



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**

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

## **LOCAL INDUSTRIAL DISTRIBUTOR KEEPS CORPORATE PHILANTHROPY STRONG DURING TOUGH ECONOMIC TIMES**

### **The Grainger Foundation presents Food Bank with \$20,000 check**

**RALEIGH, NC** – Local branch managers of Grainger, a local business-to-business distributor of facilities maintenance supplies, visited the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina on Thursday, April 30 to support the region's largest food bank with distribution efforts at a time of increased need. The Grainger Foundation based upon the recommendations of local branch managers Kenneth Johnson, branch manager of Grainger's Raleigh facility and Neil Zingler, branch manager of Grainger's Greenville facility, donated \$20,000 to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina during a check presentation ceremony held at the main warehouse in Raleigh. The Raleigh and Greenville warehouses of the Food Bank will share the donation.

Many of the rescue missions, food pantries, soup kitchens supported by the Food Bank have seen increases of 20 to 60 percent in the last twelve months.

"It is through the efforts of corporate groups like the Grainger Foundation and the many food drives and donations from our generous community that we are able to provide resources for those at risk of hunger," said Peter Werbicki, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. "We are honored that our work is recognized by their organization."

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has seen the demand for their services continue to rise, as have food banks around the country. The Food Bank now has more than 450,000 people at risk of hunger in its service area compared to 400,000 a few years ago.

"In these challenging times, it is critical that individuals and businesses step up their actions to address social needs such as hunger," said Kenneth Johnson, branch manager of Grainger's Raleigh facility. "When we learned of the great work being done at Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina and the impact to people in need, Grainger wanted to help."

For every dollar donated, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is able to distribute generally 8 dollars (\$8) worth of food or provide four meals.

**-more-**

The main office and warehouse is located at 3808 Tarheel Drive in Raleigh with additional branch warehouses located in Durham, Greenville, Southern Pines, and Wilmington.

To learn more about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, go to [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org) or call (919) 875-0707.

### **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 at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of nearly 900 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2007-2008, the Food Bank distributed nearly 32 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 450,000 individuals struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

### **About Feeding America (Formerly America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network)**

Feeding America provides individuals and families facing hunger with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 25 million Americans each year, including 9 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks operate 63,000 agencies that address hunger through emergency food assistance programs. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org)

### **About W.W. Grainger, Inc.**

W.W. Grainger, Inc. (NYSE: GWW), with 2008 sales of \$6.9 billion, is the leading broad line supplier of facilities maintenance products serving businesses and institutions in the United States, Canada, Mexico, China and Panama. Through a highly integrated network including more than 600 branches, 18 distribution centers and multiple Web sites, Grainger's employees help customers get the job done.