



MECKLENBURG COUNTY, NC

LOAVES & FISHES FOOD PANTRIES

SELF-HELP CREDIT UNION HELPS FOOD PANTRIES

COMBAT FOOD INSECURITY

SELF-HELP CREDIT UNION



Loaves & Fishes Food Warehouse

"During this COVID-19 crisis Loaves & Fishes had to pivot our operations practically overnight to serve thousands of families facing food insecurity. We were so relieved when you (Self- Help Credit Union) reached out to offer your assistance with the application and processing of a PPP loan. Having banking experts assist with this process allowed us to focus more of our time, energy and talents on what we do best... feeding our neighbors in need."

Tina Postel, Executive Director
Loaves & Fishes

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as the disruption of food intake or eating patterns because of lack of money and other resources. In 2019, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, USDA estimates that 10.5% (13.7 million) households were food insecure at some point in time during the year (Food Security Status of U.S. Households in 2019, USDA).

During the COVID-19 crisis, rates of food insecurity have risen dramatically. Recent data from the Census Bureau indicated that approximately 45% of adults reported their households did not always have enough of the type of food wanted at times during July 2020 (Household Pulse Survey, U.S. Census Bureau).

Families that have never gone to a food bank prior to the COVID-19 pandemic have come to rely on them to ensure they have enough food to survive. This has created the need for food pantries to not only secure increasing amounts of food, but to also become creative in servicing the communities that depend upon them for survival.

One such organization that has met this challenge is Loaves & Fishes, a network of emergency food pantries that operates

Financing Overview

Lender:

Self-Help Credit Union

Loan Recipient:

Loaves & Fishes

Loan Product:

Paycheck Protection Program

Community Profile:

Mecklenburg County, NC

- Population: 1,110,356
- Median Income: \$64,312
- 11.7% Poverty Rate
- 8.6% Unemployment Rate

Project Highlights:

- Food pantries are able to safely serve clients during the COVID-19 pandemic
 - Mobile food pantries are able to travel to the areas that need support the most
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out of more than 40 brick-and-mortar locations throughout Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. Loaves & Fishes, which has been in operation for the past 45 years, reports that it has provided groceries to over 80,000 people, of which 36% were children, in 2019 alone. The number of people in need has since doubled as a result of the COVID-19 and the organization has had to adapt and change strategies for serving families in need.

Previously brick and mortar pantries, Loaves & Fishes had to close their buildings and become mobile, drive-through distribution centers in response to the pandemic. They now provide clients with pre-packed emergency food boxes containing a week's worth of groceries per family, and, when available, fresh produce, meat, and dairy.

Their transition to this new service model would not have been possible without the assistance of Self-Help Federal Credit Union, a Certified CDFI, headquartered in Durham, North Carolina. Self-Help Federal Credit Union provided financial assistance in the form of application assistance and the processing of a Small Business Administration Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan, which allowed them to continue their operations. These resources provided Loaves & Fishes the support necessary to continue providing residents across Mecklenburg County with the ability to feed their families.

Self-Help Credit Union is a family of member-owned, mission-driven credit unions, a nonprofit loan fund, and a policy advocacy organization. Together with more than 145,000 members around the country, they are increasing ownership, creating jobs, revitalizing neighborhoods and building stronger communities. For more information go to their [website](#).

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