

## Feeding America Southwest Virginia Community Solutions Center Timeline



- June 25, 2016** Following a series of criminal incidents at 2328 Melrose Ave., concerned citizens – including Roanoke City Mayor Sherman Lea and Roanoke City Police Captain Rick Morrison – conduct a prayer walk on the property and pray that it might be repurposed in a positive way.
- Summer 2016** Capt. Morrison shares his concern about property with interested community leaders and organizations, including Goodwill Industries of the Valleys, the Loudon-Melrose Neighborhood Forum (*Clarice Walker, Steven Young*), the Melrose-Rugby Neighborhood Forum (*Norma Wade, Estelle McCadden*), Pastor Charles Calloway, Amy Zeigler and others. They enthusiastically support his efforts to see the property repurposed in a way that will benefit the community.
- September 2016** Capt. Morrison approaches Feeding America Southwest Virginia (FASWVA) about purchasing the property and turning it into a “community kitchen.”
- October 2016** FASWVA studies the project and determines that it could be expanded beyond a community kitchen to a “Community Solutions Center.” This would meet several of the food bank’s mid-to-long range strategic goals, including providing better quality food for clients, collaborating with others to provide job training, and helping to improve the quality of life in Northwest Roanoke.
- November 2016** FASWVA develops a sustaining financial model for operating the property, once it has been purchased and re-purposed. Working with architecture and engineering firm Balzer & Associates, FASWVA determines that the cost to acquire, renovate and equip the center would be \$850,000. FASWVA’s board insists that those funds be raised before purchasing the property.
- December 2016** Keith Holland, Roanoke City Community Resources Program Administrator, Chris Morrell, Roanoke City Manager, and other city officials agree to re-direct \$250,000 of 2016-17 CDBG funds toward the \$275,000 acquisition price of the property.
- February 9, 2017** FASWVA holds a meeting at Goodwill Industries of the Valleys to share the Community Solutions Center proposal with the community and hear further input on the project.
- March 2017** Food Lion approves a gift of \$350,000 to FASWVA for the project.
- March 28, 2017** The Roanoke CDBG Citizens Committee approves and recommends to City Council the remaining \$250,000 needed to complete the proposed renovations on the future Community Solutions Center property.
- May 10, 2017** FASWVA closes purchase of property at 2328 Melrose Ave.
- May 15, 2017** City Council approves FY 17-18 CDBG funding of \$250,000 for rehabilitation
- June 27, 2017** FASWVA received \$350,000 pledge from Food Lion to complete rehabilitation expenses and breaks ground on Community Solutions Center
- October 2017** TBS Construction awarded construction bid
- November 2017** Construction began
- November 2017** City’s Community Resource Program approves challenge grant of \$37,500.