



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HUNGER RELIEF, DROUGHT RELIEF ON SAME DAY

RALEIGH – On the day thousands of fair goers came out to the **North Carolina State Fair** to support **Food Lion Hunger Relief Day**, there was temporary relief across the area from the ongoing drought as much-needed rain moved through the area. **Hunger Relief Day** benefits the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina**. The drought has damaged or killed much of the local produce therefore affecting the Food Bank’s ability to supply fresh fruit and vegetables to those at risk of hunger in their 34-county service area. Produce donations during the summer were **down about 1 million pounds** this year. On **Thursday, October 18th**, as showers traveled across the state, more than **174,000** pounds of food was donated by often rain-soaked fair attendees, coming in below the record **217,000** pounds collected last year. By contributing four cans of food, fair goers gained free admission to the fair on Food Lion Hunger Relief Day. Attendees ended up having seriously twisted fun and supporting those at risk of hunger in their communities by providing **nutrient-rich canned goods** to supplement the Food Bank’s decreased local, fresh produce supply. **The Food Bank** and the **N.C. State Fair** partnered to bring the event to Raleigh for the **15th year**. **Food Lion** sponsored Hunger Relief Day for the **fourth** year.

“We thank the generous fair goers for providing the **equivalent of about 147,000 meals**,” said Christy Simmons, Manager of Public Relations for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “Partners like the **N.C. State Fair, Food Lion** and **NCDA** understand the daily need in our communities and continue to make Hunger Relief Day an annual part of the fair.”

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The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina had close to **450 volunteers and staff** members on site throughout the day to collect the canned goods at all gates in exchange for admission tickets. The Food Bank will distribute the cans of food collected to families in need in its 34 county service area and other food banks across the state.

To be a part of daily hunger relief in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, go to www.foodbankcenc.org to locate the nearest branch in your neighborhood. The Food Bank has warehouses in Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, Southern Pines and Wilmington.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (main office)
3808 Tarheel Drive
Raleigh, NC 27609
911.875.0707

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Durham
708 Gilbert Street
Durham, NC 27701
919.956.2513

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Greenville
497 West 9th Street
Greenville, NC 27834
252-752-4996

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills
195 Sandy Avenue
Southern Pines, NC 28387
910-692-5959

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington
1314 Marstellar Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
910-251-1465

About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Eastern & Central 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 .