

Jeff Bacon CEC, CCA, AAC
Executive Director, Founder, and Managing Chef
Providence – a program of
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest NC

Jeff Bacon is a Certified Executive Chef and cook book author from Winston-Salem, NC. He is also a Certified Culinary Administrator, and member of the American Academy of Chefs. He has worked in the food service industry for 38 years.

In his current position at Second Harvest Food Bank of NWNC, Chef Jeff oversees the Providence family of programs. Since founding this effort in 2006, Bacon has fostered Providence into the tip of the spear in Second Harvest Food Bank's efforts to combat the root causes of poverty and hunger. Anchored by its school, Providence Culinary Training, students work in the Providence Community Meals department to provide meals to hungry children, seniors and other individuals who struggle to provide nourishment for themselves and their families. After learning a wide array of culinary and life skills, these students go on to employment in the greater culinary community in the Triad of North Carolina (PCT boasts a 85% one year job retention rate). Select graduates can apply to enroll in the Hospitality Residency Program at one of Providence's social enterprise businesses: Providence Catering, Providence Grill or Providence at the Manor House (which houses a House Keeping Program). Lasting 24 months, this residency allows graduates of Providence Culinary Training to earn above market rate wages while developing more advanced skills and receiving mentoring and access to wrap around services through Providence's department of Client Advocacy. 100% of those completing the Residency obtain wages above the NC self-sufficiency rate.

Providence is an American Culinary Federation Quality Program, and belongs to the training offerings of both Forsyth Technical Community College and Goodwill of NWNC. Providence was selected as the 2013 Sustainable not for Profit of the Year. Chef Jeff is a two time recipient of the American Culinary Federation Presidents Medallion (one of only 6 people since 1929 to receive this honor more than once) was given the UNC-G Public Service Award in 2018, was awarded Triad Local First's "Vibrancy Award" in 2015, and was selected for the Winston Salem Foundation Award in 2017, the highest award for non-profit service in the city.

Jeff believes in his totality that he is fulfilling Gods calling upon his life after a redemptive transformation of his own. He has assisted other programs in their efforts to start or grow from Colorado to Massachusetts to Florida. In his effort to globally assist others to lift individuals and their communities, he serves as a National Member Ambassador for Catalyst Kitchens and co chairs the National Job Training Cohort for Feeding America.