



NEWS RELEASE

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FOOD LION HUNGER RELIEF DAY DONATIONS AT STATE FAIR MAKE A WHOLE LOTTA FOLKS HAPPY

Can Donations Far Exceed 200,000 pound goal; set record

RALEIGH –Fairgoers exhibited warm hearts that rivaled the sunny weather during 2009 Food Lion Hunger Relief Day at the NC State Fair. On Thursday, October 22nd, attendees received free admission to the fair by bringing four cans of food to any entrance gate. Fairgoers donated **237,534 pounds** of food –an increase of more than 71,000 pounds over last year, far exceeding the 200,000 pound goal and setting a Hunger Relief Day collection record. The food donations are equivalent to 200,028 meals. Hunger Relief Day at the Fair is one of the largest one-day canned-food drives in the state and benefits the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina and other food banks around the state.

Due to the increase of 30 to 60 percent in individuals needing emergency food assistance during the tough economy, the Food Bank set a goal of 200,000 pounds for 2009 Hunger Relief Day.

“We thank the generous public for once again answering the call to action and are extremely grateful for the continued support of Food Lion and the N.C. Department of Agriculture,” said Peter Werbicki, President/CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina had close to 450 volunteers and staff members on site throughout the day to collect the canned goods at all gates in exchange for admission tickets. The Food Bank will distribute the cans of food collected to families in need in its 34 county service area, including its branch locations in Durham, Greenville, Southern Pines and Wilmington. The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina will also distribute collected cans to sister food banks across the state.

Last year more than 166,000 pounds of food was donated by fair attendees.

About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that provides food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of nearly 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Food Bank distributed nearly 37 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 480,000 individuals struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org.

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