

# Local food banks struggle as economy falters

Laura Smith  
Reporter

For the local Alamance County community, money has not just been tight when it comes to buying Christmas presents. The poor economy has taken a big toll on food pantries. With fewer donations, these pantries are finding their shelves empty and their morale down.

The Burlington Salvation Army is one such food pantry. The organization has a small pantry for those who are not eligible for larger pantries, such as Loaves and Fishes. It is strictly for emergency situations and gives to those who cannot receive food stamps.

Robin Drummond, a caseworker at the Burlington Salvation Army, understands the effect of this poor economy on donations to the pantry. The Salvation Army even had to change its guidelines for food distribution when the economy stumbled.

"It's been terrible," Drummond said. "We've been getting less and less food because of the economy."

To beat the economy's negative effects, the Salvation Army is relying on its annual holiday Kettle Drive as well as its Christmas Concert with the Greensboro Symphony Orchestra, which will be held at Elon University at the Koury Center on December 21 at 3 p.m.

The admission? Fresh food for the hungry. This can include canned or non-perishable food.

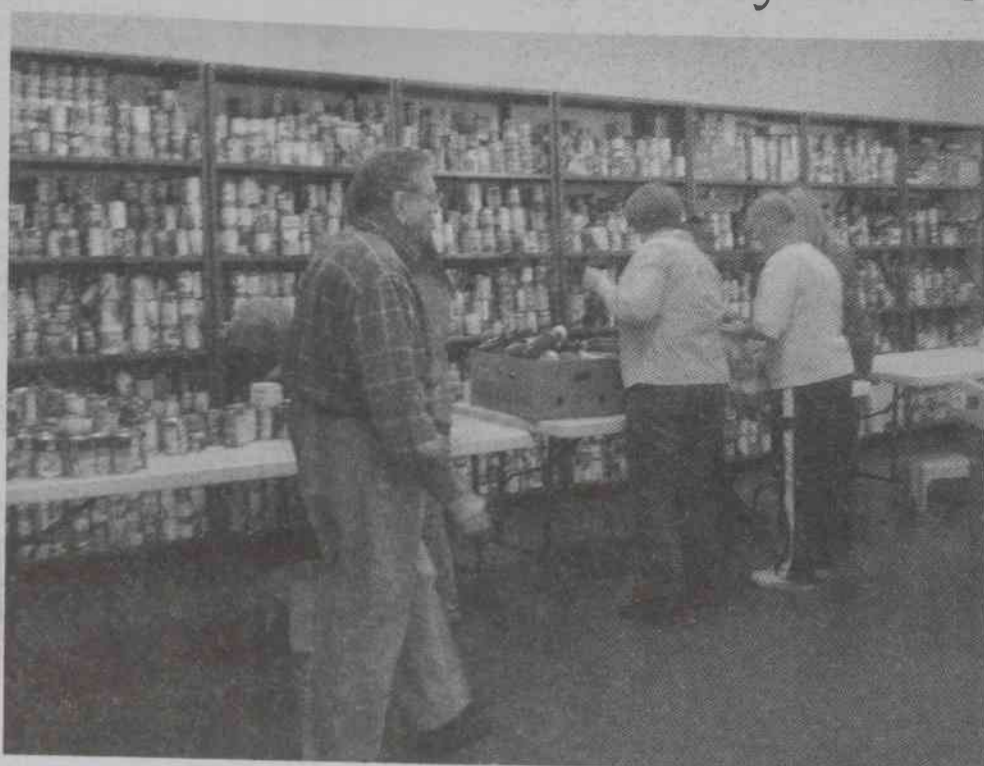
In spite of it all, Drummond remains optimistic about the generosity the local community has shown. After a FOX 8 news broadcast that focused on the charity aired a few weeks ago, Drummond explained that giving increased immensely.

"People have been very generous," Drummond said. "We've tried to compromise and work together to make the most of [the food]."

The food pantry within the Alamance County Community Service Agency has also experienced a lack of donations due the economic recession.

Like the Salvation Army, ACCSA has a small food pantry and is used for those in emergency need only. The food given supplies families for 3 to 4 days.

"We've definitely seen a



Volunteers help stock the then-full shelves at Loaves and Fishes in early November. Donations like these have been harder to come by at Loaves and Fishes in recent weeks.

LAURA SMITH | Photographer

## Want to help?

**Salvation Army**  
Boys and Girls Club  
807 Stockard St.  
(336) 227-5529

**Alamance County Community Services Agency**  
(336) 229-7031  
P.O. Box 38  
troper38@bellsouth.net

**Loaves & Fishes Christian Food Ministry, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 1573  
(336) 570-4668

**Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina**  
3655 Reed Street I Winston-Salem, NC 27107  
(336) 784-5770

decrease," Tony Roper, ACCSA executive director, said. "I went to the pantry today and it looked pretty bare. This time of year, there are usually a lot of donations, but not this year."

Like Drummond, Roper is staying optimistic despite the circumstances however.

"We're open to contributions to help low-income families," he said.

He is positive that Elon can help with these contributions.

"Anything from the campus community is greatly appreciated," he said.

Drummond feels the same way.

"Elon has been very supportive," she said. "We couldn't do a lot without them."

Loaves and Fishes Christian Food Ministry is one of the larger food pantries in the Alamance County area. The pantry

receives no funding from local, state, or federal governments and relies solely on individuals, churches, grants and foundations and businesses. Once accepted that it is in need, the family receives a month's worth of food.

Like the Salvation Army and ACCSA, Loaves and Fishes has been dealing with tough times as well.

"We have over 1000 more people coming in each month," Brenda Ingle Allen, Executive Director, said. "We budgeted for around 6,000 each month, so an additional 1,000 per month has put a real cramp on our food and money situation."

While donations are still steady, it is not necessarily enough.

"Our donations have been up as always, but with a higher number of people searching for assistance the demand far outways the means," she said.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina has seen the lack of donations within these kinds of food pantries. Second Harvest works with 415

pantries in over 18 counties across Northwest North Carolina, supplying food for their shelves.

According to Erin Foster, Marketing Manager, donations of food have been down 15 percent compared to last year and there has been a 30 to 100 percent increase of people coming to get food from these pantries that Second Harvest provides for.

Second Harvest itself has had a hard time obtaining the food for these 415 pantries.

"We have not been able to get as much food as in the past because of the economic recession," Foster said.

And it may be surprising to find out that a larger population of those in need of the food is not what many may think.

"Hungry people in the community are not just the homeless," Foster said. "It is becoming more common that the middle class is part of this."

Due to factors such as job cuts and rising prices on essential items, food has been harder to come by for many families.

"The food has been going out as fast as it has been coming in," Foster said.

Like the Salvation Army, ACCSA and Loaves and Fishes, Second Harvest relies on the generosity of others to help out with the lack of food.

"We look to the community to fill that gap," Foster said.

Second Harvest is currently utilizing its website, its volunteers, and food drives to encourage donating.

"There are three things the community can donate," Foster said. "Money, food, and their time."

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Masquerade ball on Friday

Elon's Ballroom Dance Club is holding a Holiday Masquerade Ball on Friday from 7 to 10 p.m. in the Center for the Arts.

Attendees are asked to bring at least one non-perishable food item, which will be donated to the Alamance County Food Bank.

### Four seniors selected for Teach for America

Elon seniors Ivy Crank, John Panišek, Lindsay Clement and Chase Rumley have been selected to join Teach for America. The program recruits college graduates to commit two years to teach in low-income communities across the country.

Teach for America corps members must demonstrate high levels of achievement in academics, extracurricular activities and work responsibilities. Last year, nine Elon students joined the program.

### Annual Christmas Love Feast on Sunday

The Moravian Christmas Love Feast and Candle Service will be held on Sunday at 5 p.m. at the Elon Community Church. The feast will consist of sweet seasonal and coffee and will feature selections by the bell choirs, the chancel choir, organ and oboe.

All members of the Elon community are welcome to attend.

### Communications Dean, faculty members author chapter in journalism book

Paul Parsons, dean of the School of Communications, and assistant professors Glenn Scott and Richard Landesberg have authored a chapter that appears in the 2009 edition of the book "Global Journalism: Topical Issues and Media Systems."

The chapter is titled "Barriers to Media Development" and addresses the physical, cultural, economic, governmental and technological barriers that limit the development of strong communications infrastructures in certain nations.

### Adjunct professor given Lifetime Achievement Award

Alec French, adjunct professor in the department of health and human performance, was given the "PEA Lifetime Achievement Award" by the North Carolina Association of Health, Physical Education, Recreation, and Dance at its annual convention.

French has been a member of the adjunct faculty at Elon for over 10 years and has been involved as a physical education leader in local, state and national professional organizations.

### Ever Elon launch held in Washington, D.C.

More than 100 Elon alumni and parents from the Washington, D.C. area attended the regional launch of Ever Elon on Nov. 19. President Lambert attended the event, which was hosted by Charles Clohan, '98.

After a reception, Lambert presented the central goals of the campaign and emphasized the important role of young alumni in helping Ever Elon reach its financial goals.

