



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contact:

Christy L. Simmons
Manager of Public Relations
(919) 865-3050 (office)
(919) 906-4798 (mobile)

**NEW WAREHOUSE EXTENSION AT FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL &
EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA REPRESENTS CONTINUED INCREASE IN
NEED**

Government, Community Leaders Highlight Poverty

RALEIGH –On Monday, September 18, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina celebrated the addition of three dock doors and a produce ramp to the Raleigh warehouse while simultaneously reminding the community and government leaders in attendance that changes are needed on the legislative level to reduce the increasing numbers of individuals who rely on emergency food assistance. The new warehouse extension was made possible through grants from the Cannon Foundation, Bank of America Foundation, the Hillsdale Fund and a donation from White Memorial Presbyterian Church.

United States Representative David Price, City of Raleigh Mayor Charles Meeker and Dr. Art Ross, Pastor of White Memorial Presbyterian Church were on hand to bring attention to hunger and poverty, community support and the importance of the Food Bank as a relief organization and also as a first responder in times of natural disasters. Jack and Mary Hofler, for whom the Raleigh warehouse is named (the Hofler Warehouse), attended and participated in the ribbon cutting ceremony. The Hoflers, members of White Memorial Presbyterian Church, gifted the former PYA Monarch Foods warehouse at 3808 Tarheel Drive to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina in 1997.

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With a service area spanning one third of the state, Jane Cox, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina immediately caught the crowd's attention by emphasizing the decisions that individuals at risk have to make. "Food is a lifeline for so many of our neighbors. It means that a mother doesn't have to choose between providing food for her children or paying rent. It means that an elderly person with a fixed income doesn't have to choose between food and medicine," said Cox.

"Food means that a child can concentrate on learning how to read instead of thinking about an empty stomach. The Food Bank believes that none of our neighbors in central and eastern North Carolina should be hungry," Cox continued.

Rep. Price, a longtime supporter of the Food Bank, highlighted the latest poverty numbers such as North Carolina has over 1 million residents living in poverty – 15.1%. "Many are working but cannot make ends meet," said Price. "Consider this: a third of the households served by the Food Bank include at least one employed adult."

Dr. Art Ross, Pastor of White Memorial Presbyterian Church, remarked on the importance of spiritual food and physical food. White Memorial Presbyterian Church is another longtime supporter of the Food Bank. The White Memorial congregation also donated a truck a few years ago and most recently, gave a monetary gift toward the renovation of the dock doors.

Andrew Hefner, Transportation/Product Manager at the Food Bank and a member of the Operations Department made very personal remarks concerning the importance of the additions. "These new dock doors mean greater efficiency and productivity in loading and unloading, enhanced ability to meet donors and partner agencies timing requests for pick-ups and deliveries", said Hefner. "We now also have the ability to increase product flow without incurring overtime costs, such as allowing an extra truck pick-up or delivery *within* an eight (8) hour shift, " continued Hefner.

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The new additions to the Raleigh warehouse also improve disaster relief operations by the following: vastly increased ability to utilize donated trucking and warehouse staffing in high tempo disaster relief operations; increased ability to simultaneously receive and distribute large volumes of disaster relief products; ability to load or unload six (6) trucks simultaneously.

Mayor Charles Meeker remarked on how the Food Bank impacts the community by providing millions of pounds of food to individuals at risk and still remains a first responder when a natural disaster occurs.

The celebration ended with the ceremonial ribbons at ***all three dock doors*** being cut at once by Rep. Price and Wake County Commissioner Betty Lou Ward, Mayor Meeker and Councilwoman Jessie Taliaferro, and Jack and Mary Hofler.

For more information about how you can support the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina in the effort to fight hunger in 34 counties, go to www.foodbankcenc.org or call (919) 875-0707.

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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 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