



## **RESPONSE TO HURRICANE FLORENCE**

**UPDATED September 20, 2018**

Like all of you, we have been watching the devastating impact of Hurricane Florence and are keeping everyone affected by this storm in our thoughts. We have been in close touch with our partners on the ground for the past week, and are getting real-time updates on the relief effort.

As part of Share Our Strength's longstanding commitment to respond to communities in crisis, earlier this week we granted \$10,000 to the Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina to assist in its food delivery operations. This grant is helping the food bank's staff keep serving food to families in the hurricane's path.

After getting a clearer picture of the devastation in the region, like decimated schools and food service facilities that will be closed for months and possibly years, we realized we needed to do more. We have decided to invest an additional \$100,000 in Hurricane Florence relief and recovery efforts from the No Kid Hungry campaign. This is on top of the original \$10,000 grant from Share Our Strength's disaster relief initiative, referenced above. These new funds will be distributed among a series of local partners and will directly fund efforts to keep food on the table for hungry kids and families in storm-affected areas.

Some flooding has occurred in Southwest Virginia, and our team on the ground will continue to assess its impact to determine if funds are needed there. We will also be determining grants for additional partners and schools based on our ongoing assessment of the recovery efforts.

We are making great progress toward ending childhood hunger in both Virginia and North Carolina. There is still much work to be done, and the work is more urgent now than ever. We feel confident these investments will help keep us on the right path.

### **September 18, 2018 statement**

Over the last few days, we have been in close touch with our partners in states affected by Hurricane Florence. Yesterday, our contact at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina wrote, "More than half of North Carolina's 34 counties have been affected with flooding, downed trees, ongoing power outages, and thousands of displaced people following the storm. We are bracing for further flooding as rain continues and rivers will crest in the next few days." This is devastating for those communities and the families the food bank serves.

One way we share our strength as an organization is to provide support to communities in crisis to ensure families and children can get the food they need. **We have decided to grant \$10,000 to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, whose service area has been significantly impacted by the storms and flooding.** Funding will primarily cover the costs of logistics, transportation, and staffing to ensure that food is delivered to the food banks and partner agencies in affected communities. The food bank is also working to serve meals to kids at three sites while schools are closed.

Food and funding are the most critical needs on the ground right now. For every \$10 donated, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina can provide 50 meals to those impacted by Hurricane Florence. Please feel free to share the following links with your social media networks:

- Gifts can be made online at [foodbankcenc.org/florencegive](https://foodbankcenc.org/florencegive) or via the Virtual Food Drive at [foodbankcenc.org/florenceVFD](https://foodbankcenc.org/florenceVFD)
- If you or anyone you know needs help, please visit [foodbankcenc.org/florence](https://foodbankcenc.org/florence) to find information on resources and services available.

Additionally, we learned from local officials in Virginia that significant rain and flooding is expected in the Charlottesville area this weekend and into next week. **Yesterday, we made the difficult decision to cancel Chefs Cycle, which had been scheduled to take place in Charlottesville next week.** We do not feel confident in our ability to keep our riders, volunteers and staff safe if we proceed as planned. Many of the critical resources we need to complete the ride are now, understandably, being diverted to storm-related efforts. Our riders have been tremendously supportive of this decision and are coming up with alternate ideas to put their training to good use and continue raising funds for No Kid Hungry. We continue to be blown away by the generosity of the Chefs Cycle community.