

## **Updates on Meetings with Gov. McCrory and Mark Meadows**

### **Jim Peterson's summary of his meeting with Gov. McCrory**

- My 10 minute one-on-one session with the Governor followed the elected officials session and was facilitated by my friend Orville Coward, Jr. who made the introductions and sat in.
- The Governor remembered me as "the food bank guy" from our 5/19 meeting and group lunch.
- Topics covered in the discussion included:
  - talking points about the problem/hunger issue, not only throughout WNC but statewide - the the issues facing MANNA are also consistent with the concerns of the other 5 food banks that cover NC statewide.
  - A review of the MANNA FoodBank Income Analysis FY 12 Q1-4 report - public private partnership, significant individual/private support, SNAP explained and its importance to us and our ability to leverage it, etc.
  - A review of the MANNA 2011-2012 Food Receiving and Distribution Analysis report showing the importance of SNAP (leverage, allows purchase of most needed staples, etc.) and its relation to TEFAP and local/national support. Also discussed and noted the fluctuations in SNAP and TEFAP funding over recent years.
- During the review of the pie charts (which I provided to the Governor along with my card at the end of our discussion-he passed them on to a staffer for follow-see below,) the Governor asked me where SNAP is located in the state budget. I said I didn't know but could find out. The Governor speculated that it was in the HHS budget.
- After the pie chart review the Governor asked me what I wanted/what I/we were looking for and I explained the history of SNAP funding/budgeting over the last few years and our desire to have it maintained at no less than the \$3 million annually (to be split among the 6 NC Food banks) and built into the recurring budget to help allow us do our job of helping those in hunger. The Governor said he would look into it and passed the information on to a staffer. He said \$3 million is not a lot of money yet the budget is in tough shape and he could not make any promises at this time.
- I thanked him for his time (by now it was almost 7:30 p.m. and he had been going nonstop since a cabinet meeting at 8 a.m.)and consideration and asked that the state not try to balance the budget on the backs of the most unfortunate and needy. He said he would keep that in mind.

## **Plans for Meeting with Mark Meadows, arranged by Jim Peterson:**

· With the continued assistance of my friend Orville Coward, Jr., I finally spoke with Mark Meadows yesterday (returned his call) about a visit to MANNA.

· In the conversation he expressed sincere interest in MANNA and its work and said the visit would tie in well with some upcoming legislation -- the Farm Bill and some amendments dealing with food banks.

### Some particulars:

- His scheduler, Emily Miller will be calling me tomorrow/Monday to see what we can work out. Mark spoke of a 2 hour + visit.
  - Mark will be back in the District 1/25-2/2 and would like to visit during that time frame. I said we would work with his staff to fit it in. I am in good shape during that time frame except for 3 p.m. and later on 1/29 and 1/31
  - Mark suggested a facility tour, and meeting/discussion with key staff per current/upcoming issues(Farm bill, etc.)
  - Mark indicated he is not looking for publicity on this but suggested if we could get local media there (ACT, etc.) they may be interested because photos and stores are slow at this time of the year and good coverage may help us generate additional donations and support. He said we should consider allowing media to sit in on a discussion of the issues as well (this could help get good coverage/story.) I hope to discuss this with Emily Miller and how we can do/get a win-win for us and Mark in the publicity area.
- Mark is a sharp, sincere, solid guy with a business(real estate most recently) background.