



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 31, 2006

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ALWAYS IN RELIEF MODE

With Hurricane Season in Full Swing

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Stands Ready

RALEIGH – Every day, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina *responds to a crisis in central and eastern Carolina*. The Food Bank *serves as a conduit* for accepting, sorting, packaging, storing, and distributing needed food and non-food essentials to the over **400,000 people at risk of hunger** daily in its 34-county service area. At times, however, relief efforts *extend beyond the borders of North Carolina*. The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina reacts *immediately* to serve victims of hurricanes and floods throughout the southeast *without disrupting regular food distribution* to 34 counties in North Carolina. The possibility of a natural disaster during hurricane season always has the Food Bank in a *constant state of readiness*.

In the event of a hurricane, the America's Second Harvest Network of food banks immediately activates its Disaster Assistance Team and works in conjunction with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide disaster relief supplies to the affected areas. The Food Bank works in tandem with this national effort to ensure that needed food and non-food essentials are collected and delivered to victims of a catastrophic disaster.

Responding to the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the Food Bank *sent nine truckloads* of relief food and essentials to help the victims of the hurricanes *in the Gulf Coast*, with the trucks going to: Baker and Alexandria, Louisiana; Tyler, Texas; and Jackson, Mississippi. The Food Bank collected over **380,000 pounds** of food - *more than 320,000 meals*. Since all area food banks were destroyed, the Food Bank joined with three sister food banks as part of the relief network, located property in the Gulf region and set up a temporary warehouse. Food Bank *staff* assisted with relief efforts in affected areas, as well as locally. Food Bank President and CEO, Jane Cox and five staff members, lived and worked in the region for six weeks.

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Hurricanes always *create a desperate and long-term crisis* for our neighbors in the *affected areas and the coastal areas of North Carolina*. The Food Bank and other relief organizations throughout the country work as a team to bring help and comfort to people suffering the affects of these disasters.

In the event of a natural disaster, most needed items are:

- **Paper goods**
- **Single serving snacks**
- **Cleaning supplies**
- **Peanut butter**
- **High-protein canned meals**
- **Other single serving meals that do not require refrigeration**

Please bring donations to your local Food Bank branch (addresses listed below)

To be a part of daily hunger relief in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina or to read more about how you can be a part of the relief effort in the event of a natural disaster, go to www.foodbankcenc.org.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Raleigh
3808 Tarheel Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609
911.875.0707

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

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville
497 West 9th Street
Greenville, NC 27834
252-752-4996

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills
195 Sandy Avenue
Southern Pines, NC 28387
910-692-5959

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington
1314 Marsteller Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-251-1465

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About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Eastern & Central North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that provides food for people who are hungry in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 890 partner agencies offering soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2005-2006, the Food Bank distributed more than 31.4 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 400,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org .