



NEWS RELEASE

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VOLUNTEERS STORM FOOD BANK WAREHOUSE

RALEIGH – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina solicits, collects, stores, and distributes food through a network of over 890 partner agencies, including emergency food pantries, shelters, group homes, after school programs, soup kitchens, and day care centers. With almost 400,000 people at risk of hunger in the 34 county service area and branch warehouses in Wilmington, Raleigh, Durham, Greenville, and the Sandhills (Southern Pines), the Food Bank distributed more than 31.4 million pounds of food last year. Being a large non-profit with a service area that covers *a third of the state*, a dedicated staff alone is often not enough. *Volunteers are an important part of the getting the job done.* On *Friday, September 15, one hundred fifteen (115) volunteers from Credit Suisse* will spend the entire day laboring at the Raleigh warehouse.

Food Bank volunteers sort **40%** of all food drive donations. During *fiscal year 2005-2006*, volunteers logged over **99,000 hours**, the equivalent of over **47 full time employees**.

“Ralph Waldo Emerson once said ‘It is one of the most beautiful compensations of life, that no man can sincerely try to help another without helping himself’ and to have the employees of a corporation such as Credit Suisse take time out of their busy schedules to literally lend a much needed, and appreciated, hand is a testament to their belief in our mission,” said Brenda Bartella Peterson, Manager of Corporate Giving for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

This turnout of Credit Suisse employees represents the largest group of volunteers to ever work in the Food Bank on a single day other than as part of a disaster relief effort in response to a hurricane. To coordinate a volunteer group this size, the Food Bank will call on assistance from its volunteer coordinators and operations staff members from several of its other branches.

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There is a wide range of volunteer opportunities available at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. As a volunteer, you may come in several days a week, once a month, or one time only.

For more information about being a volunteer at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, contact Rebecca Barbee, Volunteer Services Manager, , at (919) 865-3022 or rbarbee@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 2005-2006, the Food Bank distributed more than 31.4 million pounds of food and non-food essentials through 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 .