

# Gaston County, NC *Facts* at a glance



- Gaston County has a population of 217,395.
- There are 32,694 individuals living at or below the poverty level. This represents 15% of the population.
- There are 3,394 individuals 65 years and older living at or below the poverty level. This represents 10% of the older adult population.
- There are 10,600 children living at or below the poverty level. This represents 21.5% of the child population.

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## **Gaston County Distribution**

In 2017-2018, the Food Bank distributed over 54 million pounds of food and household items throughout our 19 county service region.

In 2017-2018, the Food Bank distributed almost 3.2 million pounds to agencies in Gaston County.

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## **Gaston County Partners**

The Food Bank serves 34 programs in Gaston County including Crisis Assistance Ministry, S.O.C.K.S., Belmont Community Organization, Dallas Christian Ministries, New Covenant Church, Cherryville Area Ministry and Salvation Army.

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## **Child Hunger Programs**

There are five Kids Café sites in Gaston County. These are located at the West Gastonia Boys and Girls Club, the Salvation Army Boys & Girls Club in Lowell, Bessemer City Boys & Girls Club, Bradley Teen Center Boys and Girls Club, and With Friends. The West Gastonia and Lowell sites also have Backpack programs. In addition, the Food Bank sponsors a Backpack Program at Puett United Methodist.

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## **Dallas Branch**

The Food Bank operates a branch warehouse in Dallas, North Carolina. This branch has greatly reduced the time and transportation costs for Gaston County agencies to acquire food.