



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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PRODUCE COMPANY KICKS OFF CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY

L & M FAMILY OF COMPANIES PRESENTS FOOD BANK WITH CHECK

Raleigh, NC – The CEO of the **L & M Family of Companies**, John Oxford, visited the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina early Friday, July 28th to put into action the values shared by the company: excellent service, unyielding integrity, and long-term relationships. Oxford presented one of their longtime clients, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, with a \$7,600 check.

The presentation was the culmination of a six-month nationwide community service commitment to America's Second Harvest. "We had a three-pronged commitment that included 1,000 hours of volunteer service by employees and their families, a financial contribution of \$10 per hour of employee-volunteered service, and continued donations of produce from our farms and packing sheds", said Oxford.

Known for its philanthropy across the country, locally, employees of the L & M Family of Companies provided 760 of the 1,000 volunteer hours to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, which gave the Food Bank the distinction of being the check recipient. The company also donated over 50,000 pounds of produce locally, contributed the mulligan proceeds from their annual golf tournament this year, and provided in-kind transportation assistance. "This past year they provided volunteer support when we needed them the most," said Anna Davenport, Food Resource Manager. "Thanks to L & M, we were able to maintain our distribution locally to support families in central and eastern NC and answer the extraordinary need brought on by Katrina. L & M volunteers literally handled and sorted hundreds of thousands of pounds of produce and disaster relief donations."

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The L & M Family of Companies is based in Raleigh NC and consists of 5 locally-owned operating entities.

L & M Companies, Inc. is a sales and marketing organization dedicated to serving the produce industry. The company was founded in Raleigh in 1964 and now has offices in many of the major fruit and vegetable growing and importing regions throughout the US.

L & M Farms grows vegetables, melons, and potatoes on farms in North Florida, South Florida, and Georgia.

L & M Transportation Services (LMTS), is a transportation and logistics company serving both produce and dry freight customers. LMTS also has provided trucking services for the Food Bank.

AG Warehouse & Packing, Inc. works closely with L & M Farms and L & M Companies, Inc. to provide a broad range of services that include packing, repackaging, consolidation, cooling, shipping, and quality control.

CRTS, Inc., founded in 1971, specializes in semi-trailer sales, service, and parts. From its Raleigh roots, CRTS has grown into one of the largest semi-trailer dealerships in the South with 110 employees and 6 locations covering North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

The presentation is a highlight to the summer months, which are usually marked by fewer food drives and donations.

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About the Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina

The Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that provides food for people in need in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 880 partner agencies offering soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2005-06, the Food Bank distributed more than 31.4 million pounds of food and non-food essentials to these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 400,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org