The Facts

Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina (SHMETROLINA) strives through education, advocacy, and partnerships to eliminate hunger by the solicitation and distribution of food. SHMETROLINA has been in existence since 1981.

Who We Are and What We Do
We provide a regional distribution warehouse and branches that supply food and grocery items to charitable agencies that assist people in need. We also provide training, technical assistance, and hunger education to our partner agencies.

Counties Served
We serve a total of 24 counties - 14 counties in North Carolina including Anson, Burke, Cabarrus, Catawba, Cleveland, Gaston, Iredell, Lincoln, Mecklenburg, Montgomery, Rowan, Rutherford, Stanly and Union. We serve 10 counties in South Carolina including Abbeville, Anderson, Cherokee, Greenwood, Lancaster, Oconee, Pickens, Spartanburg, Union and York.

Agencies Served
SHMETROLINA provides food for over 800 partner agencies including soup kitchens like Urban Ministries, emergency pantries like Loaves and Fishes, homeless shelters like Center of Hope, senior programs, and low-income daycares.

Food Distributed
In fiscal year 2018-2019, SHMETROLINA distributed over 60 million pounds of food and household items throughout our 24 county service region. Over 32 million pounds of our annual distribution was fresh produce, meat and dairy.

The Need
14.9% of our service area population, over 553,000 people, live in poverty including almost 182,000 children and almost 48,000 seniors. Our emergency pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters continue to report significant increases in requests for assistance.

Where Our Food Comes From
Approximately 75% of the food we distribute is donated, 4% is purchased and approximately 21% of the food comes from government commodities.

How We Distribute Food
Through our main warehouse in Charlotte and through branches in Hickory (Catawba County-NC), Dallas (Gaston County-NC), Anderson (Anderson County-SC), and Spartanburg (Spartanburg County-SC).
Our Programs

In addition to providing food to over 800 partner agencies, SHMETROLINA directly serves our hungry neighbors.

We ♥ Kids
Almost 182,000 children are at risk of hunger every day.

We ♥ Seniors
Almost 48,000 seniors struggle to afford both food and medicine.

We ♥ Families
Working poor families often choose between paying utilities, rent or buying food.

We ♥ Veterans
20% of households served by Food Banks have a member who is a veteran.

We ♥ Pets
Families and seniors in need struggle to feed their pets, too.

Backpack Program
This program is designed to provide children at risk of hunger with backpacks full of ready-to-eat, nutritious foods for weekends and holidays when school meals are not available.

Second Helping
This program provides monthly boxes of supplemental nutritious food to older seniors working with our Meals on Wheels partners. Second Helping supplements the daily nutritious meals received through that program with supplies of easy-to-open nutritional items.

School-Based Mobile Pantries
This program supplements our backpack program at high-poverty rate elementary schools. It provides on-site food including produce, meat and dairy for low-income families. This helps our children have enough nutritious food to eat and to come to school prepared to learn.

Rural Mobile Pantries
This program is designed to deliver food to rural areas of our service region where poverty rates tend to be higher and resources can be scarce. Specially equipped trucks deliver 5,000 to 10,000 pounds of food per trip.

Kids Cafe
Second Harvest partners with agencies that already serve children at risk of hunger to help provide nutritious meals and snacks at their sites. We currently serve thousands of children who might otherwise go hungry.

Fresh Produce Markets
Nothing says summer quite like picking up fresh produce at a Farmer's Market, but fresh fruit and vegetables can be a luxury for seniors at-risk for hunger. SHMETROLINA provides farmers market experiences at senior center partner sites throughout our service region.

Second Helping
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Serving Veterans
SHMETROLINA provides food to hundreds of emergency pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and senior centers. All of these agencies stand ready to serve the brave men and women who have fought for and protected our freedoms.

Pet Food Bank
Emergency pantries and senior programs can obtain pet food to help those in our community who are struggling to feed their pets.

Operation Rescue
SHMETROLINA receives and redistributes salvage pet foods and supplies to dozens of animal rescue operations throughout our 24 county region. These supplies help shelters reduce operating costs, freeing up funds to save more animals.