:

- Provides nutritious canned, boxed, fresh, frozen, and prepared food to more than 400,000 individuals annually (18,000 unduplicated individuals on the Eastern Shore and 124,200 children). This food is recovered and secured from restaurants, supermarkets, food distributors, the USDA, farmers, wholesalers, sportsmen, and through food and fund drives.
- Assembles a full-course, nutritious meal for only \$.32 – much less than the price of a postage stamp! In fact, for every \$1.00 donation FSEVA receives, we can assemble and distribute up to \$6.00 worth of food and grocery items.
- Distributes emergency food to over 325 partner agencies and programs including soup kitchens, emergency and/or supplemental pantries, neighborhood centers, family crisis centers, and homeless shelters for adults and children. By accessing food from FSEVA rather than purchasing from commercial outlets, each of these partner agencies has expanded resources to advance their own missions.
- Prides itself on the work of 4,395 volunteers who contribute more than 28,400 hours annually.
- Serves those who are hungry throughout the Foodbank's 4,745 square-mile service area including the cities of Norfolk, Portsmouth, Chesapeake, Suffolk, Franklin and Virginia Beach as well as the counties of Southampton, Northampton, Sussex, Isle of Wight and Accomack. Even though the Foodbank is salvaging and distributing more food than ever before, census and poverty statistics clearly show that we are a long way from meeting the need. In order to meet this goal, we have instituted more programs to obtain additional food to reach more people.

The Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia operates the following programs with the hope of ending hunger and economic disparity – over 15 million pounds of food were distributed in fiscal year 2011, through the following programs:

Warehouse Distribution Program: Except for USDA commodities, this program includes all food and grocery products from food drives, purchases, and donations from manufacturers and supermarkets. This is the heart of the Foodbank – where millions of pounds of food are sorted, boxed, and delivered to 325 partner agencies and programs.

Mobile Pantry Program: This new system of distribution serves food to our neediest communities, while coordinating with our partner agencies and other social service organizations to determine delivery locations. This program served 618,175 pounds of food to over 47,000 individuals who either could not travel to an agency, or their local agency was at-capacity.

USDA Commodities: The Foodbank is a Commonwealth of Virginia contractor for the distribution of USDA commodities to designated agencies. This source of food includes quality meats, fish, canned and packaged fruits and vegetables, rice, beans, pasta, and peanut butter.

Food Rescue Program: This is an initiative to collect prepared and perishable food from 164 area grocery stores, restaurants, caterers, and discount retailers to distribute immediately to the hungry. Last year, the Foodbank collected nearly five million pounds through this program.

Kids Cafe®: This national after-school program was created by Feeding America™ and is administered locally by the Foodbank of Southeastern Virginia. It is a place where children ages 4 through 18 can go to receive free, nutritious evening meals in a safe, supportive environment. Twenty Kids Cafes are currently operating, conveniently located in low-income neighborhoods so participating children can walk or bicycle to these sites after school. In fiscal year 2011 we served 261,282 nutritionally balanced meals to 3,991 youth at 25 different sites through this program

BackPack Program: This nationally-recognized program distributes nutritious food to children at the end of the school day, before weekends and/or school breaks. Students are identified by school personnel as being food insecure by a variety of criteria. Over 80,400 children in the Foodbank's area are eligible to receive free or reduced-price school lunches – a reliable indicator that hunger and food insecurity regularly threaten their respective lives. At present, the Foodbank serves 40 elementary schools in our area including the Eastern Shore. During fiscal year 2011, we distributed 30,115 bags (equal to 150,575 meals) through this program.

Justine's Clothes Bank and Tasley Thrift Store: The Foodbank clothes bank distributes vouchers to purchase new shoes. Our branch location on the Eastern Shore also operates a thrift store to meet the needs of the area's struggling residents and to generate modest income for the Foodbank.

Plant-A-Row for the Hungry Program: Local gardeners are encouraged to plant an extra row of produce and contribute that part of their harvest to the Foodbank and its member agencies to use in their feeding programs.

Community Gardens: A terrific source of vitamins and an alternative to processed foods, Community Gardens are promoted in areas of low-income housing. The Foodbank serves as a mentor to the residents of the communities to plan, plant, care for, and harvest a garden that is shared by everyone who participates.

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