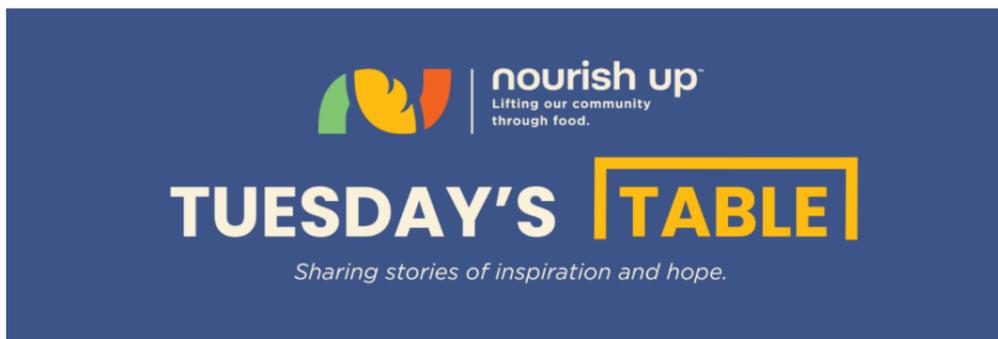


## Tuesday's Table | Sharing Thanksgiving with Our Neighbors

From [Nourish Up <coates-nourishup.org@shared1.ccsend.com>](mailto:coates-nourishup.org@shared1.ccsend.com) on 2025-11-11 09:32

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### Sharing Thanksgiving with Our Neighbors

*Right now, across our nation, families are feeling the sting of a crisis they didn't create. With SNAP benefits shrinking and the government shutdown halting vital support, millions of parents are facing empty cupboards and impossible choices. Groceries or rent? Heat or dinner?*

*The holidays are supposed to be a time of warmth, gratitude, and togetherness—but for too many families this year, they're a season of worry.*

*And yet, in a small **Nourish Up** pantry in Huntersville, North Carolina, hope still shows up. His name is **Scott Zigler**.*



For **Scott Zigler**, volunteering is more than just giving back—it's a way of life.

Scott began volunteering at a food bank in Virginia about ten years ago and was immediately hooked. "I really enjoyed helping people," he said. "I always feel like I get more out of it than they do. It almost doesn't seem fair."

When his family later moved to North Carolina, finding a church with a food pantry was at the top of their list. "It was a requirement," Scott said. They soon found their home at **Huntersville United Methodist Church**, where Scott has been volunteering with **Nourish Up** for the past four years.

At the client choice pantry, Scott especially values the dignity and connection that come with serving others. "It's enjoyable to see our neighbors be able to pick their own food," he said. "It's really nice to help out in the community."

This time of year, **Thanksgiving holds special meaning** for Scott. "The best part of volunteering this time of year is to be able to give a turkey to a family," he said. "I'm a traditionalist—my family has turkey every Thanksgiving. So it's nice to be able to give somebody else a turkey too, so they can enjoy the same thing."

He knows that for many families, the meal means more than food, it's a time to reconnect. "**Thanksgiving brings your family closer together**," Scott reflected. "It gives you a chance to see family members you don't normally see. That's going to help the clients here do the same thing. If they get a big turkey, it gives them the chance to invite more relatives over."