

AGENDA



**NORTHERN COMMUNITY
FOOD SECURITY TEAM MEETING**
March 20th 2025 12:00pm – 2:00pm
Wake Forest Town Hall - RM A&B

1. Welcome & Lunch

- Opening Remarks
- Brief Introductions (if necessary)

2. Partner Updates

- Updates from Attending Partners and Organizations

3. Ongoing Efforts

- Mobile Market & Tabling – Scheduling & Logistics
- Mini Pantries – Expansion & Support
- Northern Regional Center – Eat Well Wake
- Holiday Hams – Planning
- Easter Boxes – Details are coming soon

4. Activities & Opportunities

- CROP Hunger Walk – Collaboration Opportunities
- Wake Forest Farmers Market – Updates & Engagement
- Wake Forest Community Table Partnership – Future Plans

5. Closing Remarks & Next Steps

- Action Items
 - \$11 million cut in funding - SNAP
- Follow-ups
- Stay tuned for less formal working meetings supporting our partners (for example):
 - A community garden
 - A food pantry
 - A gleaning event

Next Meeting
August 19th , 2025

Wake Forest Farmers Market (WFFM) Update

The Wake Forest Farmers Market is incredibly grateful for all the support our town has given us! Thanks to your enthusiasm, our market continues to grow—both in the number of customers and vendors. The publicity on social media and visible signage have truly made a difference. If you haven't visited recently, we'd love for you to stop by and check us out!

WFFM Goals for the Season

This year, focusing on two key initiatives:

1. **Expanding SNAP Access** – The Wake Forest Farmers Market is USDA-authorized to accept SNAP benefits, allowing recipients to use their EBT cards for fresh, local food. This effort improves food access for families while supporting our local businesses.
2. **Bringing More Kids & Families to the Market** – We've invited local businesses and customers to host free, kid-friendly activities, creating a fun and engaging space for families. Check out our upcoming events below!

Upcoming Family-Friendly Events

 **March 22** – Wake Forest Fire Department visits the market

 **March 29** – Kettle Corn for College: Popcorn Ball Making

 **April 5** – Wildberry Pediatric Dentistry hosts kids' activities***

***** First day of the Regular Season: 8 AM - 12 PM**

 **April 12** – Paper Flower Vase Craft with Katy Doyle + Fire Dept. visit

 **April 19** – Easter Egg Hunt & Kids Activities with Wildberry Pediatric Dentistry

 **April 26** – Wildberry Pediatric Dentistry hosts kids' activities (Forest Fest: 8 AM - 2 PM)

 **May 3** – Sticker Making with J & A's Everything

 **May 10** – Pottery Painting with Firewithn Pottery & Shiplap + Sage + Fire Dept. visit

 **May 24** – Candle Pouring with Shiplap + Sage & Firewithn Pottery

 **May 31** – Slime Making with J & A's Everything

 **June 14** – Wake Forest Fire Department visits the market

 **July 19** – Wake Forest Fire Department visits the market

 **August 30** – Wake Forest Fire Department visits the market

Thank you again for being part of our growing market community! Your support helps us create a space where local businesses, artisans, and neighbors can connect.



Mobile Market Partners

HealthyBlue NC

El Pueblo, Inc.

Southeastern Healthcare of NC

BlueCross BlueShield of NC Medicare

AmeriHealth Caritas NC Mobile Wellness Center

Town Departments (WFPD, Planning, Economic Development)

Go Triangle

Wake County Transit Plan


Wake Forest Community Table

Janet Chadwick



I.NCFST Meeting Highlights – March 20, 2025

1. **Summer Meals Program:** Actively seeking additional locations to serve.
2. **Volunteer Needs:**
 - Share Table at Wake Forest Elementary (redistributing unused cafeteria food).
 - Rolesville Backpack Buddies Program needs volunteers.
3. **Tri-Area Ministry:**
 - 12% increase in patrons compared to last year, now feeding 2,000 families monthly (10% new, 26% Hispanic/Latino).
 - Balancing grants/donations with expenses but needing monetary donations.
 - Exploring funding options through The Emergency Food Assistance Program.
 - Fully staffed, no volunteers currently needed.
 - New community gardens to supply produce; eggs will now be purchased due to price drops.
4. **Community Gardens:** Donations provided Mondays and Wednesdays. Volunteers needed on the **1st and 3rd Saturdays** of the month.
5. **Wake Forest Farmer's Market:**
 - Growing participation from customers and vendors.
 - Focus on two initiatives: Expanding SNAP usage and increasing family/kid engagement.
 - Questions arose regarding produce vendor numbers and market safety discussions.
6. **Wake Forest Community Table:**
 - Serving 130 hot meals per night, up from 80.
 - Steady volunteer support but needs more visibility, name recognition, and marketing.
7. **Mini Pantries:** More frequent replenishment required, particularly at the Hope House location.
8. **Holiday Hams:**
 - Rolesville struggled last year with monetary and food donations.
 - Preparations to begin earlier this year:
 - Donation collection starts **November 17th** at Rolesville Town Hall.
 - Distribution day is **December 19th**.
9. **Easter Boxes:** Distributed at the Mobile Market. Rolesville offered transportation assistance.

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10. **Village of Care:** Received a grant to provide onsite cooking demonstrations and recipes.
 11. **Eat. Well. Wake:** Food prescription program presented by Ross Yeager.
 12. **HOPS Program:** Medicare-funded initiative; Tri-Area Ministry is exploring options to secure funding.
 13. **Crop Walk:**
 - Last year raised \$14,000; this year's target is \$20,000.
 - Scheduled for **September 28th.**
 14. **Budget Cuts:** Discussions on strategies to mitigate potential financial challenges.