



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## FOOD LION RECOGNIZED AS “FOOD DONOR OF THE YEAR”

**RALEIGH, NC** - On Wednesday, October 7, 2009, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC recognized Food Lion's extraordinary commitment to feeding those who suffer from hunger. The recognition event took place at the Food Bank's Raleigh warehouse on Tarheel Drive. Awards were presented to Food Lion's corporate office, retail center, and transportation department. Food Lion has donated more than 8.5 million pounds of nutritious meats, produce, deli food, and baked goods during the last fiscal year alone. This is equivalent to 7.1 million meals.

“Food Lion is proud to partner with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina,” said Rick LaCroix, Vice President of Mid Atlantic Market for Food Lion. “We honor the work that you do to fight hunger in our communities.”

Food Bank staff literally rolled out a detailed “list” of Food Lion contributions to hunger relief:

- **Past three year totals by category**

July 1, 2006 to June 30, 2009

- 920,000 lbs of salvage: 317,000 lbs/year on average
  - 5,600,000 lbs of produce or 1,800,000 lbs of produce/year on average
  - 688,000 pounds of canned goods or 229,000 lbs of canned goods per year on average.
  - 127,000 pounds of yogurt, milk, cheese and eggs or 42,000 lbs per year of eggs and dairy
  - 8 million pounds of meat in 3 years or 2,600,000 pounds of meat per year
  - 68,374 pounds of juice or 45,583 glasses of 100% juice every year
- **Food Safety Training**
    - Food Safety training conducted at food bank trainings by Food Lion expert staff at eight venues in our service area. Food Bank Staff invited to take part in their internal food safety training. Net result: 800 plus agencies and 25 staff received food safety training at no cost
  - **Transportation**
    - Food Lion also helps the Food Bank extend resources by providing transportation from point A to point B. Last year Food Lion hauled 100 loads of product totaling over 15,000 miles. This allowed the Food Bank to make even more deliveries directly to our partner agencies in rural parts of our 34-county service area in central and eastern North Carolina.

Mary Frances Goddard, Executive Director of the Fuquay Varina Emergency Food Pantry (a partner agency of the Food Bank), thanked Food Lion for their meat program which allows her organization to add protein to meals for the 600 families that they serve each month. “If I had to choose between buying four cans of beans or meat for our agency, I can go ahead and choose the beans because I know that I can get the meat at the Food Bank.”

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Representatives from the North Carolina State Fair announced plans for Hunger Relief Day at the NC State Fair, which is sponsored by Food Lion for the sixth year.

"We are grateful for the partnership between Food Lion, the Food Bank and the NC State Fair because the purpose of Hunger Relief Day is not only raise the awareness level about hunger but to do something about it, said Wesley Wyatt, North Carolina State Fair Manager. "For four cans of Food Lion brand canned food you can get in free, but we encourage you to bring an extra can to help your community."

With unemployment numbers continuing to grow, the word "free" really resonates with consumers these days. The poor state of the economy might make Food Lion Hunger Relief Day the most popular day at the N.C. State Fair this year.

Food Lion employees participated in a volunteer project at the Raleigh warehouse until 8 p.m., sorting salvage from their own stores and packaging sweet potatoes.

**Photos from the event can be found at:**

<http://www.mediafire.com/?sharekey=f2bfde711275da7be5c3dee5769931ec7866d339e5697dc392595bc19e6628dc>

**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 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2008-2009, the Food Bank distributed nearly 37 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 480,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families.

[www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

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