



NEWS RELEASE

Hurricane Relief Dinner Raises More than 600,000 Meals for Disaster Recovery

Chef Ashley Christensen hosted culinary event in support of the Food Bank's recovery efforts

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 5, 2018

Raleigh, NC – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina today announces the incredible outcome of a fundraising dinner and auction hosted by renowned Raleigh chef Ashley Christensen. Tickets for the dinner, the auction, as well as a match pledge by Austin, TX based Tito's vodka equated to 620,000 meals for people recovering from Hurricane Florence in the Food Bank's 34-county service area.

Christensen, along with chefs Emeril Lagasse and David Slater, joined forces with: Tito's Vodka; Chapel Hill's Gary Crunkleton; local musician Dave Wright; Raleigh's Boulted Bread; Max Kast of Fearrington House; Jim Stock of Haw River Wine Man, and Todd & Lisa McGowan; Themeworks; CE Rentals; and Party Reflections for an intimate event, with all proceeds donated to the Food Bank's on-going relief efforts.

"I am so thankful to be part of such an amazingly generous community that can come together so quickly to help when our fellow North Carolinians are in need," said Ashley Christensen. "This would not have been possible without the support of a team of wonderful contributors who made it an epically special night for such an important cause."

In the wake of Hurricane Florence, the Food Bank is responding to immediate needs across our service area. Food, water, and supplies are stocked and being distributed from our six branches to our network of partners. Shelters and community meal sites are beginning to close and as urgent needs on the ground continue to change based on people's access to their homes, the Food Bank continues to support with food, hygiene items, and cleaning supplies.

"We are incredibly grateful for the generous support of this community", said Peter Werbicki, President & CEO of the Food Bank. "Our staff, partners, donors, and volunteers have jumped right in to meet the need, and thanks to the support of people like Ashley and her whole team, we are able to continue serving the people in urgent need for the long haul."

As of October 2, the Food Bank has distributed more than 1 million meals worth of food (this is equal to more than 1.5 million pounds) into affected communities. Three of our Food Bank branches (in the Sandhills, Wilmington, and New Bern) are in the heart of the areas most devastated by Hurricane Florence. 21 of our 34 counties officially declared federal disaster areas and we're serving 25 counties with disaster relief food and supplies.

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Media Contacts:

Jessica Slider Whichard
jwhichard@foodbankcenc.org
919-865-3050

About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for more than 35 years. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines), and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2017-2018, the Food Bank distributed nearly 70 million pounds of food (over half of which was perishable) and non-food essentials through these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 600,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. foodbankcenc.org.

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