



# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 6, 2006

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## THANKSGIVING COMES EARLY FOR FOOD BANK AGENCIES

### *Vance, Durham, Orange, Chatham Food Bank Agencies Receive*

#### *New Equipment*

**DURHAM** – On Monday, October 30<sup>th</sup> the word “**Thankful**” reverberated against the warehouse walls of **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Durham**. That is because **last Monday** was the new “**Thanksgiving Thursday**” for **seven** of the Food Bank’s partner agencies. Agencies from Vance, Durham, Orange, and Chatham counties traveled to the Food Bank at 708 Gilbert Street in Durham **to pick up** their new refrigerator and freezer units. A grant from **Kraft Foods** generously provided the resources for the new equipment as part of Kraft’s **2006 Community Nutrition Program**. The Food Bank can now expand the collection and distribution of nutritious, perishable food to partner agencies. The nine partner agencies will use the equipment to support their efforts to provide food for community residents at risk of hunger.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina **at Durham** distributes food through 167 partner agencies in its service area.

“Take your new equipment and be empowered to feed those at risk of hunger in your community,” said Julie Lawhorn, Durham Branch Outreach Coordinator for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “Your work is not easy. The food does not do any good sitting at 708 Gilbert Street,” says Lawhorn.

The total population of the Durham Branch’s service area (**Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, and Vance Counties**) is 517,945 with 70,232 individuals living at or below the poverty level. The branch’s partner agencies operate 81 food pantries, 45 group homes, 25 after school programs, 13 shelters, 12 soup kitchens, 5 day cares, 4 elderly nutrition programs and 2 sheltered workshops.

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**Church of God Prophecy of Durham/Monument of Faith in Durham County** serves food on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of each month to about 80 families or more than 230 individuals.

“We can expand the amount of food stored and the number of people that we serve because of our new freezer,” said Carolyn Clay, church member.

Dazale Kearney of the **Addiction Recovery Center for Women in Vance County** serves three meals a day every day of the week.

“We had two freezers,” said Kearney, “and one went out. So at least we can continue to serve the same numbers and won’t have to cut back.”

There are 6551 individuals 65 years or older living at or below the poverty level in the Durham branch’s service area.

**The Sister-2-Sister Program at Emmanuel Fellowship Church of God in Christ in Chatham County** is excited about the new freezer.

“We distribute to the elderly and sick – about 100 to 125 families,” said Alice Alexander. “Sister-2-Sister is hoping to do even greater works in the community now that we have more storage.”

More than 23, 000 children are living at or below the poverty level in Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, and Vance Counties.

**Richard Dickinson of Friends of Orange County DSS** in Orange County delivers the food received from the Food Bank directly to DSS in Hillsborough and Chapel Hill and delivers food to homebound individuals in rural parts of the county. The food distributed at DSS helps social workers meet the needs of clients who may be falling through the cracks while waiting for benefits and in emergency situations. In addition, the agency uses some Food Bank food for cooking classes for low income youth through the Orange County Cooperative Extension office.

More than 41,000 individuals age 18 to 64 years are living at or below the poverty level in the Durham branch service area.

Lucretia Catlin with the **Nehemiah Christian Center in Durham County** serves meals and to-go lunch bags every Tuesday. Nehemiah’s kitchen also makes toiletry bags and clothing available to its clients on a monthly basis.

Joyce Davis and Earliss Elliott of **Immanuel Temple Seventh Day Adventist Church also in Durham County** run a soup kitchen every Sunday from 1 p.m. – 3 p.m. and provide take home meals to 175 to 225 people.

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Susan Daniels with **Divine Habitation - Labour of Love Outreach Ministry in Vance County** says her program started serving 12 individuals and now serves up to 84 every Tuesday and Thursday.

“We can now provide food with more than two fishes and five loaves of bread!” exclaimed Daniels.

In 2005-06, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC **at Durham** distributed 4,836,234 pounds of food to those at risk in its service area.

During the four-year period from 2000-01 and 2005-06, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina **at Durham** experienced a food distribution growth of 80.8 percent in the its service area.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina **at Durham** is located at 708 Gilbert Street in Durham, NC. Call (919) 956-2513 to help fight hunger in your local community or go to [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

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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 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](http://www.foodbankcenc.org)*

**About Kraft Foods, Inc.**

*Kraft Foods Inc. is a global leader in branded food and beverages with a presence in more than 150 countries. The Kraft Cares global community involvement program strives to make a difference in the communities where its employees live and work. In keeping with the company's corporate vision of helping people around the world eat and live better, Kraft Cares focuses primarily on helping end hunger and helping children and families improve their physical activity and awareness of nutritional practices. Last year, Kraft provided \$84 million in food and financial support to hundreds of non-profit organizations worldwide.*