

**Food Bank of Central & Eastern
North Carolina**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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PRESS RELEASE

Food Bank Responds to Bonnie, Prepares for Hurricane Charley

Raleigh- The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is quickly responding to the affects of tropical storm Bonnie, which caused significant damage in Harnett and Pender County yesterday. With forecast predications for Hurricane Charley to hit central and eastern North Carolina tomorrow, the Food Bank is well prepared for what may come.

At the Food Bank's Wilmington Branch they are currently working in Pender County where emergency where approximately 25 homes were damaged and destroyed by tornados. Today, the Wilmington Branch is shipping snack, drinks and fruits a shelter in Pender County set up by the Department of Social Services in response to a request for any products not needing cooking. In Raleigh, they are sending a truck load to the Wilmington Branch to replenish these items so they are well stocked and well prepared.

"We are pursuing the Emergency Operation Center and our member agencies in Harnett County where further tornado damage has been reported and emergency shelters are being set up," said Peter Werbicki, operations manager of the Food Bank. "We are also contacting our branches and agencies to see if they need any assistance either with the aftermath of tropical storm Bonnie, or preparation for Hurricane Charley."

While the Food Bank is ready to respond to tomorrow's storm, they are still in great need of staple goods such as canned meats, canned vegetables, canned fruits, rice and cereal.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a private, not-for-profit organization, which serves more than 868 partner agencies throughout 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. Out of every dollar donated to the Food Bank, 96 cents is used to support its programs. One of six America's Second Harvest member food banks in North Carolina, the Food Bank solicits, collects, stores, and distributes food to nonprofit agencies assisting people at risk from hunger and has branches in Wilmington, Raleigh, Durham, Greenville, and the Sandhills. The Food Bank distributed more than 26.4 million pounds of food to those in need in fiscal year 2003-04.

For more information on the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, please contact:
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* Effective July 1, we changed our name to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina to better depict the 34 counties which we serve and to distinguish us from the other five food banks in North Carolina.

Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
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"Fighting hunger in 34 counties."
www.foodbanknc.org