



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
JUNE 5, 2006

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**HUNGER AWARENESS GETS VOICE  
AT NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

*Nation Celebrates Hunger Awareness on June 6<sup>th</sup>*

**Raleigh, NC** – On Tuesday, June 6, the partner agencies for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina will give voice to thousands of people who rely on emergency food assistance programs. In recognition of **National Hunger Awareness Day**, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina will host its “*Annual Partner Agency Day at the General Assembly*” from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. Nearly 100 members from partner agencies served by the Food Bank will convene at the Legislative building to represent the anti-hunger community. The agencies will have the opportunity to engage their local representatives in dialogue about the work that they do to bring relief to those who are at risk of hunger in their communities.

A short “greeting” and “charge for the day” session will be held in the auditorium. Session participants will include **Haywood Holderness, jr.**, president of the North Carolina Association of America’s Second Harvest Members and a member of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Board of Directors; **Senator William R. Purcell**, D-Laurinburg and **Senator Vernon Malone**, D-Raleigh. **Representative Beverly M. Earle**, D-Mecklenburg County plans to participate as well. **From the floor** of the General Assembly, **Senator Purcell and Representative Earle will announce the North Carolina results** from the America’s Second Harvest research study “Hunger in America 2006” which tells a tragic story of the hidden reality of hunger across our state.

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As a visual representation of the 2006 Hunger Awareness Day theme “*The Face of Hunger Will Surprise You*” and as a reminder of hunger’s hold on over 400,000 people in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank, the partner agencies will create a paper chain. Agencies will decorate the chains with pictures and information reflecting hunger issues and the people at risk that the agencies see and serve daily. The **chain will be symbolically “broken”** during the morning session and agencies are encouraged to keep pieces of the chain as a reminder to continue the fight to break the chain of hunger and will share a piece with their representatives.

As part of “**Annual Partner Agency Day at the General Assembly**” Food Lion will provide lunch for partner agencies and participants.

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**About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina**

*Founded in 1980, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a private, not-for-profit organization, which serves over 880 partner agencies throughout 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. More than 400,000 people are at risk of hunger in the FBCENC service area. Out of every dollar donated to the Food Bank, 97 cents goes directly to food and food programs. One of seven America's Second Harvest affiliates in North Carolina, the Food Bank solicits, collects, stores, and distributes food to nonprofit agencies assisting almost 400,000 people at risk of hunger. With branches in Wilmington, Raleigh, Durham, Greenville, and the Sandhills, the Food Bank distributed more than 31 million pounds of food to those in need in fiscal year 2004-05. For more information about The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, please visit [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org) or call 919-875-0707*

***America's Second Harvest–The Nation's Food Bank Network** is the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the country with a Network of more than 200 Member food banks and food-rescue organizations serving all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. The America's Second Harvest Network secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of donated food and grocery products annually; and supports approximately 50,000 local charitable agencies operating more than 94,000 programs including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs and Kids Cafes. Last year, the America's Second Harvest Network provided food assistance to more than 25 million low-income hungry people in the United States, including nearly 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors. For more on the America's Second Harvest Network, please visit [www.seconddharvest.org](http://www.seconddharvest.org).*