



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 21, 2006

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## HAYTI HERITAGE CENTER PARTNERS WITH FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NC

### *Non-perishable Food Items To Be Collected During Kwanzaa*

**RALEIGH-** Umoja. Kujichagulia. Ujima. Ujamaa. Nia. Kuumba. These words commemorate the first six days of Kwanzaa; words supporting the mission of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. For the first time, the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina** and the **Hayti Heritage Center** will partner during **Kwanzaa**, an African American celebration, from December 26 through January 1. As the community gathers to celebrate each night, **non-perishable food items will be collected** and donated to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina which has a branch located at **708 Gilbert Street in Durham**.

“This new partnership with the Hayti Heritage Center comes at a critical time for those at risk of hunger. Recent reports released by the U.S. Department of Agriculture confirm what we have known for some time – the number of individuals at risk of hunger is increasing,” said Jane Cox, President & CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “It truly takes participation from the entire community to fight hunger. We thank the Hayti Heritage Center for a new avenue to gather food donations.”

The mission of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is to harness and supply resources so that no one goes hungry in central and eastern North Carolina. To be a part of a week-long celebration that is based on an **agricultural** celebration and praises **community** is a partnership that opens doors for future alliances to serve individuals at risk of hunger.

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“Kwanzaa was created to reaffirm our cultural connection as a community, strengthen the bonds between us as a people, and to reinforce the following seven values: Unity, Self-Determination, Collective Work and Responsibility, Cooperative Economics, Purpose, Creativity and Faith,” said Janella Sellars, Development Director for St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. “Our partnership with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a perfect way for us to really put the principles of Kwanzaa into action. It is a way to let people know that we are one community and we care.”

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina serves the **community** – those from different backgrounds, religions, classes, and ages. It is this sense of **community** by those participating in this cultural observance that makes the Hayti Heritage Center’s support so important. Unity. Self determination. Collective work and responsibility. Cooperative economics. Purpose. Creativity. These words commemorate the first six days of Kwanzaa. These words depict a road map to hunger relief.

**The Need:**

There are six counties represented in the area served by **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Durham: Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, and Vance Counties.**

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

The total population of the service area is 517,945 with 70,232 individuals living at or below the poverty level in the Durham Branch’s service area. There are 6551 individuals 65 years or older living at or below the poverty level; 41,349 individuals age 18 to 64 years living at or below the poverty level; and 23,428 children living at or below the poverty level.

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.

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**The Kwanzaa Schedule at the Hayti Heritage Center is as follows:**

December 26, 2006- January 1, 2007\*\*

**CELEBRATE KWANZAA - A celebration of family, community & culture.**

*(December 26th-31st will be held at the Hayti Heritage Center, 804 Old Fayetteville Street, Durham, NC)*

Doors open 7pm, Showtime 7:30pm. Vendors nightly. FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Hosted by Zayd Malik

Each nightly candle lighting celebration will include musical entertainment or performances by renowned local, regional, and national performing artists.

**December 26, 2006** - Umoja (Unity) - *2 Near The Edge Dance Company*

**December 27, 2006** - Kujichagulia (Self Determination) - *Bradley Simmons and Elements of Percussion*

**December 28, 2006** - Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility) - *D-We (storyteller)*

**December 29, 2006** - Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics) - *Collage Dance Company*

**December 30, 2006** - Nia (Purpose) - *Dijembe Fire Shabu Family (dance)*

**December 31, 2006** - Kuumba (Creativity) - *100 Men in Black Choir*

**\*\*January 1, 2007 - 21ST ANNUAL KWANZAA FEST – African American Dance Ensemble**

Doors open at noon, program begins at 2 pm, Durham Armory, 220 Foster Street, Downtown Durham  
Baba Chuck Davis and the African American Dance Ensemble present the final day of Kwanzaa with the 21st Annual KwanzaaFest Celebration, Baba Chuck's 70th birthday.

*For more information about the Kwanzaa Celebration, please visit [www.hayti.org](http://www.hayti.org) or call the Hayti Heritage Center at (919) 683-1709.*

To be a part of daily hunger relief in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, go to [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org) for more information or call (919) 875-0707.

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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 at risk of hunger 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](http://www.foodbankcenc.org) .

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**About St. Joseph's Historic Foundation**

The St. Joseph's Historic Foundation, Inc. was founded in 1975 to serve as the conservator of the old St. Joseph's AME Church complex, now named the Hayti Heritage Center. The Foundation is dedicated to preserving, restoring and developing the embellished old sanctuary into a cultural institution promoting the understanding and appreciation of the African-American experience and contributions to world culture. The mission is accomplished by providing enlightening and enriching programs in cultural arts and education. The Foundation's goals are to consistently present the very best in quality cultural arts programs related to the African American experience.