

Capital Area Food Bank breaks ground on new facility

Washington Business Journal - by [Tierney Plumb](#) Staff Reporter

The **Capital Area Food Bank** broke ground Tuesday on its new food distribution warehouse.

The 125,000-square-foot facility on 8 acres at 4900 Puerto Rico Avenue NE includes a renovation of 25,000 square feet of office and training space.

That is more than twice the size of its current 48,000-square-foot facility, half a mile away at 645 Taylor St. NE.

The largest public, nonprofit food and nutrition education resource in the D.C. area distributed 20 million pounds of food through more than 700 nonprofit partner agencies in the region last year -- a 39 percent increase since 2001.

The 28-year-old food bank serves about 383,000 people, but the need in the region is nearing double that.

The new facility will increase capacity to about 40 million pounds each year when it opens in 2010.

The \$36 million "Til No One is Hungry" campaign has been raising funds for the new building since 2004 through civic, corporate, and philanthropic leaders.

Green features include \$1 million in solar panels and other equipment donated by **BP America**.

In addition, the food bank will be prepared to respond to large-scale community emergencies as part of Emergency and Disaster Response initiatives.

"We plan to expand food distribution, services, nutrition education, outreach, special events and other initiatives once we move into the new space," said Lynn Brantley, president and chief executive of the Capital Area Food Bank, in a statement.