



# COLUMBUS COUNTY PROFILE: 2008-09

## Population Statistics

Total Projected 2009 Population.....55,076<sup>1</sup>  
 Population Growth, 2000 to 2008.....0%<sup>1</sup> Percentage Municipal Population.....27%<sup>2</sup>

What is the impact of poverty in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina? A higher infant mortality rate, children who can't learn in school because they are hungry, adults who die before their time because they eat cheaper, high fat foods instead of healthier, often more costly options, and frail elders who make do with a can of beans because they can't afford their medication and food, too.

Federal poverty guidelines do not cover today's cost of living; they simply provide a baseline means of existence with a very real risk of hunger. A single person with an income of \$10,000 or less or a family of four with an income of \$21,000 or less annually meet the criteria for poverty. On these incomes, hunger becomes more than a risk...it often becomes a reality. The Food Bank helps these folks, who are at risk of hunger every day.

### THE NEED:

#### POVERTY

**No. People Living at/Below Poverty Level:** 12,612<sup>3</sup>

**Percentage of Population Living in Poverty:** 22.9%<sup>4</sup>

**Individuals >65 Living in Poverty:** 2,106<sup>5</sup>

**Individuals 18 to 64 Living in Poverty:** 7,227<sup>5</sup>

**Children 0 to 17 Living in Poverty:** 4,389<sup>5</sup>

**Percentage of Children Living in Poverty:** 34.8%

#### HUNGER<sup>6</sup>

**No. Children Receiving Free/Reduced Lunches:** 6,322

**Percentage of Children Receiving Reduced/Free Lunches:** 67.3%

#### UNEMPLOYMENT<sup>6</sup>

**Percentage Aug. 2008 Unemployment:** 8.4%

**Percentage Aug. 2009 Unemployment:** 12.8%

#### FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION<sup>8</sup>

**Number Served Jan. 2008:** 9,531

**Number Served Sept. 2009:** 11,501

**Percent of Eligible Served Sept. 2009:** 67.8%

### ADDRESSING NEEDS:

**Total Pounds Of Food Distributed Annually in our counties:** 36.8 mil. Lbs.

**Total Pounds Of Food Distributed in Columbus County:** 784,387 lbs.

**Value of Food Distributed:** \$148,315

**Pounds Per Person Distributed:** 62.1 lbs.

**Per-Pound Cost of Distributing Food:** 21¢

**Columbus Households Served:** 19,605<sup>9</sup>  
**Columbus Individuals Served:** 53,200

**For Every Dollar Donated, How Much is Spent on Food Distribution:** 97¢

**Our Partner Agencies:** See back page.

**Major Local Food Donors:** wholesalers, retailers, and grocery chains such as Food Lion, Harris-Teeter, Lowe's Foods, Kroger Stores, Wal-Mart

<sup>1</sup>Projected 2009 NC population by County, NC Office of State Budget & Management; <sup>2</sup>2008 County Municipal Totals, NC Office of State Management & Budget; <sup>3</sup>Total Projected 2009 Population x Percentage of Population Living in Poverty; <sup>4</sup>US Census 2006 American Community Survey (SF-1, SF-3); <sup>5</sup>Total of Individuals >65, Individuals 18-64 & Children 0-17 Living in Poverty, 2004, 2006 American Community Survey; <sup>6</sup>Free & reduced Lunch Application Data by Site, Child Nutrition Services, NC Department of Public Instruction; <sup>7</sup>2008, 2009 Civilian Labor Force Estimates for NC Counties, NC Employment Security Commission; <sup>8</sup>NC Food & Nutrition Services Participation Report, DSS Performance Management Reporting & Evaluation Management, NC Department of Health & Human Services; <sup>9</sup>Households/individuals served 1 or more times as reported by partner agencies

## **Columbus Community Partner Agencies**

***Believers Home Fellowship***  
***Cherry Grove Baptist Church***  
***Creative Inc., Farmers Union (Kids Cafe)***  
***Farmers Union Developmental Day Care***  
***Harvest Table***  
***Help Mission/Whiteville***