



# NC Hunters for the Hungry

## COMMUNITY DEER DONATION PROGRAM



**Helping communities harvest more deer to feed those in need.**

### Get Started Today:

Contact this NC Hunters for the Hungry Deer Donation Program Representative:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Your donation to North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry (a 501(c)3 non-profit) may be tax deductible.  
**Learn more, donate online at <http://nchuntersforthehungry.org/>**



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### Introduction:

Hunger is a problem that could impact *anyone* in the community. Between 2010 and 2012 North Carolina (NC) and Louisiana led the nation in the number of children under 5 who lack consistent access to adequate food. NC's elderly and families in crisis are at high risk as well. Many families served by food banks have had to choose between buying food and heating their homes.



One abundant natural resource could make a real difference – the white-tailed deer. NC's deer population has grown to more than 1.3 million deer statewide. Spread of disease, crop damage, deer vehicle collision, wildlife habitat losses are all costly and dangerous concerns that result when deer numbers exceed recommended levels. More than \$30 million in crop loss is suffered annually by NC row crop farmers alone, with the vast majority of this damage caused by deer.

Harvesting up to 1/3 of the white-tailed deer each year, focusing on doe as first priority, is a goal commonly recommended by wildlife professionals to maintain balance and health of the deer herd. If hunters achieve that goal and then donate only 10 percent of their deer harvest, more than 1.7 million pounds of high quality meat - as many as 7 million meals - would be distributed annually to those in NC who need it most.

What's needed to succeed?

- Community-managed deer drop-off sites that make deer donation both free and convenient
- Community champions to foster community support; and
- Community-minded sponsors to help defray project cost.

What a difference this program can make for your organization!

- Foster community partnerships by engaging all to support this worthy cause
- Get young adults actively involved in your organization
- Help your local farmers earn added income through higher crop yields
- Support small businesses in your community who will earn new income as hunters enjoy extended hunting opportunity
- An onsite commercial refrigeration unit will also encourage your organization to expand your community reach, now able to effectively host BBQs, homecomings, and other events

### Purpose:

Helping communities harvest more deer to feed those in need.

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### Program Overview:

The program relies on **community organizations** (Churches, Civic Groups, Corporations, etc.) to establish community hosted deer drop-off donation centers. **Commercial refrigeration units (CRU)** are installed at appropriate sites to expand the effective “range” of North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry deer processors. Processor range is extended by reducing the distance hunters are required to travel to make a deer donation. CRUs in communities with drive times ranging from 15 minutes to over an hour from processors will be the responsibility of the community organization.

### Program Implementation and Sustainability:

The community organization commits to purchase, place, maintain and fund CRUs at their specified location. Ideally a community organization “champion” for the cause would be identified to “operate” the local program. Responsibilities and operational details are found in the sections below.

### Program Details:

#### Community Organization Role:

1. Community organizations would identify and/or raise funds to purchase and install CRUs. These CRUs would be placed in a location within the community that can be easily accessed by hunters over a broad period of time during the deer hunting season (typically October – December).
2. The community organization would accept field dressed skin-on deer on days and hours specified by the individual center. Each CRU will be appropriately labeled to identify:
  - a. who is responsible for the unit
  - b. what “users” can do if they experience problems
  - c. requirements for donating only legally harvested, registered, and tagged deer (providing a supply of wired, paper tags for recording hunter name and harvest number is recommended)
3. The CRU must be monitored to insure proper operation and to determine that neither deer meat age nor CRU capacity parameters are exceeded.
4. The community organization will be responsible for transporting donated deer to the processor. It is recommended that donated deer be delivered to the processors at least once per week or whenever CRU capacity is reached.
5. Pre-qualified community-based food delivery organizations will be allowed to pick up meat at the processors directly.



*Thanks to a local NC Hunters for the Hungry Deer Donation Drive, Cherry Grove Church in Cerro Gordo is making a difference in their community.*

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6. The community organization is tasked with securing financial donations for North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry processing costs. Fundraising should be correlated with deer donation goals.
  - a. If the community organization sets a goal to deliver 30 donated deer to the processor, then fundraising goals to reimburse the processor for processing the 30 deer should also be set (approximately \$50/deer).
  - b. The number and placement of CRUs in each community should be considered to provide convenient access but prevent oversaturation.
  - c. Cost of startup, including financial donations for deer processing are subject to the type of CRU chosen by the community organization and its deer donation goals. Example: A community organization that purchases a pre-owned CRU, has power and water readily available, and sets a goal to collect 20 deer in a season may expect an initial cost of \$2,500. CRU service and repair and utility costs may also influence the overall cost.

### **North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry (NCHFTH) Role:**

- Coordinate, advise, and technically support community organizations throughout the process.
- Create and sustain program visibility by advertising and marketing of community donation centers.
- Provide each community deer drop-off donation center with NCHFTH identification signage.
- Cultivate and maintain processor relationships.
- Develop “friends of the program” goods and services provider lists (restaurant equipment sales, refrigeration service and repair vendors)
- Provide risk management to the community organization through NCHFTH vetted processor system.
- Reimburse processors for deer donations in excess of community organization funds raised.

### **Processor Role:**

All roles previously identified and assumed through the NCHFTH program. Work with community organizations and food distribution charities to make an effort to get protein back into the community where deer was harvested and making the effort to increase deer and financial donations.

### **Let's Get Started!**

Give your deer drop-off donation program contact a call (see page 1), or speak to a NCHFTH representative:

Guy and Judy Gardner  
Phone: 919 552-9449

Kevin Keyzer, Board Member  
Phone: 252-714-8110

Dick Hamilton, President  
Phone: 919-833-1923

The North Carolina Hunters for the Hungry, Inc.<sup>®</sup> is a coalition of conservation and nonprofit organizations working with corporations, individuals and state agencies. Their shared goal is to be actively involved in the fight against hunger and malnutrition in North Carolina. The primary focus of this coalition is to efficiently utilize legally harvested whitetail deer, an abundant natural resource in our state.

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