



# Camden County

NEW ENERGY. NEW VISION.

## A Word from the County Manager

Welcome the first edition of the new **“New Energy, New Vision Newsletter”** for Camden County Government. The purpose of the newsletter is to inform the public of the important work going on and the valuable services that are being provided by your local government. While Camden may be somewhat small and rural in nature, it is a vibrant and growing community with a lot to offer its citizens. As we move forward with the quarterly newsletter please feel free to share any ideas or request any information about the county government which you would like to know more about. You are always welcomed to call, email or come by my office to discuss any matters which I may be able to assist with.



An exciting new project which I wanted to share with you is the South Mills Wastewater Extension Project. In recent months the County has received grant funding from the North Carolina Rural Center in the amount of \$649,875 and from the Clean Water Management Trust Fund in the amount of \$864,100. This funding plus the design costs provided by the County will be used to extend the wastewater system service down Main Street in South Mills and down several of the side streets in the Village area. Besides providing a much needed service for residents and businesses of the area, it will also add to our efforts to clean up the environment eliminating several problems with failing septic systems. A public meeting will be held in April to get together with residents and community leaders to present the project and give them an opportunity to ask questions about it.

Additionally, the County recently received funding from the North Carolina Rural Center to assist with extending water service to the North River Campground. This extension will allow for the expansion of the services at the Campground bringing even more visitors to the County to enjoy the natural environs of that area. Judy and Elton Sawyer are to be commended for all they are doing to develop their facility and to promote Camden County as a thriving eco-tourism site in the region.

In the upcoming months the County will begin the process of updating and creating a new Comprehensive Plan. This will be an extended effort spread over the next eighteen months that will involve many citizens throughout the County as we work together to create a roadmap for the future of the County. Community meetings will be held to receive citizen input on a variety of areas including land use, economic development, eco-tourism, transportation, infrastructure needs, facility needs, environmental stewardship, and strategies for the future. I encourage each of you to try to find the time to participate and attend some of the community meetings as the process gets started later this year.

I look forward to being able to share some information with you quarterly in the newsletter. On behalf of all of the dedicated staff of Camden County Government, thanks so much!!

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## What is Happening in Your County??

### **Camden is Becoming a Major Eco-Tourism Destination**

Did you know that over 50,000 people visited the new Dismal Swamp State Park last year? That's right! Camden is fast becoming a major destination for individuals looking to enjoy the outdoors. Whether it be for kayaking, canoeing, hiking, biking, bird watching, or enjoying a walk down the Dismal Swamp Trail, the groundwork has been laid to make sure we attract even greater numbers of visitors to the County. Citizens of the County will be greatly impressed with all the State Park has to offer. You are encouraged to plan a visit in the near future!

### **US17 Corridor Study**

Last year the County received a \$160,000 economic innovation grant to support a corridor study on how the US17 corridor should develop over the next twenty years. The grant also includes the creation of new marketing materials for the County's economic development program and the new Eco-Park. A project oversight group has been meeting over the past few months along with McGill Associates the County's engineering firm come up with the best ideas for the future of this area.

### **OLF on Hold**

As you are probably aware by now the US Navy has decided to place their plans on hold until 2014 for the Outlying Landing Field. The Board of Commissioners plans to continue its efforts to prevent Camden from being selected as the OLF site during the next few years. While it has certainly been a difficult process to endure both financially and politically, Camden must maintain its position against the OLF. Fortunately we expect the costs to be somewhat reduced during this period, however the County must be prepared to deal with whatever contingencies are necessary. For the past three years this has been a collaborative effort in partnership with Currituck County. Their support is greatly appreciated!

### **Camden Economic Development Commission Moves Forward**

Since November of 2009 the Camden has had an Economic Development Commission meeting monthly to formulate plans for economic development activity in the County. Much of the past year and a half has involved the creation and planning for the new Eco-Industrial Park located along US17 in the northern end of the county. Much progress has been made with the Park and very soon it will be to the point of being marketable with the completion of the roads by early summer. Already there are several companies which have expressed interest in locating there.

The key to having a successful economic development program is to have the necessary infrastructure in place to be able to serve businesses and companies. Camden has made great strides in this area during the past few years with the installation of the new wastewater system in the Courthouse area in the US158 corridor and with the extension of wastewater and water to the Eco-Park site. As the economy begins to improve, it is anticipated the county will be in a much better position than ever before in terms of being able to attract additional businesses and industries to grow our tax base.

### **Tourism Development Authority**

The TDA has done a great job of promoting Camden County by supporting tourism related activities over the past few years. Included among these are the annual Paddle for the Border canoeing/kayaking event held in the Spring and the newer biking event held in September. These events bring many visitors to the County which will gradually increase awareness of all that we have to offer. In addition the TDA has worked to promote the County by advertising in many of the major tourism publications and supporting such events as the North Carolina Potato Festival held annually in Elizabeth City, and the annual 4th of July fireworks show.



### **Water Plant Expansion**

Probably the most important service the County provides its citizens is the daily production of clean and safe drinking water. Since the Reverse Osmosis Plant began operations in 2003 residents have enjoyed an abundant supply of high quality water. To insure we continue to be able to have an adequate supply of water the County has worked to expand the capability of the plant in a gradual and affordable manner. Recently completed additions to the plant allow for a redundancy in the water production system. Should a problem occur and the system need to be shut down due to a problem or for repairs, now there will be an alternate means of continuing to produce the water without having to purchase it temporarily from an adjoining entity. This is a much-needed upgrade to the plant capabilities. Additionally the County has acquired several sites for future construction of new well sites which will be needed as the demand grows.

Also the County continues to strengthen its relationship with the South Mills Water Association. A major agreement which will carry the two entities into the future as partners committed to working together to serve the needs of all of the citizens of the county is nearly completed. This is a landmark agreement as it will foster the extensive collaboration necessary in order to accommodate the needs of future growth in the County.

## Planning Department

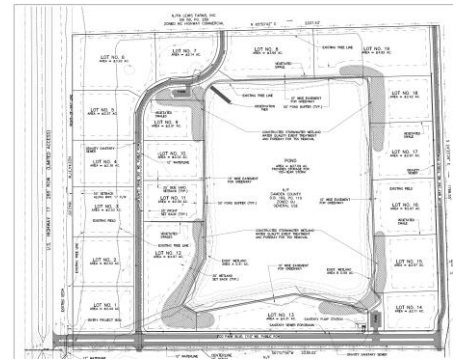


### Camden Plantation

In recent months the Camden Planning Department has taken a big step forward in the approval process of what proposes to be the County's first Planned Unit Development (PUD). The Board of Commissioners has approved the Camden Plantation Master Plan and Development Agreement. After several months of review, public hearings, and negotiation, the Master Plan calls for the development of 1773 housing units, 160,000 square feet of commercial space, an 18 hole golf course, a clubhouse, walking trails and other amenities. The project will take over 20 years to complete; however, development in the next 5 years should include about 300 units, 20,000 sq. ft of commercial space and at least 9 holes of the golf course. One of the most critical issues during our review has been how stormwater will be managed. The developer will be constructing a linked series of wetlands around the golf course. He has agreed to several Best Management Practices (BMPs) far beyond state and local regulations, including a 5 year monitoring plan to insure the wetlands function properly. The next step for the developer is to complete detailed engineering plans for the first phase, which is expected to take 6 to 12 months. For more information and maps of the project, visit the Camden County Web Site, navigate to the Planning Department page and click on Camden Plantation.

### Camden Eco Industrial Park

The Planning Department is currently working with the County Manager, the county's engineering consultant and the Camden Economic Development Commission to finalize another Planned Unit Development (PUD), for a "Green" business/industrial park. The Camden Eco Industrial Park is located on the east side of US 17, about 1 mile north of the Dismal Swamp Welcome Center. It consists of 100 acres including a 30 acre pond surrounded by 70 acres of buildable land. The vision for this project is to attract a variety of industrial and commercial businesses that provide goods and services to support the "green economy" and/or exhibit environmental excellence in the construction of their buildings. The park will also include a walking nature trail around the pond and constructed wetlands which will serve as a passive recreation area, and to educate the public regarding Best Stormwater Management practices (BMPs). The county has been successful in obtaining over \$4 million dollars from several different state agencies to provide water, sewer, and roads for the development. These improvements are expected to be completed by summer 2011. A public hearing has been held to rezone the property to PUD and approval is expected by the end of March. The next step is to complete the Master Plan approval process. Since most of the engineering and infrastructure development will be completed soon, the County has already begun marketing the property. To view the current plans visit the Camden County web site, and click on the link to Camden Eco Industrial Park Master Plan. For more information about the project contact Randell Woodruff, County Manager at [rwoodruff@camdencountync.gov](mailto:rwoodruff@camdencountync.gov) or Ph. 252-338-1919 Ext. 222



### A word from the planning staff

If you are planning to buy property, develop property, start a business, or build a structure in Camden County, please contact us first. We have many laws that must be obeyed, but more importantly we have several resources that can help you make good decisions. We can print out maps showing soils conditions, boundary lines, flooding, zoning, and lots of other information about your property. We will help you navigate approval processes to avoid future problems. And last but not least, a chat with the building inspector can bring you up to date on the constantly changing state building codes, and save you money in the long run.

### Housing Assistance

Camden County will be applying this summer to receive state funding for a limited number of low income and/or elderly housing rehabilitation projects. If you have minor or major housing rehabilitation needs, or know of someone with such needs, please call the Planning Department. You may be eligible for assistance. If the funding becomes available to the County, we will advertise and take applications from persons meeting specific need priorities and income levels.

For information on these and other projects, contact the Camden County Planning Dept. at:

117 NC 343 North  
Phone: 252-338-1919 Ext. 263  
Email: [dporter@camdencountync.gov](mailto:dporter@camdencountync.gov)



## *Coming Soon!!!*

### **New Website**

**Stay Tuned! A new County website will be revealed within the next few months! We are working hard to reconstruct the County website; Look forward to easier navigation, & more efficient opportunities to get in contact and stay connected with your County officials and staff through subscriptions and electronic request submittal!!!**

***Also: Make sure that you subscribe online to the County Newsletter on the new website, for an easier, faster way to get your County information FIRST!***

## **Register of Deeds**

Due to the plunge in real estate market, the work volume in the Register of Deeds Office has been slow for a while. We are taking advantage of this by entering our Vital Records Data (birth, deaths and marriages) on the computer. Camden County marriage records date back to 1848, while our birth and death records date back to 1913. The delayed births for people who received a birth certificate after their first birthday date back to the 1880s. These records also have to be verified which results in an extremely time consuming responsibility. With the coming of spring, hopefully real estate foreclosures will decrease and the sales of homes will increase thereby boosting the quantity of our revenue.

*Peggy C. Kight*  
Register of Deeds

## **Senior Center**

***Motto: Forever Young***

The senior center is a place that the seniors of Camden County can come to for a variety of purposes.

### **Nutrition Program**

The nutrition program is funded by the Albemarle Commission and the county. The food is catered by Canteen Services located in Currituck. The senior center currently has a nutrition program that provides a catered nutritious state-approved meal for seniors ages 60 and up Monday through Friday at noon. The nutrition program also has a Home Delivered meals program that caters to seniors of Camden County that are home-bound. We currently serve an **average** of about 35 seniors weekly and 19 seniors are on the home delivered meals route. Seniors that would like to participate in this program have to fill out a short form, and have to be 60 years old or older.

### **Exercise Program**

The Camden County senior center has a great exercise room. Seniors have to be 55 and up and fill out a release form in order to use the equipment. The exercise room has four treadmills and exercise bikes that are senior friendly, an elliptical machine, rowing machines, dumb bells, and resistance bands.



### **NO transportation, NO problem**

The Inter-County Public Transportation (ICPTA) bus will transport seniors to the center. The senior center goes on a variety of trips, we have speakers come to speak to seniors about senior issues, we celebrate holidays, we have BINGO, we have Senior Health Insurance Information Program (SHIIP) that assist seniors with Medicare/Medicaid enrollment, and we just try to enjoy every day and promote healthy lifestyles for seniors. The senior center is dedicated to serving the seniors of Camden County in major ways.

Please contact Shana Trafton, director, for more information at 335-2569 or 338-1919 ext. 248. We are also on the county website [www.camdencountync.gov](http://www.camdencountync.gov)



## Dismal Swamp Welcome Center

Although the Center opened its doors 22 years ago, many local Camden residents are not aware of this local asset. We are privileged to serve as ambassadors of North Carolina and Camden County to travelers from all over the world. Our Director and staff also represent our Center and County in many regional, state and federal tourism related organizations and boards.

We have served boaters from France and tourists from Japan. The Center works hard to have the latest information available and our staff is knowledgeable and very experienced. We have maps, numerous brochures and travel guides. The 2010 facility usage for highway traffic was approximately 575,000 travelers and nearly 1,700 boats transiting the Dismal Swamp Canal.

Stop by and let us help you plan an outing or pick up something special in our gift shop. With so much to do locally and statewide, we can help you find the perfect place to spend an hour, day or week. Gas prices are high, so we understand the need to find activities both close to home and affordable. May we suggest for those who enjoy nature, the Dismal Swamp Trail, DS Nature Trail and most importantly, our neighbor, the Dismal Swamp State Park ([www.ncparks.gov](http://www.ncparks.gov)) for birding, biking, hiking, paddling and photography opportunities! (Bike and Canoe/Kayak rentals available.)

We have been busy planning the 8<sup>th</sup> annual Paddle for the Border event scheduled for Saturday, April 30, 2011. Registration for this event filled in one month's time. 300 watercraft will paddle the historic Dismal Swamp Canal, beginning by the State Park bridge, and continuing 7 miles to the Ballahack Boat Ramp in Virginia. This event is a great example of many agencies and two states showcasing a shared asset. ([www.DismalSwampWelcomeCenter.com](http://www.DismalSwampWelcomeCenter.com))

**Come see what you are missing!**

Contact: 252-771-8333

## Camden County

P.O Box 190  
117 NC Hwy 343 North  
Camden, NC 27921  
Phone: (252) 338-1919  
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*New Energy, New Vision*

Find us on the Web:  
[www.camdencountync.gov](http://www.camdencountync.gov)

## Social Services

### TO BE A FOSTER PARENT

A late night call. A child appears at the door. Lonely, scared, with everything he owns in a paper grocery bag. A warm hug and a hot shower. A real bed. The sun rises and gives the child hope. A child whose parents threw him away like an empty pop can. Can I call you Mom and Dad? The questions stir your innermost feelings. How could God allow this to happen? Months later, it's time to go. In an attempt to prevent the eyes from seeing what is tearing the heart apart, the tears flow freely. All they want is a loving mom and dad. The so-called friends now call. They ask where the child is. Where were the concerned friends last month? True colors were vividly seen. I have talked with God. My heart is at peace. Only alone can I get right with this world. It is raining. Maybe God is crying, too.

\*Authored by a Camden County Foster Parent, August 1994

Children who are placed in foster homes are those whose mental, physical, and emotional needs can best be met by living in a family atmosphere but who cannot live in their own homes. The reasons for placement are varied. Sometimes the parents are sick, have deserted the child, have released the child for adoption, or may have neglected and/or abused the child. Sometimes the child's behavior has been such that placement away from home may be helpful. Whatever the reason for placement, it is always difficult for the child to be away from his/her own family. Each child enters foster care with different needs and emotional patterns already established. All children, however, share similar feelings of abandonment, helplessness, and an inability to control their lives and the environment around them. If foster parents are understanding, accepting, and responsive, most children will adapt easily to their new "family".

Foster care is intended to be a short-term goal-directed process for a child. It is not the intention of this agency for any child to grow up in foster care. With the cooperation of all parties involved, a permanent plan can be developed and achieved quickly for every child who has been placed in foster care.

Currently, we do not have any licensed foster family homes in Camden County. This has been true for several years now. The Social Services Department has relied on finding placements in other counties when necessary. We want to keep children in their own community. If you are able to share yourself and your home with an unrelated child, accept him/her, and make him/her feel accepted as a member of the family unit, please contact the Camden County Department of Social Services at 331-4787 for more information.

### **APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH**

Preventing child abuse and neglect is a community responsibility affecting both the current and future quality of life of a community. Child maltreatment occurs when people find themselves in stressful situations, without community resources, and do not know how to cope. Often situations and conditions are preventable in a supportive community. Child abuse and neglect causes immediate harm to children and can increase the likelihood of criminal behavior, substance abuse, health problems and other risky behavior. All citizens are encouraged to become involved to provide safe, nurturing environments for children in all areas of their lives - at home, in school, and in the community - offering them the opportunity to grow up to be caring, contributing members of the community. Together, we can make a difference.







## Parks & Recreation

### **Camden County Parks and Recreation**

Spring is here and our parks are a great place to exercise.

### **Camden Community Park**

The Camden Community Park located beside Grandy Primary School is an excellent location for walkers and joggers. The park features over two thirds of a mile of concrete walkways as well as a quarter mile paved track. The park also has several playgrounds for your children while you are exercising.

### **Dismal Swamp Biking & Walking Trail**

This trail is located in South Mills and runs parallel with Hwy. 17 and the Dismal Swamp Canal. The trail is great for joggers and bikers and features 3 miles of paved surfaced winding through the woods beside the banks of the canal. The North end of the trail ends at the new North Carolina State Park which is a great place to rest and learn about the history and natural habitat of the Dismal Swamp region.

## Camden County 4-H Opportunities



Camden County 4-H has plenty of opportunities for your child to participate, learn, and have fun, all at the same time! Here are just a few of the opportunities that are available:

**4-H Clubs:** There are 3 ways to involved with a Camden County 4-H Club

**Families** are encouraged to help organize a new 4-H club – which is a lot easier than you may think. The Camden County 4-H Staff provides guidance and resource materials. Clubs must have at least 5 members between the ages of 5 & 19 and are led (or co-led) by volunteer club leaders – often club members' parents.

**You** can join an existing 4-H club. Right now, there are 3 clubs within the county. These clubs include:

**The Barnyard Kids 4-H Club** – a community club for youth ages 5 to 19, where youth explore various project areas each month, complete community service projects and participate in annual fun activities.

**The Camden Silver Spurs 4-H Club** – a 4-H horse club for youth ages to 5 to 19. Youth participants do not have to have a horse to participate, but have a desire to learn about horses. This club also completes community service projects and participates in annual fun activities.

**The Awesome Science 4-H Club** – a 4-H club that explores all areas of science. This club is mainly high school age youth, however, it is open to any youth ages 9 to 19. Youth will have the opportunity to participate in various science competitions such as the Camden Horticulture Judging Team, Science Olympiad, Wildlife Habitat Evaluation Program (WHEP), Enviro-Thon, Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics (STEM) Fair, and much, much more. . . Participants also work together to complete various community service projects and participate in annual fun activities.

**Youth** may also become at-large 4-H members, independent of a 4-H club. This means you don't belong to a formal club but work on 4-H projects on your own. You receive the reward for being a 4-H family but may simply not have the time to commit to meetings.

**4-H School Enrichment:** The Camden County 4-H School Enrichment program involves making 4-H curriculum and resources available to the school system. The focus of these programs is to provide programming that enhances teacher lessons.

**4-H Achievement Night:** Camden County 4-H Achievement Night is an annual event held to highlight the achievements that 4-H'ers and volunteers in Camden County have made throughout the year.

**4-H Presentations:** This public speaking competition allows youth the opportunity to present information through demonstration or illustrated talk. This opportunity is a lot of fun and gives youth the ability to talk about something they are interested in. This is open to all youth ages 5 to 19.

**4-H Livestock Show & Sale:** Camden County participates in the Albemarle Area (5 county) Livestock Show and Sale held in April each year. This show provides all participating youth with an experience to learn and develop life skills such as responsibility, record keeping, and confidence.



# Get Involved with 4-H!!!

## Camden County 4-H...



Youth ages 5 to 19 can participate in 4-H through different types of learning experiences, such as:

4-H Clubs, School Enrichment, Special Interest, Summer Programming

4-H is also full of discovery! Some project areas include:

Animal Science, Citizenship, Leadership Development,  
Healthy Lifestyles, Science & Technology

Joining 4-H is simple!

Contact: Danelle Barco, Camden County Extension Agent, 4-H & FCS

Address: 120 North NC Highway 343, PO Box 129, Camden, NC 27921

Phone: 252-338-1919, ext. 228

E-mail: [Danelle\\_Barco@ncsu.edu](mailto:Danelle_Barco@ncsu.edu)

Getting involved in 4-H will be one of the best decisions you will ever make!

# Summer 4-H Camp



**Looking for something fun to do this summer? Come along to State 4-H Camp!**

**Who can attend?** Any youth ages 8 to 14.

**When is State 4-H Camp?** June 26 – July 1, 2011

**Where is State 4-H Camp?** Eastern 4-H Center, Columbia, NC

**How much is State 4-H Camp?** \$370, which includes a \$150 non-refundable, non-transferable deposit. Fees also cover lodging, meals, snacks, \$15 camp store credit, 4-H camp t-shirt, transportation, and insurance.

**What will I do while at State 4-H Camp?** The Eastern 4-H Center sits right on Bulls Bay off of the Albemarle Sound and Scuppernong River. Campers will enjoy learning about coastal heritage, environmental education, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, shooting sports, arts & crafts, games, camp songs, campfires, and much, much more.

**For more information:**

Danielle Barco,  
4-H & FCS Extension Agent  
Phone: 252-338-1919, ext. 228  
Email: [danelle\\_barco@ncsu.edu](mailto:danelle_barco@ncsu.edu)



*Space is limited...so register today!  
Don't wait or you could be left behind!*

## What's Happening at Treasure Point 4-H Day Camp???

Camden County has been awarded a CAMA grant to begin the re-construction at Treasure Point 4-H Day Camp. This re-construction is solely geared to shoreline restoration, building a large pier along with a canoe launch. The shoreline is now protected by a bulkhead that has been placed at the pier as well as riprap securing the rest of the shoreline around the point of the property. A parking lot will be added soon. Once this construction is complete, Camden County 4-H is hoping to bring day campers to the Treasure Point 4-H Day Camp site once a week for water and environmental education activities. To stay up to date on the progress at Treasure Point 4-H Day Camp, please visit our Camden County 4-H Facebook page. Pictures are updated regularly. Donations are still being accepted towards the re-building fund. For more information, please contact, The North Carolina Cooperative Extension, Camden County Center at 252-338-1919, ext. 228.

Below is a picture of the boardwalk, bulkhead, and riprap.



## **Camden County Food Pantry**

***It is the mission of the Camden Food Pantry to reach out to the community who are hungry, homeless, and/or have other dire needs with a goal of enhancing their quality of life.***

The Camden Food pantry was started as one woman's call to serve the hungry. It started from the trunk of her car and then moved to churches within Camden County, until establishing itself at Camden United Methodist Church. In the beginning, a coat closet was used for storage of the food. Today, the Pantry has its own storage room, which has tripled its capacity for storage. The environmentally controlled waiting area keeps the people comfortable while they wait to receive their food.

The FOOD BANK is an opportunity for each of us to serve others. But, "Is the food bank necessary" some ask. "I see some of the people drive up in fancy big cars, better than mine, with cell phones in their ears. I don't think they deserve food". I have a strong feeling that we should not judge a people by outward appearances as we do not know the facts. A good question to ask is, "What is my responsibility? How can I help?"

What are the facts? Over 50,800 people live at or below the poverty level in northeastern North Carolina. Over 700 of these families live in Camden County with some 110 families served by the Camden County Food bank. Approximately one in every six of our citizens live at or below the poverty level. Many others work at low wage jobs or experience personal tragedies that put them and their families at risk of missing meals. Each month many are forced to make decisions like skipping meals or eating less healthy in order to pay bills. Each can of food donated helps someone go to bed without hunger pains. Each dollar we give buys five pounds of food which is approximately four meals.

Come with me to see the Food Bank in operation...

It is December 7, 2010. I drive to the church where I look, in amazement, at the fifty plus cars parked in the church parking lot. I see people going in and people coming out of the fellowship hall. Captain Jim and a young boy are pulling/pushing loaded baskets of food and loading the bags into the cars of the recipients.

I enter the hallway of the Fellowship Building where chairs line the wall and at the end, Beth Flythe and Alberta Cox stand guard. There are seven people seated but it is a coming and going activity. One by one the people come to the desk, while Beth looks up their information in her computer. Once that is located, Alberta gives the person two things- their number in line and another number that tells the packers how many bags that person in to receive.

I then enter the Fellowship Hall where the tables are filled with people, each waiting for his/her number to be called. The hall is alive with conversation as people chat and share their stories. Most people are sitting together as if it is a family group while a few sit alone, eyes closed. I ponder about the thoughts they are thinking. Do they have visions of food on their table? Counting the minutes before they can eat a nice meal?

I was pleased to see people from other churches busily contributing their time. There was Tina Mason whose husband is pastor of Riddle Pentecostal Church along with a fellow church member Georgie Freeman. Barbara and Jim Lambert of Harmony Independent Baptist Church are busy moving food from the pantry to the kitchen where it is packed. A mother, Tonia McCarraher, who home schools her children Christy, Jane, Allison and John, brought all four of them with her and they were busy as bees helping out where ever needed. What a wonderful lesson she is teaching – serving others! Several of the above were working in the food storage area.



Back in the kitchen one would think it is a grocery store and it has been announced a hurricane is due to hit. The amount of activity is unbelievable. Bags are packed here and as a number was called, that person stepped forward and received the allotted amount of food which was then delivered to their cars. Each person knows exactly what to do, what place to fill, assembly line fashion. Among those working from Camden United Methodist on this day are Sandy Blankenship, Rene and Gary Hill, Ricky, Stacy, and Randy Krainiak, Capt. Jim Brincefield, Rhonda Wesley and Bill Cason.

While there I asked a few of the people to express their feelings about the Food Bank. Here are the comments:

“ I am a single mom with two children and I work full time as a waitress. Although I could make more money by working at night, I choose to work the daytime shift so I can be home with my children at night. The food I receive allows me to serve meals that are healthy. I wish I could be a volunteer instead of on the receiving end but at present I can't. I am so thankful for the help I receive here”.

“ I am divorced with no job. The economy is tight. I appreciate what I get here”.

“ I am a man with a family of four and no job. I would rather be working but right now I have to do what I have to do- accept help for which I am thankful.”

“ I am a widowed great grandmother. I only get food for myself but I share it with four other people. I am raising two grandchildren and helping with six great grandchildren. I retired from the food service at school but my retirement is less than \$400 monthly. I don't know what I would do without the Food Bank”.

Yes, each story is different yet each person has a specific need.

Beth Flythe serves as Food Bank Director of Operations. Beth says that most of her life has been spent taking care of her family but she has held a variety of part time jobs from waiting on customers at Burger King, a restaurant manager, part time Hallmark Rep/stocker at Kodiak Exchange and as a receptionist at a local Real Estate office.

“I guess you can say I have always served the public.

Beth invites you to come out and make a difference in the lives of others by working twice a month with the Camden Food Bank.

***HUNGER HURTS... GIVING HEALS!***

*Written and Submitted by Mrs. Doris Nixon*