

Beverly E. Howard

Beverly Howard has been the Executive Director of Loaves & Fishes, Inc since 1988. In her 25 years at Loaves & Fishes, the program has grown from a network of 6 food pantries to a network of 19 pantries, and the number of people served has risen from twenty-thousand to over one hundred twenty thousand individuals.

Ms. Howard previously served as the Executive Director of Friendship Trays, Charlotte's private meals-on-wheels program. Beverly served as President of the Women's Executive Director's Network, facilitator of the Unity Against Hunger and Poverty group in Charlotte, and as a member of the national board of the National Association of Meal Programs. She is an active member of Bread for the World and has made several trips to Washington D.C. to lobby on behalf of hungry people in this country and abroad.

Ms. Howard is the recipient of the 2005 9th Congressional District Legacy Award, the 2010 Charlotte CROP Hunger Walk Weenie Daniel Award, and was named a 2011 Women in Business Achievement Award winner by the Charlotte Business Journal.

Beverly is a fixture in the landscape of community service for Mecklenburg County. She has been a part of the ground-breakers and brick-layers and foundation-builders of this community for well over 30 years as Charlotte has strived to care for the "the least of these." Tim Morrissey, former President of the Board of Loaves and Fishes said, "Under Beverly's stewardship, Loaves and Fishes has responded to one of our most critical needs --- providing food for our neighbors in need. Her dedication and commitment, coupled with her ability to work in a team-spirited and collaborative fashion, has made a significant difference to people experiencing a short-term crisis. If not for the hard work of the Loaves and Fishes team, people would simply go hungry. We are all fortunate to have someone like Beverly Howard as such a caring, conscientious contributor to our community."

Ms. Howard is not only committed to the work of feeding the hungry and those in crisis situations, but she has been willing to network, coordinate and collaborate with other agencies, institutions, individuals, corporations, and faith groups for the better good of our community at large. There is no doubt about it, there are fewer hungry people in Charlotte because of Beverly's commitment, passion, energy, and drive to fulfill Loaves and Fishes vision and mission: "*It is our vision for all people in our community to meet their basic hunger needs by having access to nutritious food. Our mission is to provide a week's worth of nutritious groceries to people within our community facing economic hardships.*"

Rev. Amy Dean commented: "Beverly is always the one to prompt the question: how can we do this better? Never one to utter the phrase "but we've always done it this way . . ." Ms. Howard has built a team that assists her at every turn. She has earned an important voice in our community. When she speaks and when she dreams, we should listen to her always innovative voice of wisdom!"