



# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THANKSGIVING COMES EARLY FOR FOOD BANK AGENCIES

### *Duplin, Wake, Johnston, Harnett, Edgecombe Agencies Receive New Equipment*

**RALEIGH** – On Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup> the word “**Thankful**” reverberated against the warehouse walls of **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina in Raleigh**. That is because **this particular Friday** was the new “**Thanksgiving Thursday**” for ten of the Food Bank’s partner agencies. Agencies from Wake, Johnston, Harnett and Edgecombe counties traveled to the Food Bank at 3808 Tarheel Drive **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 ten 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 distributes food through 316 partner agencies in the Raleigh service area.

“You [partner agencies] are the Food Bank. We have such an array of programs represented here today,” said Pamela Foust, Agency Services Outreach Coordinator for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “We thank Kraft Foods for providing a way for you to continue your work. The Food Bank continues to work hard to solicit resources for you.”

The total population of the Raleigh branch service area (**Edgecombe, Franklin, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Nash, Sampson, Wake, Warren, Wayne, and Wilson Counties**) is 1,150,755 individuals with 143,976 individuals living at or below the poverty level. Partner agencies operate: 190 food pantries, 46 after school programs, 45 group homes, 19 shelters, 15 elderly nutrition programs, 14 soup kitchens, 12 day cares, and 1 sheltered workshop.

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Jerry Webb of **Tarboro Community Outreach in Edgecombe County** is awed by the sheer numbers of people that his agency serves.

“We serve about 300 meals a day every week out of our soup kitchen,” said Webb. “You can’t even find many *restaurants* in our area that serve that many people. The new freezer will give us more room to store food longer to help the economic poor in Edgecombe County.”

Lee Harrell, who volunteers with Webb at **Tarboro Community Outreach in Edgecombe County** says that the new freezer is also important to the agency’s monthly food distribution. “We served over 270 families – more than 700 people – in less than two hours! It is wonderful to have enough storage for the food to serve all of these people.”

The **Fuquay-Varina Emergency Food Pantry in Wake County** serves more than 350 families a month. With each family consisting of at least three individuals, that’s approximately 1200 meals. “We are there to bridge the gap,” says Laeron Roberts. “We don’t see the same faces all the time. A lot of our clients are elderly. The freezer that we have been using was at least 20 years old!”

More than 51,000 children live at or below the poverty level in the Raleigh branch’s area.

Joni Craven-Jones of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina **Kids Cafe – Homework Haven in Wake County** is extremely thankful to Kraft Foods for their new freezer.

“Our Kids Cafe program currently shares freezer space,” says Craven-Jones. We now have our own freezer and are better able to track food items belonging to our Kids Cafe.”

**TLC Operations, Inc. in Wake County** is grateful for a place to store client’s food.

“Currently, our refrigerator is on the blink. We now have a dependable piece of equipment to keep food cool for the 20 children and 10 adults in our program,” says Teresa Privette.

There are 14, 982 individuals 65 years and older living at or below the poverty level and 69,266 individuals age 18 to 64 living at or below the poverty level in the Raleigh Branch’s service area.

Bishop H. Frank Hemby, Sr. of **CTBOCD Inc. (Carrying the Banner of Christian Distinction) in Wake County** is happy to be able to continue “love in action” with his new refrigerator.

“What we do is outreach – reach the poor; reach the working poor; reach our seniors; reach those with disabilities; and reach those in debilitating situations,” states Bishop Hemby. “We have 20 families, more than 70 individuals that we help daily.”

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**Deliverance Church in Harnett County** now serves about 115 people.

“This freezer is a blessing,” beams Joyce Troy. “We have more room to store the frozen goods for the 115 people that we serve each day.”

The new refrigerator couldn’t have been timed any better for **Emmaus House in Wake County**.

“We just opened another house and this refrigerator will go into the new house,” says John Allen. “We can store more food and feed more people.”

Ashley Delamar, Director of Operations & Administration and Daniel Pietrzak, Development Officer of the **Salvation Army of Wake County** say the demand at the agency simply outgrew the capacity.

“We serve 130 people per night, Monday through Friday, in our soup line,” says Delamar. “There are 34 families receiving three meals a day, seven days a week. Needless to say this new freezer makes a huge difference.”

Pietrzak adds, “We can now serve EXTRA people.”

In 2005-06, the Raleigh branch of Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC distributed 10,413,189 pounds of food to those at risk of hunger in its service area and during the four-year period from 2000-2001 and 2005-2006, the Food Bank experienced a food distribution growth of 75.3 percent in their service area.

The main branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is located at 3808 Tarheel Drive in Raleigh, NC. Please call (919) 875-0707 to help fight hunger in your community or go log on 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.*