



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## ***FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NC HELPS TO REPLENISH STOLEN TURKEYS***

**RALEIGH**— On Friday, December 15, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina on Tarheel Drive in Raleigh did what it does best – provide for those at risk of hunger. This time, however, there was an additional twist to the provision. The Bread of Life program, operated by Family Worship Assembly, one of the more than 890 partner agencies through which the food bank distributes food, experienced a theft of turkeys that were earmarked for families in need. The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina will replenish twenty of the thirty stolen turkeys. H. J. "Bud" Vaughn, pastor of Family Worship Assembly, will pick up the turkeys at 12:30 p.m. today.

These turkeys are part of a supply donated by UPS staff who receive turkeys as holiday gifts from the company and donate them to the Food Bank instead of keeping them for their own use. This decade-old practice has provided thousands of turkeys for families during the holiday season.

"We have a tight supply of turkeys to our partner agencies which would not allow us to replenish the full amount, but through generous giving are able to come up with some additional inventory to help supplement their loss," said Peter Werbicki, Vice President of Operations for the Food Bank.

Family Worship Assembly has been a partner agency of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina since 1999, running the Bread of Life program. They distribute to elderly and low-income clients that would otherwise go without food due to increased prescription and other costs. The program serves more than 100 families (more than 350 individuals) each month.

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Eighteen percent (18%) of individuals at risk of hunger in the Food Bank's 34 county service area are elderly and must make decisions daily about whether to eat or pay for medication. Another 38 % are the working poor and 30% are children.

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**About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina**

*The Food Bank of Central & Eastern 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](http://www.foodbankcenc.org)*