

## PRESS RELEASE

Benevolent and Protective Order of ELKs ~ Lodge 2679 937 Carter Drive, Calabash, NC 28467

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

By Michael Trescak

## "CALABASH ELKS DONATE TO BRUNSWICK FAMILY ASSISTANCE FOOD PANTRY"

~ "Making a Difference" by Helping Local Residents During the Holiday Season ~

The motto of the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks (B.P.O.E.) is . . . "Elks *Care* ~ Elks *Share*," and – this motto was exemplified recently when thanks to the generosity of the Members & Friends of the Calabash Elks Lodge ~ 2679, AND the members of their Ladies Auxiliary, together, they donated 890 pounds of non-perishable food to the Brunswick Family Assistance's (BFA) Food Pantry to help local food insecure residents during the upcoming holiday season.

All the non-perishable food was collected during the lodge's 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual "Holiday Food Drive Contest," which was a competition between the lodge members and their Ladies Auxiliary to see which group could collect the most food. A "Friendly Wager" was involved, with the Lodge Members proclaimed as the contest's winner this year, but – the real winner was the BFA and our local residents.

Brunswick Family Assistance (BFA), Headquartered in Shallotte, NC, with a new location in Leland, NC, is dedicated to improving the lives of families, Veterans, and individuals in crisis in Brunswick County, who are willing to help themselves, by providing emergency assistance and educational and skills development programs. BFA is a transformative, forward-looking and collaborative organization that helps Veterans and low-income people in Brunswick County to live a high quality of life, by providing access to an adequate and nutritious supply of food, and sufficient resources to sustain themselves. BFA continues to be a leader in partnering with other organizations to help solve community problems. To learn more about BFA, or to find way in which you can help, visit their website at www.BrunswickFamily.Org, or call them at 910-754-4766.

The Calabash Elks Lodge has been a local landmark of the area since 1984. With over 700 members, the lodge has become a cornerstone of the local community for the past 36 years. The emphasis of the Elks Lodge is on conducting Youth Programs, - Serving our Veterans, and - doing Charitable Work in the community in which they live and work. Since 1984, the Calabash Elks have generously contributed over \$700,000 to local charities and Community projects. To learn more about the Calabash Elks Lodge, or to find out how to become an Elk, visit their web page at <a href="https://www.calabashelks.org/">https://www.calabashelks.org/</a>

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Pictured above, holding signs which marketed the Calabash Elks Lodge's Holiday Food Drive Contest, while preparing to deliver 890 Pounds of Non-Perishable Food Products to the Brunswick Family Assistance's (BFA) Headquarters in Shallotte, NC, are (Left) Mark Kerr, Calabash Elks Officer and Board Chairman, and (Right) Kathy Kelly, Current President of Calabash Elks Ladies Auxiliary. The food was generously donated by the Lodge's Members and the Ladies Auxiliary during the Elks' 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Holiday Food Drive Contest.