



NEWS RELEASE

NEW BERN FOOD BANK PLANTS COMMUNITY GARDEN AS PART OF GOVERNOR'S WEEKEND OF SERVICE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEW BERN, NC – On Saturday, September 11 volunteers planted cabbage and collard plants in eight raised beds of the new Community Garden located on the site of the recently opened Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina branch in New Bern. Volunteers continued the project today which started on Friday, September 10, as a part of the Governor's Weekend of Service. Governor Bev Perdue announced a partnership with the North Carolina Association of Food Banks and Volunteer North Carolina proclaiming September 10 through 12 as a Weekend of Service throughout the state. **All branches of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Southern Pines, and Wilmington) will be open on Sunday, September 12 from 1pm to 5pm to receive food or monetary donations.**

The Community Garden project was lead by John Tipton of Tipton Builders in Greenville. Tipton is a member of the Food Bank's Greenville/New Bern Regional Council. Volunteers broke ground for the Community Garden on Friday. The volunteers delivered topsoil, cut lumber into sections for eight (8) raised boxes, measured off and staked out raised beds, and began construction of the boxes.

The project has received great support from the community and the City of New Bern. Building materials were donated by John Evans of Garris Evans Lumber Company in New Bern. The city of New Bern donated topsoil for the project through the efforts of Aldermen Johnnie Ray Kinsey and Sabrina Bengel. R Garden Supply donated the collard and cabbage plants for ½ retail cost. Others who contributed to the planning of this project are: Mark Seitz, Area Specialized Agent, Craven County Office of the NC Cooperative Extension and Master Gardeners Mike Price, Dewitt Sheffield and John Krofchick. Seitz, Price, DeWitt and Krofchick also assisted by participating in the groundbreaking and construction of the garden.

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Other volunteers on this project were:

Will Litchfield – Food Bank Greenville/New Bern Council member

Mike Milteer – student & regular volunteer in New Bern

Rick Tollman – regular volunteer in New Bern

Mighty Tau Kids Cafe - Sandra Ruger, Executive Director of the program, Kadaja Dudley, Keira Howard and Kristoria Williams.

To support the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina during the Weekend of Service and throughout the year:

DONATE MONEY (cash, check, online)

NEW! Text a Donation* using your cell phone! Provide 40 meals to those in need - make a \$10.00 donation by texting 40MEALS to 50555.

DONATE FOOD (food drives)

DONATE TIME (volunteer)

The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina opened the New Bern warehouse – the sixth in its 34 county region – in July 2010. The New Bern branch will strengthen services and offer more accessibility of food and other product to nearly 60 partner agencies such as food pantries, rescue missions, and soup kitchens in Craven, Carteret, Onslow, Pamlico, and Jones Counties.

For more information about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, go to www.foodbankcenc.org.

About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for 30 years. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2009-2010, the Food Bank distributed more than 41.5 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 500,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. www.foodbankcenc.org.

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