



NEWS RELEASE

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**SCOTLAND NECK AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM TAKES HOME
BEST ALL AROUND AWARD**
Best Out of Twenty-seven Programs

RALEIGH, NC – The Best All-Around Kids Cafe Award was presented to the Scotland Neck Recreation Foundation on Wednesday, May 14 during the 2008 Standard of Excellence Awards Celebration for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Kids Cafe Programs. The Standards of Excellence Awards Celebration honors Kids Cafe partner agencies that have excelled in the core components and have achieved distinction with the operation of their program. The Agency Services and Programs (ASAP) Department of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina hosted the event at the Wake County Commons Building in Raleigh. Winners received \$1,000 to improve and further supplement their Kids Cafe Program.

This award recognizes the Kids Cafe Program that best personifies the mission and purpose of the Kids Cafe program through effective incorporation and implementation of the core Kids Cafe components.

To win this award, the Scotland Neck Recreation Foundation consistently:

- Submits Kids Cafe monthly reports by reporting deadlines and responds promptly to request for re-submission when necessary.
- Shops at the Food Bank on a consistent basis with focus on Kids Cafe product and regular Food Bank product.
- Is an active participant in the evaluation process with adherence to original evaluation deadlines for directors, participants and parents surveys.
- Implements core Kids Cafe components to meet the available resources at the sites while looking at the needs of their children.
- Site director/president works tirelessly to support the program and the children

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The Scotland Neck Recreation Foundation located in Halifax County and a Kids Cafe partner since January 2005, operates Monday through Friday and serves 45 children. Since its partnership with the Food Bank, the program has served more than 20,000 meals and benefited from more than 4,300 hours of volunteer service to its Kids Cafe program.

The Food Bank currently has 27 Kids Cafe programs in 26 counties.

Other 2008 award recipients were:

Community Involvement – Wilmington Residential Achievement Place (WRAAP) in Wilmington

Nutrition Education – Beulaville Youth Center

Parental Involvement – Homework Haven in Raleigh

Physical Activity – Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation – Hargraves Center

The Kids Cafe program is one of the nation's largest charitable meal service programs, providing free and prepared food and nutrition education to children. The Food Bank's programs are sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

For additional information on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Kids Cafe program, contact J. Caprice Brown, Outreach, Evaluations & Programs Manager, at 919-865-3037.

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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 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

About the Kids Cafe Program

The Kids Cafe program is one of the nation's largest charitable meal service programs, providing free and prepared food and nutrition education to hungry children. It is a comprehensive approach to ending childhood hunger through after-school programs - initiated by America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network and administered locally by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina for children ages 15 and under. The Food Bank's programs are presented in collaboration with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. One of the primary strengths to the program is its flexibility. The primary reason for this approach is that poverty and hunger manifests differently in different communities thus requiring a community based approach to solving the childhood hunger dilemma.