



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 25, 2007

Media Contact:

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

WERBICKI NAMED AS ACTING PRESIDENT AND CEO OF FOOD BANK

Begins New Responsibilities on June 1st

RALEIGH – The Board of Directors of the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina** announces **Peter Werbicki**, currently Vice President of Operations for the organization, as **Acting President and CEO**. **Werbicki** will begin his **new responsibilities on June 1st**. **Jane F. Cox, current President and CEO**, will end nine years of service on May 31st.

"Peter is the perfect choice to lead the organization through this period of transition", said Food Bank **Board Chair Marilyn R. Forbes**. "Peter has been instrumental in piloting the Food Bank through unparalleled organizational growth." Werbicki joined the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina in August 1997.

As Vice President of Operations, Werbicki already **plays a key role in the development of the annual budget** which is currently 6.2 million dollars. He plans, directs, controls, and supervises **all internal operations of the organization at the five Food Bank branches**.

Werbicki is responsible for intra-branch trucking, food resources, distribution, facilities maintenance, equipment maintenance, safety, security, and also directs all internal disaster relief efforts. He directly manages the following departments: **Finance, Operations, and Food Resources**.

-more-

Werbicki has led the Food Bank through unprecedented growth particularly due to the effects and aftermath of Hurricanes Bonnie (1998), Floyd (1999), Isabel (2003), Katrina (2005) and Rita (2005).

Pounds Distributed to Hurricane Affected Areas:

Hurricane Bonnie – Nearly **300,000** pounds of food and relief supplies were delivered to emergency operation centers in central and eastern North Carolina and to our sister food bank in the east, the Food Bank of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City.

Hurricane Floyd – Fifteen of the 34 counties that are served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina were devastated by Hurricane Floyd. When all was said and done, the Food Bank distributed **more than 5.3 million** pounds of food and relief supplies to central and eastern North Carolina.

Hurricane Isabel – **More than 411,000** pounds of food and relief supplies were distributed to emergency operation centers and food pantries in Carteret and Pamlico counties.

Hurricanes Katrina and Rita – When Hurricane Katrina hit, the Food joined together with three other food banks, and set up a temporary warehouse to distribute food. In response to the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, **over 233,000 pounds** of food and relief supplies were delivered to the victims of the Gulf Coast. The Food Bank sent nine tractor trailer trucks of food.

Hurricane Floyd particularly changed the Food Bank environment by forging deep relationships with communities in the east. These new relationships, coupled with the knowledge of needs acquired during the disaster expedited the opening of **a third branch in Greenville**, North Carolina in 1999. The service area continued to grow with the **addition of a Durham branch in 1999 and Wilmington in 2002.**

-more-

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina now distributes **to 34 counties** in central and eastern North Carolina **through five branches** in Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington **with more than 31.4 million pounds** of food supplied to those in need last year.

Originally from England, he attended the College of Further Education in the United Kingdom. He lives in Raleigh with his wife and three children.

###

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 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.