

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you the importance of the collaborative partnership between SunTrust, specifically Scott Horchler, Food Lion, the City of Roanoke and the Community Solutions Center owned and operated by Feeding America Southwest Virginia. This project has become a beacon of hope to individuals who live, work and worship within the Northwest Neighborhood of Roanoke City. Our organization worked with community partners to repurpose the city's highest crime property into a Culinary Arts Training Program, a production kitchen for 400-700 daily nutritious meals for children, a community engagement office for Roanoke City Police and eventually a small fresh foods market.

From the beginning, SunTrust participated in multiple community meetings focused on solving social and systemic problems within this economically, unsafe and high food insecure neighborhood. Scott's voice and contribution positioned SunTrust as a leading contributor toward this unique, progressive model that has gained national recognition by Southern Living Magazine and in Delta Sky Magazine as part of its "Healthy Community" feature for the innovative ways it provides fresh, healthy options for its clients. In addition, this project received national attention when NPR ran a story on the innovative work FASWVA is doing in the most impoverished areas of Southwest Virginia.

SunTrust's initial investment enabled us to purchase the facility and the continued support has provided the opportunity for Scott, as a SunTrust professional, to work with our students to provide budgeting and financial sustainability classes.

The Program is an intensive, 12-week course to prepare low-income unemployed or underemployed students for a full-time career in the region's food services industry, where employment opportunities as managers, are expected to increase 17.2% and wages rise 12.4%.

The Career Readiness Program features wrap-around preparation for optimal student success. It includes classroom instruction, hands-on learning, test preparation for the nationally recognized ServSafe Manager Certification, support services and assistance to locate, apply for and sustain employment. Students

use the CSC's production kitchen to prepare nutrition meals for 500 - 700 at-risk students a day after school and in summer feeding programs.

Sun Trust's partnership boosts the financially struggling Northwest Roanoke community and its residents. It provides job training enabling up to 10 students per cohort (four cohorts per calendar year) to participate in the Career Readiness Program free of charge. Without SunTrust's involvement, these students would have no access to this life-transforming opportunity.

Crime has been reduced 70% within a close radius of this property, together SunTrust and Feeding America Southwest Virginia has sustained lives for our students, provided fresh nutritious meals to children and we have spared the lives of law enforcement and the citizens of the NW Community.

Thanks to generous donations from SunTrust and other community partners, the Community Solutions Center, which opened in 2018, has already made a tremendous impact. Ten students have graduated from the Career Readiness Program, including nine who obtained the ServSafe Manager certification; six of graduates are newly employed, while another is the owner of a vegan catering business.

Students in the Career Readiness Program have prepared more than 45,000 healthy, fresh meals. Students have networked with judges, law enforcement officials, people in the faith community, elected officials, and more than 20 local businesses and nonprofit organizations. More than 900 volunteers have donated a total of 2,300 hours of their time and effort at the CSC.

I appreciate our SunTrust team and the work that Scott has contributed to the communities we serve through feeding children and feeding hope to individuals who need a chance to succeed!

Sincerely,

Pamela Irvine

President / CEO Feeding America Southwest Virginia