



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 7, 2008

Contact:

Christy L. Simmons
Manager of Public Relations
(919) 865-3050 (office)
(919) 906-4798 (mobile)

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Receives Grant to Fight Child Hunger

RALEIGH, NC - The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina announced today that it has received \$29,000 to combat child hunger in the organization's 34-county service area. The grant will be used to expand their Kids Cafe after-school programs. The Food Bank currently has **27 Kids Cafe programs** in the following **25 counties: Columbus, Craven, Duplin, Durham, Edgecombe, Greene, Halifax, Harnett, Johnston, Jones, Lee, Lenoir, Moore, Nash, New Hanover, Orange, Pender, Pitt, Richmond, Scotland, Vance, Wayne, Warren, Wake, and Wilson Counties.** The Food Bank's after-school programs are sponsored locally by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

The grant was made possible by Charity Projects Entertainment Fund (CPEF), which was established to raise awareness of poverty across the United States and throughout the world. With this mission, CPEF teamed up with FOX and "AMERICAN IDOL" to present "IDOL GIVES BACK," which aired on FOX in April 2007. "IDOL GIVES BACK" was a two-night special which raised awareness and funds for organizations that focus on providing resources for young people in extreme poverty in the U.S. and Africa.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina received the grant as a result of its membership in America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network. America's Second Harvest was chosen as one of four domestic charities that received funds which were raised through "IDOL GIVES BACK". America's Second Harvest is the nation's largest hunger-relief organization, providing food and grocery products to more than 25 million Americans each year through a Network of more than 200 food banks and 50,000 agencies including soup kitchens, food pantries, emergency shelters and feeding programs for both children and seniors.

-more-

“We are extremely grateful for this support of our work feeding hungry children,” said Peter Werbicki, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “There are more than 120,000 children living at risk of hunger in our service area. This grant will help us and other food banks across the country continue to ensure that these children do not go to bed hungry or wondering where their next meal will come from.”

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is one of seven America’s Second Harvest members in the state of North Carolina. The Food Bank, whose main warehouse and offices are located in Raleigh, distributes food resources to one third of the state of North Carolina. Warehouses located in **Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, Southern Pines and Wilmington** serve 870 partner agencies (soup kitchens, rescue missions, food pantries, after school programs, elderly nutrition programs). In the Food Bank’s service area, there are over 400,000 individuals who are at risk of hunger every day.

Go to www.foodbankcenc.org to learn how you can help fight hunger in your neighborhood.

###

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 870 partner agencies offering soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2006 - 2007, the Food Bank distributed more than 32.6 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

America’s Second Harvest

America’s Second Harvest - The Nation’s Food Bank Network is the largest charitable domestic hunger-relief organization in the United States. Through its Network of more than 200 Member food banks, America’s Second Harvest annually provides assistance to more than 25 million people in need, including more than 9 million children and nearly 3 million seniors in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. Each year, America’s Second Harvest secures and distributes more than 2 billion pounds of food and grocery products to support feeding programs at approximately 50,000 local charitable agencies, including food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, after-school programs, and Kids Cafes. To learn more, please visit www.seconharvest.org.

Charity Projects Entertainment Fund (CPEF)

CPEF is a charitable organization established to raise money and awareness to help combat extreme poverty in the U.S. and throughout the world, particularly in Africa. CPEF uses the power of entertainment to drive positive change to achieve its vision of creating a just world free from poverty. CPEF is inspired and supported by the UK charity that invented Red Nose Day.