

Greater High Point Food Alliance

2025

Summary of Accomplishments



GREATER HIGH POINT FOOD ALLIANCE

empower. unify. sustain.

Our Vision

“The Greater High Point Food Alliance creates just and sustainable supplemental food systems for the greater High Point area by fostering unity, developing responsibility, and empowering communities.”

Our Mission

“The Greater High Point Food Alliance strives to coordinate and improve the effectiveness of entities in Greater High Point focused on alleviating hunger by creating and executing city-wide and neighborhood-focused initiatives to develop more just and sustainable supplemental food systems.”

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A Message from our Executive Director, Rebekah Dobbins

This past year has been one of both new development and growth for the Greater High Point Food Alliance. With the continued support of our partners, funders, volunteers, and community members, we increased our organization's capacity while continuing to advance our mission of alleviating hunger and building a more just and sustainable food system in the Greater High Point area. Our new staff brings new perspectives, energy, and a shared commitment to supporting our community.

Throughout the year, we continued our primary initiatives. We hosted our annual Food Security Fund grant program in the spring, hosted our annual Food Summit in the fall with more than 165 attendees, and continued our Growing Towards Leadership classes. We also strengthened connections with local food pantries by expanding our pantry meetings from quarterly to monthly in response to increased needs and challenges experienced by our community. The remainder of the ARPA (American Rescue Plan Act) funding that we received in the fall of 2024 was allocated to our local pantries in 2025 with twenty-nine pantries supported through both food and equipment purchases.

Our advocacy and community engagement efforts also grew. In June, we launched a monthly newsletter while expanding our social media presence to increase awareness of our work. In July, we hosted our second Walk to the Store advocacy event to highlight barriers many of our neighbors face in accessing healthy food. In response to community partner's inquiries, we hosted a SNAP information session for pantry volunteers and staff to help better support community members navigating the application process.

This year also brought new collaboration and community action. In response to the government shutdown that affected members within our community, the Greater High Point Food Alliance launched our Fill the Gap Campaign. This campaign led to a collaboration with various community partners as we worked to support our local pantries that helped provide support to our community members. Through community generosity and strong partnerships, our Fill the Gap campaign raised more than \$100,000 to support thirty local food pantries within the greater High Point area.

The accomplishments highlighted in this Summary of Accomplishments reflect the importance of collaborative partnerships and the dedication of our staff, board, volunteers, and community supporters. We are deeply grateful for the continued support that allows our work to grow and thrive.

With sincere thanks,

Rebekah Dobbins

Meet The Team

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GHPFA UPDATES

FILL THE GAP CAMPAIGN HELPS GREATER HIGH POINT PANTRIES DURING 2025 GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

During the government shutdown, the Fill the Gap Campaign mobilized community support to ensure High Point food pantries could continue serving neighbors in need, as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) was paused. Through the generosity of local donors, businesses, and partners, the campaign raised more than \$100,000, which was quickly distributed to participating pantries to help keep shelves stocked during a time of increased uncertainty and demand. These funds helped stabilize food access across the community, allowing pantries to continue providing essential support while federal assistance programs faced disruptions.



Pictured above: A few recipients of the Fill the Gap Campaign funds.



Pictured above: Rebekah Dobbins speaks to news outlets about the government shutdown and its effect on local food pantries. Our Fill the Gap campaign turned into a county-wide collaborative effort in partnership with A Simple Gesture and the county launching a “One Guilford: Support Our Pantries” initiative.

"Burns Hill Food Pantry is ever so grateful for the funds received from the Fill The Gap Campaign, initiated by the Greater High Point Food Alliance. We were able to stock our food pantry with items that we would eat in our own kitchen. And it's truly a blessing to see the patrons excited to get items that they haven't seen in their kitchen in awhile.

-Burns Hill Food Pantry

"GHPFA's Fill the Gap funding helped COAT supply its clients with much-needed nutrition during the government shutdown. The funding and support enabled COAT volunteers to provide adequate nutrition to meet the increased demand from clients affected by the shutdown. The funding was timely and used immediately for its intended purpose."

- Community Outreach of Archdale-Trinity (COAT)

GHPFA UPDATES



Download the Spanish CRG here!



COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE NOW AVAILABLE IN SPANISH

Our Community Resource Guide is now available in Spanish to better serve Hispanic and Latino neighbors in Guilford County. This expanded access helps ensure more families can easily find information about food assistance, healthcare, housing support, and other essential services. By removing language barriers, we are strengthening equitable access to vital community resources.

PRODUCE PARTNERS PANTRY PROGRAM NOW AVAILABLE

Thanks to our community partner, Out of the Garden Project, High Point food pantries can now participate in a Fresh Produce Pantry Program service that provides excess produce twice monthly. This program helps expand access to healthy fruits and vegetables for neighbors through strengthened coordination among local food providers.



DOBBINS GRADUATES FROM TWO LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS

Our Executive Director proudly graduated from two leadership development programs in 2025: Leadership High Point (LHP) and the Executive Leadership Academy (ELA). LHP is a community leadership initiative that brings together local professionals committed to strengthening the High Point community. The Executive Leadership Academy (ELA) is a six-month professional development program for top nonprofit leaders in Guilford County, offering leadership training through the Center for Creative Leadership and personalized support from executive coaches. Through both of these programs, she had the opportunity to build beneficial connections with other leaders and develop skills to create positive change. We are proud to see our leadership continue investing in meaningful ways to help move our work forward.



GHPFA UPDATES

AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) FUNDING DISTRIBUTION

The GHPFA received \$100,000 in ARPA funding from the City of High Point to strengthen the capacity of local food providers and support the purchase of food. In partnership with representatives from the City of High Point, Guilford County Public Health, Second Harvest Food Bank, and GHPFA staff, a collaborative team was established to guide the equitable distribution of funds using a capacity-building rubric developed by GHPFA. Through July 2025, GHPFA continued distributing ARPA resources to community partners to enhance infrastructure, improve operations, and expand food access efforts across High Point.



Pictured (Left): Volunteers with Food Pantry of the Triad unload food purchased with capacity building funds; (Middle Top) Lydia House receives ARPA funds to help build capacity; (Middle Bottom) YWCA Baby Basics receives funding for infant formula; (Right) We purchased new shelving for several partner agencies with ARPA funding to increase capacity.

"Without your generosity our food pantry [at Lydia House] would just be a room. You have equipped our food pantry with a warming table, a freezer, and storage racks—resources that allow us to serve families with dignity and excellence. Not to mention the financial support is very appreciated."

-Carol Smith, Lydia House

GHPFA UPDATES

WALK TO THE STORE EVENT BRINGS COMMUNITY TOGETHER

In July 2025, community members, partners, and local leaders joined us for our Walk to the Store event to experience firsthand the challenges many neighbors face when accessing groceries. Together, these 52 participants walked nearly two miles on a hot summer morning, observing barriers such as distance, sidewalk conditions/lack of sidewalks, traffic safety, and limited transportation options. The event sparked meaningful conversations about food access, equity, and the changes needed to ensure everyone in High Point can easily reach healthy, affordable food. We are grateful to everyone who participated and helped shine a light on the everyday realities of navigating our local food environment.

Mayor of High Point, Cyril Jefferson, and Jakkie Davis with D-Up pause for a selfie with Dobbins.



Dobbins speaking with a local news outlet about the event.



Groceries ready to be donated after walking 2 miles to the store.



Beginning the two mile walk to Food Lion grocery store.

FEEDBACK FROM THE COMMUNITY ABOUT THE EVENT

"Having to do this event in the heat while carrying groceries that didn't seem heavy at first, but got progressively heavier the longer we walked, definitely opened my eyes to how hard this actually is for those that have to make this trip because they have no other choice. It is of the utmost importance to continue and ramp up our work of increasing food accessibility by working on solutions that either bring food closer to the community or increase the accessibility of public transportation."

"The walk gave perspective to the challenges faced by those living in food deserts. Having this experience I feel I am better able to recommend appropriate community resources whereas without this experience I might have recommended something still unattainable for my patients. This also highlights the need for food pantries and community gardens."

"It was so good to be on the ground, in the community, and out from behind the desk. I want to support change for people who live in this neighborhood and in all neighborhoods in High Point. Thank you!"

GROWING OUR ADVOCACY EFFORTS

DOBBINS SHARES ON PANEL TO DISCUSS FOOD INSECURITY & HUNGER

Throughout the year, our Executive Director, Rebekah Dobbins, has been an active voice on multiple panels addressing food insecurity and community engagement. Notably, she had the opportunity to present at High Point University, where she shared insights on how individuals and organizations can work together to combat food insecurity and make a meaningful impact.



SPREADING THE WORD ABOUT THE COMMUNITY RESOURCE GUIDE

In October, GHPFA staff proudly set up a tent at the Unity Festival to connect with more community members in the Washington Street District. Our Food Alliance table drew over 50 visitors, many of whom expressed gratitude for the resources and information we shared about services available throughout Guilford County.



INCREASED DIGITAL PRESENCE THROUGH LINKEDIN & NEWSLETTER

This year, we strengthened our visibility and connection within the community by expanding our communication efforts and refreshing our digital presence. We launched a LinkedIn page, growing an engaged audience of over 100 followers, and introduced our monthly newsletter, The Root of the Matter, which now reaches more than 200 subscribers.

In addition, we revamped and relaunched our website with updated content and improved accessibility, creating a more dynamic and user-friendly hub for sharing resources, stories, and opportunities to engage. Together, these efforts have allowed us to better inform, connect, and build lasting relationships with community members and partners.



The Greater High Point Food Alliance

Network of Collaboration



Highland Mills Neighborhood

Burns Hill Neighborhood Association



BOYS & GIRLS CLUBS
OF GREATER HIGH POINT

Washington Street
Neighborhood Association



Mills Regional Health Education Center



Carl Chavis YMCA



Food Education

the EARL & KATHRYN
CONGDON family foundation



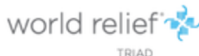
BUSINESS
HIGH POINT
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
High Point Rising!



UNCG



GREATER HIGH PO



Hayworth Cancer Center



Urban Agriculture

Food Access



Burns Hill Community Pantry



Food and Health Care Intersection

NC Poverty Research Fund

Guilford County Department
of Public Health



BlueShield of
olina Foundation



NC Department of Public Health



NORTH CAROLINA
ALLIANCE FOR HEALTH



EPA



HIGH POINT
UNIVERSITY

Advocacy



United Way
of Greater High Point

CITY OF
high point.



NC Institute
of Health

Truist Foundation



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



POINT FOOD ALLIANCE



D HEALTH
PROJECT



Renaissance Road

Senior Resource
Task Force



ess



Triad Food Pantry

Local Churches & Pantries

New Beginnings Full Gospel
Ministry

The Father's Table

Southside Mission



GROWING TOWARDS LEADERSHIP

Over the past several years, conversations across our community have continued to highlight both planned and unexpected leadership transitions within local non-profits. These changes can bring opportunities, but they also present real challenges for staff, boards, and the broader community. In response, we launched the Growing Towards Leadership program to help strengthen and prepare leaders across our network. Developed in partnership with Dr. Pamela Palmer and Associates and the Greater High Point Food Alliance team, the program provides no-cost leadership training for food pantry leaders, volunteers, board members, and nonprofit staff. Since 2021, 41 participants have graduated, including six graduates from the current cohort.



Growing Towards Leadership: Class of 2025 Program Graduates

Topics covered in our Growing Towards Leadership sessions include:

- Organizational Assessment
- Succession Planning
- Using Data to Tell Your Story
- Trauma Informed Patron Relations
- Social Media/Communications
- Financial Integrity
- Grant Writing
- Board Development



Former program graduate Terrell Williams (left) attended our final session to support Kelvin Shouse with Burns Hill Food Pantry for GTL Graduation.



Erin Kline and Monica Summers present their final group project on the last day of class.



Pam Baldwin from Women in Motion presenting on Social Media & Communications strategies.

PARTNER NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

BURNS HILL NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Burns Hill Neighborhood Association brought neighbors together for a successful garden clean-up day, creating a shared space that will continue to grow and benefit the community. Residents also gathered in August for National Night Out, where over 50 participants shared a meal; strengthening connections and celebrating community spirit.



WEST END NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The West End Neighborhood Association made a strong impact in 2025 by hosting career fairs and launching a mobile food pantry to better support local seniors. The year also included meaningful opportunities for connection, highlighted by a festive senior holiday party in December that brought the community together in celebration.



PARTNER NEIGHBORHOOD UPDATES

WASHINGTON STREET COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

The Washington Street Community Association celebrated a milestone year with the groundbreaking of D-UP's new community center and the continued work of D-UP's award-winning garden. The Community Association also hosted a National Night Out event and a Thanksgiving meal for community members! The association also celebrated their 15th annual Unity Festival in 2025, and ended the year with their annual Christmas tree lighting!



HIGHLAND MILLS NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

The Highland Mills Neighborhood Association brought neighbors together through hands-on collaboration in their community garden, hosting planting, cleaning, and harvesting days throughout the year.



2025 FOOD SECURITY SUMMIT: BEYOND THE PLATE



The GHPFA hosted Beyond the Plate: Food Security and Economic Stability through Strategic Partnerships Food Security Summit at the Loft at Congdon Yards. There were over 160 participants in the day long Food Summit. Our keynote speaker Councilman Michael Holmes addressed local issues relating to food security, and shared his own heartfelt story about growing up food insecure.

The summit included an interactive simulation of the “Benefits Cliff”, and three breakout sessions including: The Effects of Food Insecurity on Health Outcomes and the Importance of Strategic Partnerships; Navigating Employee Hardships; and Urban Farming: Growing Food, Community, and Opportunity in the City.



AmeriCorps VISTA members volunteered at the event, assisting with guest check-in and many other logistics.



The winners of the annual Food Summit awards were:

Rooted in Community: Out of the Garden Project
Carl W. Vierling Groundbreaker: Senior Resources of Guilford
Jerry Mingo Food Security Advocate: Pastor Michael Ellerbe



Out of the Garden Project receiving the Rooted in Community award.



Senior Resources of Guilford receiving the Carl W. Vierling Groundbreaker award.



Pastor Michael Ellerbe receiving the Jerry Mingo Food Security Advocate award.

2025 FOOD SECURITY FUND

In 2025, the Food Security Fund distributed \$61,864 in grants to eighteen local organizations. The awards were presented to the recipients at a ceremony on April 10th at The Arc of High Point, one of the grant recipients. Over the last seven years, GHPFA has distributed \$347,633.

2025 Food Security Fund Recipients

- **A Simple Gesture**
- **The Arc of High Point**
- **Building Broken Blocks**
- **Community Outreach of Archdale-Trinity (COAT)**
- **D-UP, Inc.**
- **Change Will Come Youth Foundation: Green Thumb Squad**
- **Growing High Point**
- **Helping Hands of High Point**
- **High Point Public Library**
- **Hopefuls, Inc.**
- **LIVE Better**
- **Lydia House Resource Center**
- **My Little Taste Buds**
- **Open Door Ministries of High Point**
- **Out of the Garden Project**
- **Senior Resources of Guilford**
- **Tiny House Community Development**
- **West End Ministries**



A special thanks to the private donors, Second Harvest Food Bank, Wesley Memorial Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club of High Point, and the Earl and Kathryn Congdon Family Foundation for their match dollars.



WORKING TEAMS

Our working teams consist of partner agencies that work within Guilford County. They all work independently, but meet monthly or bi-monthly to discuss their work within our High Point community in order to fill gaps, make connections, and provide additional resources as needed. Each team has a representative on our board, and they share at our board meetings regarding the work being done to provide nutrition education, gardening assistance, and food access connections to ease food insecurity in the Greater High Point area. We are so thankful for our community partners!

URBAN AGRICULTURE

The Urban Agriculture Team is a collaborative group of community partners working together to serve High Point and the surrounding community through a variety of programs offered throughout the year. The team consists of members from Growing High Point (GHP), NC Cooperative Extension, the City of High Point, Second Harvest Food Bank, the Arc of High Point, the Latino Family Resource Center of the High Point YWCA, and local community farmers.



In 2025, the Urban Agriculture Team visited many gardens and urban farms including Howard Place, Library Teaching Garden, White Oak, Garden in the Hood, The Arc of High Point, and Furlough.



- From Pershing Greenhouses, GHP was able to supply various plants and seeds to many gardens, saving them hundreds of dollars. Each garden also received deliveries of compost thanks to the City of HP soil grant. GHP also coordinated free mulch deliveries from a partner arborist.



- D-Up's youth garden won the annual Community Garden Contest!



- The Arc of High Point had a very successful harvest year and made canned items with their produce.

- NC Extension hosted a Seeds to Share event alongside Growing High Point, the High Point Public Library, and the Food Alliance



- Seedlings were provided through NC Extension's Plant Giveaway in early 2025.

ADVOCACY IN ACTION COMMITTEE

The Greater High Point Food Alliance continued to strengthen its role as a collective voice for food security in 2025, advancing advocacy efforts that elevated community needs and informed local decision-making. Cross-sector participants in the work group include Helping Hands, West End Ministries, Age Friendly Guilford, Second Harvest Food Bank, Macedonia Family Resource Center, Growing High Point, D-Up, City of High Point leaders, and more.

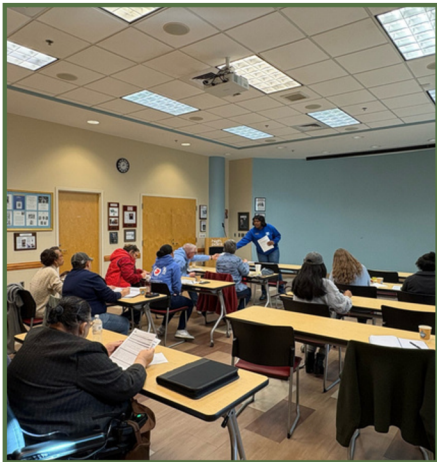
Through monthly discussions with this collaborative team, we helped identify gaps in access, shared data-driven insights, and supported coordinated solutions to improve food availability across Greater High Point.

Our advocacy efforts in 2025 included conducting over 75 community conversations, speaking at numerous events from High Point University to City Council, and maintaining regular touchpoints with the NC Food Advocacy Coalition to stay updated with current NC policies, regulations, and tracking federal bills impacting food security.



L to R: Conducting Community Conversations at the HP Farmers Market; Promoting our Community Resource Guide(CRG) to local partners; Spreading the word with A Simple Gesture about our app and CRG.

ADVOCACY THROUGH OUTREACH: SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION APPLICATION PROGRAM (SNAP) APPLICATION INFORMATION SESSION FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERS



As part of our advocacy efforts, GHPFA hosted a SNAP Application Workshop for community partners to strengthen community-wide support for neighbors navigating SNAP. The session provided updates on recent policy changes, reviewed key steps in the application process, and highlighted common barriers residents may face. This experience highlighted some of the challenges presented by the application process, so that community partners could better understand how to assist people with the process.

WORKING TEAMS

FOOD ACCESS/BACKPACKS

- During 2025, we held monthly meetings with our food pantry partners throughout Guilford County. This was a particularly important year to stay in close contact with our partners due to the SNAP restrictions and government shutdown.
- Pantry leaders saw an increase in need over 25% during the fall. The Food Alliance was able to gather this information and help advocate on their behalf to raise over \$100,000 during our Fill the Gap Campaign.
- The United Way of Greater High Point hosted their annual “CAN-paign” food drive, collecting over 75,000 pounds of food to distribute to partners throughout the community.
- The United Way of Greater High Point provided over 2,000 students with backpacks at local schools within our community throughout 2025.



Above Top:
We hosted 4 in-person pantry meetings throughout the year.
Above Lower:
Food Alliance staff helped sort and pack for UWGHP's CAN-paign.
Left:
Backpacks for the backpack program are packed throughout the year with donated supplies.

FOOD EDUCATION

The Food Education Team is a collaborative group of community partners that work together to serve High Point and the surrounding community through food and nutrition education and resources. The team consists of members from Second Harvest Food Bank, NC Cooperative Extension, UNCG Recipe for Success, The American Heart Association of the Triad, The Guilford County Health Department, Out of the Garden Project, LIVE Better High Point, and community members.



EMPOWER. UNIFY. SUSTAIN.

Greater High Point Food Alliance

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GREATER GUILFORD FOOD FINDER APP

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