



FOOD DRIVE SPONSORED BY WCTI-TV 12 AND NEXT MEDIA TO PROVIDE MORE THAN 22,000 MEALS

RALEIGH – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has been on the ground serving as a first responder in the eastern part of the state since Sunday, August 28 when 7,000 pounds of product was delivered to a Pitt County agency. The Food Bank's branches and service areas in Greenville, New Bern and Wilmington were in the path of the storm with many of its 34 counties affected. Hurricane Irene is long gone, but the Food Bank remains on the scene in the east delivering disaster relief product to those affected. WCTI-TV 12 and Next Media hosted an "Irene Relief" Food Drive on Friday, September 2 to collect food and funds for disaster victims. With drop off locations in Greenville, New Bern and Jacksonville, the food drive collected more than 11,000 pounds of food and nearly \$3,000 which, when combined, total more than 22,000 additional meals to be provided to those devastated by Irene's visit. The Food Bank has already delivered a total of 85,507 pounds of disaster relief to partner agencies in the past week.

"I have been visiting with some of our member agencies in the impacted areas to get a closer feel for their needs. Irene, as with other storms, was not selective in choosing her path of destruction, and she was an additional blow for many who were already struggling in this depressed economy. I know I personally feel fortunate that my family or home was not in the way of Irene, and I know many others in the community are relieved and feel spared also. Our hope is that those not impacted will reach out to support their family and friends in the affected areas by donating food and funds to our relief efforts" said Peter Werbicki President and CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC.

The Food Bank's disaster relief inventory is supplemented by community food and funds drives whenever the organization acts as a first responder. WCTI-TV 12 and Next Media were the first to hold an immediate food drive to benefit the organization directly to help replenish the supply. Even as the "Irene Relief" Food Drive was being held on Friday, September 2, the Food Bank delivered more than 73,494 pounds of items such as beverages, water, snacks, ready to eat meals and canned food to agencies in Halifax, Craven, Pamlico, Pitt and Onslow counties. Disaster relief deliveries continued on Saturday and Sunday when an additional 12,013 pounds were again transported into Onslow and Pamlico Counties.

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The Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC will make deliveries to the Anointed Ones, Inc. in Pitt County, RCS in Craven County, St. Paul Missionary in Halifax County and Pamlico County Fishes and Loaves on Tuesday, September 6 with deliveries scheduled for the Salvation Army-Maysville in Jones County, RCS in Craven County and Crosspoint Ministries in Nash County on Wednesday, September 7. Food drive items will be a part of each delivery until depleted.

The Food Bank is no stranger to disaster relief efforts in the east. In 1999, much of eastern North Carolina was devastated by Hurricane Floyd. The Food Bank distributed more than 5 million pounds of food and non-food essentials to victims of this powerful storm from the Raleigh warehouse. In the first two months after Hurricane Floyd, the Food Bank's distribution more than doubled from 1.2 million pounds a month to 2.6 million pounds a month.

As disaster relief efforts by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina continue in eastern North Carolina, individuals, corporations and retailers from throughout the 34 counties can assist in the relief effort by donating most needed items or funds.

Food and monetary donations can be made by going to a Food Bank branch in your community (see list below) or donate online at www.foodbankcenc.org.

Most needed items are:

- High-protein canned meals (pop-top cans)
- Single serving meals that do not require refrigeration or cooking/meals ready to eat
- Single serving snacks
- Peanut butter
- Infant Formula
- Hygiene products (Hand sanitizer, toothbrushes, soap, etc.)
- Cleaning supplies (wipes preferred)
- Paper goods and products (paper towels, paper plates/cups/napkins, plastic utensils

Food or monetary donations will be accepted at any Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina warehouse listed below:

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Raleigh
3808 Tarheel Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609
919.875.0707

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Durham
708 Gilbert Street
Durham, NC 27701
919.956.2513

Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville
497 West 9th Street
Greenville, NC 27834
252-752-4996
Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at New Bern
205 South Glenburnie Road
New, Bern NC 28560
252-514-2006
Business Hours: Tuesday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills
195 Sandy Avenue
Southern Pines, NC 28387
910-692-5959
Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington
1314 Marstellar Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-251-1465
Business Hours: Monday - Friday, 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For updates on Food Bank response and recovery efforts and to be a part of disaster relief by donating funds to assist in counties affected by Hurricane Irene, go to www.foodbankcenc.org.

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About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for 30 years. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2010-2011, the Food Bank distributed more than 42.5 million pounds of food and non-food essentials through these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 500,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org.

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