



# NEWS RELEASE



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## THANKSGIVING COMES EARLY FOR FOOD BANK AGENCIES

### Lenoir, Onslow, Craven, Pitt Agencies Receive New Equipment

**GREENVILLE** – On Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup> the word “**Thankful**” reverberated against the warehouse walls of **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville**. Why? Because that particular **Wednesday** was the new “**Thanksgiving Thursday**” for **six** of the Food Bank’s partner agencies. Agencies from Lenoir, Pitt, Onslow, Jones and Craven counties traveled to the Food Bank branch at 497 West Ninth Street in Greenville **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 seven 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 Greenville** distributes food through 195 partner agencies in the Greenville area.

“We can’t do what we do without you, the partner agencies, being on the front lines daily to feed those who are hungry,” said Stephen Murphree, Greenville Advisory Council Board President. “We thank Kraft for their generosity.”

The total population of the Greenville branch’s service area, (**Carteret, Craven, Duplin, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt, and Wilson Counties**) is 690,861 individuals with 108,622 individuals living at or below the poverty level. Greenville Branch partner agencies operate: 132 food pantries, 34 mobile food pantries, 24 after school programs, 21 group homes, 16 soup kitchens, 15 day cares, 12 shelters, and 4 elderly nutrition programs.

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There are 39,912 children living at or below the poverty level in the Greenville branch's service area.

Charlie Smith from **The Boys & Girls Club of Lenoir County** will be delivering his new refrigerator to the Sampson School. "We have about 900 members in the Club and about 70-80 in our program. We will now be able to store food longer and get ready for special programs."

**The Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Kids Cafe – Youth Vision, Inc. at St. Luke AME Church in Jones County** was sharing freezer space. "Our program operates out of the church annex and we had to share freezer space," said Nicole Carter, "Now with this new freezer, we have our own space and can store much more!"

With 12,459 individuals 65 years and older living at or below the poverty level, agencies see an increase in the need to deliver food and meals to the elderly.

Joyce Maney of **Vanceboro Christian Help Center** in Craven County serves about 300 families per month. "In Vanceboro alone, we serve nearly 1,000 people a month and have added 30 homebound people to our list of clients."

Reginald Walton of **Brown's New Living in Pitt County** serves 145 families per month. "We serve daily to those who are homebound," said Walton.

More than 57,000 individuals age 18 to 64 years old are living at or below the poverty level in the service area. With a need so great, the agencies have learned to do a lot with little..

**The Ecclesia Ministries in Onslow County** had no place to store refrigerated food at all. "We have somewhere to store our perishables! It is a blessing," said Luvenia Foster.

"**Pentecostal Temple** [in Pitt County] started out serving about 50 people a week and we now serve 125 people a week," said Gwen Jones. "Our current freezer unit doesn't hold much at all. Our new freezer gives us more storage space to help with the increase."

In 2005-06, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC at Greenville distributed 7,890,247 pounds of food to those at risk of hunger in its service area. During the four-year period from 2000-01 and 2005-06, the Food Bank experienced a food distribution growth of 29.5 percent in the Greenville Branch's service area.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina **at Greenville** is located on 497 West Ninth Street in Greenville, NC. Please call (252) 752-4996 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.*