



NEWS RELEASE

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Students Against Hunger Deliver

Two Sandhills Schools Place High in Competition

Raleigh- With **30 percent of the children** living in the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina's 34-county service area living at risk of hunger, it is poignant when their peers join the fight to alleviate their plight. **One hundred schools** participated in the **2006 Students Against Hunger** food drive that runs in conjunction with the overall Heart of Carolina Food Drive held from mid-November through December. In the Sandhills area, **two schools** placed high in this year's **Students Against Hunger** food drive and contributed to the **35,900 pounds** of food and **\$44,600** collected during the campaign. **Academy Heights Elementary School in Pinehurst** won the **top honor** in the Elementary Schools category bringing in 1242 pounds of food and Sandhills Classical Christian School collected 1076 pounds, coming in at **third place** in the Multi-Grade Schools category. The **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills** is located at **195 Sandy Avenue in Southern Pines**.

Students Against Hunger is an annual event that gives **elementary, middle and high school students** the opportunity to participate in the Heart of Carolina Food Drive, a regional food drive that benefits the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. Donations collected during this campaign help provide food to families at risk of hunger during the **holiday season and the first weeks of winter**.

The overall "**2006 Leaders in the Fight Against Hunger**" award goes to **Sanderson High School in Raleigh** for raising over 6,000 pounds of food and more than \$30,000.

The food and funds collected will help the more than 400,000 at risk of hunger in the Food Bank's service area - **30 percent are children, 18 percent are elderly and 38 percent are working adults** who are living at or below the poverty level. For these people it is often a choice of **paying their electric bill** or buying food; **paying the rent or mortgage** and buying food; or **paying for medication** and buying food.

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“These schools really take this challenge and the mission of the Food Bank to ‘heart’,” said Nancy Novell, Special Events and Food Drive Coordinator for the Food Bank. “The effort put forth by all participating schools each year is amazing. ”

While encouraging students to bring in non-perishable goods, such as canned meats and vegetables, the schools also center activities on hunger and poverty, such as inviting speakers to their schools or taking tours of the Food Bank. Some schools have even incorporated the annual food drive into their core education curriculum.

Schools placing first in other categories are:

Elementary:

First Place
A.B. Combs Leadership Magnet Elementary, Raleigh

Middle:

First Place
Ravenscroft Middle School, Raleigh

High:

First Place
Sanderson High School, Raleigh

The food and funds collected during the **Students Against Hunger** food drive are equivalent to approximately 215,000 meals.

There are four counties represented in the Sandhills Branch’s service area: **Lee, Moore, Richmond and Scotland Counties**. Lee County is shared with the Food Bank’s Raleigh Branch.

In the service area for the **Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills**, the total population is 206,371 with 31,122 individuals living at or below the poverty level. There are 4,123 individuals 65 years and older living at or below the poverty level; 15,318 individuals age 18 to 64 years living at or below the poverty level; and 11,715 children living at or below the poverty level.

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 for more information or call your local branch at (910) 692-5959.

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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 who are hungry in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 890 partner agencies offering soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2005-2006, the Food Bank distributed more than 31.4 million pounds of food and non-food essentials to 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