



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
September 1, 2006

Contact:
Christy L. Simmons
Manager of Public Relations
(919) 875-0707 x214 (office)
(919) 906-4798 (mobile)

ASSESSMENT REVIEW UNDERWAY AT FOOD BANK

Service Area in Direct Path of Tropical Storm Ernesto

RALEIGH – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina distributes daily to the area that was in the direct path of Ernesto. Supplying food through 890 agencies in 34 counties of the central and eastern portion of the state, the organization’s name alone sheds light on the parallel path shared with the tropical storm. Though the storm did not reach hurricane status and the organization did not have to activate its full Disaster Relief Plan, two of the Food Bank’s five branches, Wilmington and Greenville, and their respective service areas were affected by Ernesto. The Raleigh branch, which serves ten counties, is investigating reports of evacuations in the northeast corner of Duplin County and how the service of partner agencies in the county fared.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington serves the area where Ernesto chose to make its entry. The Wilmington site distributes food to Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender counties and has a network of more than 90 partner agencies. Pender County has been the hardest hit. The Food Bank warehouse in Wilmington was fully operational on Friday. However, officials and staff were busily reaching out to the partner agencies in the area to see what their needs are in the wake of the tropical storm that dumped nearly a foot of rain and brought near hurricane strength winds to the area. If needed, the Wilmington branch is prepared to provide supplies to the American Red Cross and New Hanover County Emergency Management.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville experienced a two-hour delay in opening for service on Friday. The Greenville warehouse distributes to the following counties: Carteret, Craven, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt and Wilson counties. Over 160 partner agencies are supplied with food from the Greenville site.

-more-

With the center of the storm tracking through Kinston in Lenoir County, Food Bank officials are calling their partner agencies in the area to assess anything that has affected their potential for service and how they can assist in getting them back up and running. “Today we are mainly making sure our warehouses in the affected areas are operational and that our partner agencies can operate or return to service as soon as possible,” said Peter Werbicki, Vice President of Operations at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

The main branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina in Raleigh distributes to Duplin, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Sampson, Wake, Warren and Wayne counties. Duplin County experienced some evacuations due to Ernesto, but reports so far regarding Food Bank partner agencies in the area are positive.

As the service area assessment continues, by mid-afternoon on Friday, none of the partner agencies contacted by Food Bank staff in the affected areas reported an interruption in service.

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

-more-

#

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 .