



NEWS RELEASE

MEDIA ADVISORY
September 13, 2007

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MOBILE FOOD PANTRY BACK IN ACTION RIBBON-CUTTING TO BE HELD

Perkins Foundation Funds New 22-foot Refrigerated Truck

GREENVILLE - A **Mobile Food Pantry** was initiated at the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville** in 2000, with support from the **James J. and Mamie Richardson Perkins Trust**. The vehicle previously consisted of refurbished, but not refrigerated, beverage trailers with open bays that delivered fresh produce and other perishables that are difficult for traditional emergency food pantries to provide. When the vehicles were no longer operational, the Perkins Foundation provided funds for a new, refrigerated truck. The Mobile Food Pantry currently distributes an average of **2.4 million pounds of food** a year in the 11-county region served by the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville**.

WHAT:

A **short ribbon-cutting ceremony** will be held for the **new 22-foot refrigerated truck** at the beginning of a **food distribution drop for needy families**. The new truck increases the number of pallets that can be delivered in each Mobile Food Pantry load. It significantly improves the integrity of the fresh and other non-shelf-stable food with the addition of refrigeration and preserves the quality and nutrition of these products as well.

WHERE:

Brown's New Approach to Living
1710 Chestnut Street
Greenville, NC 27834

WHEN:

Friday, September 14, 1 p.m.

-more-

WHY:

When the Mobile Food Pantry Program first started, almost all the products distributed were 'dry', not needing refrigeration. As the Food Bank has been able to move to a greater volume of perishables and more nutritious, high-quality produce, including fruits, vegetables, salad mixes and even meats, the need for refrigeration became unmistakable.

The Mobile Food Pantry is an ongoing and highly visible program of **the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville**, serving seven Pitt County partner agencies and distributing an average 7,000 pounds of fresh produce and other nutritious foods at each distribution.

THE NEED:

There are 108,622 people living at or below the poverty level in the Greenville area - 26,001 in Pitt County alone - or one in every five county residents. This is the target population that the Mobile Food Pantry aims to serve. Many families who receive food through the Mobile Food Pantry cannot access emergency food from other sources due to the lack of transportation to these services. The Mobile Food Pantry, especially with the addition of reliable refrigeration, will provide a clean, safe, aesthetically pleasing, and self-contained food distribution vehicle that dispenses food directly to families and individuals in need.

[Photo Opportunity]**Mobile Food Pantry Ribbon Cutting****Attendees:**

- Larry Motteler, Greenville Branch Operations Manager
- Robert "Bob" Hudac, Rector, St. Paul's Episcopal Church and Trustee, James J. and Mamie Richardson Perkins Foundation
- Allen Reep, Vice President of Development, Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
- Paige Rainey, Donor Relations Manager, Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
- Stephen P. Murphree, VSS-Inc., Chairman, Greenville Branch Advisory Council
- Betts Crean, Diocese of East Carolina, Greenville Branch Advisory Council
- Becky Stasovich- Community Volunteer, Greenville Branch Advisory Council
- William K. Neely, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Greenville

For information on how to donate time, host a food drive or contribute financially, go to www.foodbankcenc.org for details.

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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 at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of 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 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.