



NEWS RELEASE

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Students Against Hunger Deliver

Winning School Holds On to Top Spot

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 Triangle, several 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. The **"2006 Leaders in the Fight Against Hunger"** overall winner goes to **Sanderson High School** for raising more than 6,000 pounds of food and \$30,000. Sanderson has held the top honor for several years.

In the Triangle, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina's **main office** is located at **3808 Tarheel Drive in Raleigh**. In Durham, **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Durham** is located at **708 Gilbert Street** and had ten schools from its service area to participate in **Students Against Hunger**. Other Food Bank branches are in Greenville, Sandhills and Wilmington.

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 food raised 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 live at or below the poverty level. For these individuals, it is often a choice between paying their electric bill or buying food; paying the rent or mortgage or buying food; or paying for medication or 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 around 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.

Winning schools from the Triangle are:

Elementary:

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

Third Place
Yates Mill Elementary, Raleigh

Middle:

First Place
Ravenscroft Middle School, Raleigh

Second Place
Reedy Creek Middle School, Cary

Third Place
Davis Drive Middle School, Cary

Fourth Place
Lufkin Road Middle School, Apex

High:

First Place
Sanderson High School, Raleigh

Second Place
Leesville Road High School, Raleigh

Third Place
Cary High School, Cary

Fourth Place
Millbrook High School, Raleigh

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Multi-Grade Schools:

Second Place
Trilogy School, Raleigh

Fourth Place
Governor Morehead School for the Blind, Raleigh

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

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 a branch in your community or call (919) 875-0707

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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