



NEWS RELEASE

Food Bank CENC Urges Community to Take Action in September

RALEIGH, NC (September 1, 2015) – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, a member of the [Feeding America®](#) nationwide network of food banks, will observe Hunger Action Month™ during the month of September– an initiative designed to mobilize the public to take action on the issue of hunger. Hunger advocates from the Food Bank’s 34-county service area and across the country are working together this month to shine a light on the 1 in 6 people who face hunger in America – including nearly 650,000 here in the Food Bank’s service area.

“So many people are still dealing with uncertainty when it comes to putting healthy meals on the table,” said Peter Werbicki, President/CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “We could not distribute record amounts of food every year without the community’s support and we’re very thankful. But the need continues to be great in our area, and that’s why Hunger Action Month is so important.”

The Food Bank once again distributed more food than ever before in fiscal year 2014-2015 (ending June 30, 2015). More than 57 million pounds of food, the equivalent of over 48 million meals, was provided to individuals and families struggling with hunger. This includes more than 19 million pounds of fresh nutritious produce. Our branches in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, and Wilmington also experienced record distribution in fiscal year 2014-2015. (*See end of release for 2014-2015 distribution versus 2013-2014.*)

Hunger affects so many in our community – our neighbors, our children’s classmates, our friends. September is an opportunity for all hunger-relief advocates to take simple steps toward supporting those in need. The Food Bank’s “30 Ways in 30 Days” calendar, available at foodbankcenc.org/HungerActionMonth, provides an action each day to fight hunger. There are also several events in our service area to take part in.

Events include:

Thursday, September 3

Go Orange Day – Orange is the color of Hunger Action Month. Wear orange on this day, take a photo and share via social media channels. Find the Food Bank on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @FoodBankCENC to see our region turn orange.

Friday, September 11-Saturday, September 12

#FoodBank24: A New Media Telethon – 24 Hours of Hunger Action! The fourth annual telethon aims to raise \$50,000 for Hunger Relief. For 24 hours straight, the event will stream live from our Raleigh headquarters. This year will highlight the 9/11 Day of Service with special volunteer opportunities as well as interviews and unique entertainment including a dunk tank. The broadcast begins at 12 noon on Friday and ends at 12 noon on Saturday. For more information and to watch the show, visit foodbank24.org.

Sunday, September 20-Saturday, September 26

Take the Hunger Challenge - Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is a federal food assistance program that helps low-income families buy the food they need for a nutritionally adequate diet. These benefits are a lifeline to families struggling to pay for basic necessities such as rent and electricity, and helps them avoid having to make difficult choices such as paying for food or utilities. The Challenge will compel participants to make food shopping choices on a limited budget (\$4.21 a day), demonstrating how difficult it is to avoid hunger, afford nutritious food, and stay healthy with few resources and low energy.

Saturday, September 26

The Kitchens of New Bern Tour – This event offers a unique opportunity to explore the heart of some of historic New Bern’s most outstanding residences, as well as the Tryon Palace kitchen office and garden. Homeowners have opened their kitchens in support of the Food Bank’s New Bern Branch and invite you to visit for ideas for your own kitchens. Savor tastings by local chefs, hear about latest industry ideas, and learn about state-of-the-art products from our sponsors. The tour runs from 10am-4pm. For more information and tickets visit foodbankcenc.org/KitchenTour.

In the Food Bank’s 34-county service area there are nearly 650,000 individuals living in food insecure households, 1/3 of which are children. Food insecurity is the state of being unable to consistently access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. The households served by the Food Bank experience limited or uncertain access to food, at times unsure of where they will find their next meal.

Distribution Comparison

Overall Organization

2013-2014: 53.6 million lbs
2014-2015: 57.2 million lbs

Durham Branch

2013-2014: 6.5 million lbs
2014-2015: 7.6 million lbs

Greenville Branch

2013-2014: 7.1 million lbs
2014-2015: 8.3 million lbs

New Bern Branch

2013-2014: 2.5 million lbs
2014-2015: 3.6 million lbs

Wilmington Branch

2013-2014: 6.2 million lbs
2014-2015: 7.2 million lbs

Media Contacts:

Jennifer M. Caslin

Public Relations and Marketing Specialist

(919) 865-3063 (office)

(910) 508-0547 (mobile)

jcaslin@foodbankcenc.org

Twitter: @FoodBankJenC

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 more than 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 2014-2015, the Food Bank distributed more than 57 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, nearly 650,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life.

www.foodbankcenc.org.

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