

## Letter: Volunteers keep food bank fed

Friday, April 9, 2010

The week of April 18-24 is National Volunteer Week in the United States. The theme for this year's commemoration is "Celebrating People in Action."

At the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina we know all too well that the action of the people (our volunteers) enables us to assist more than 540,000 persons in the 34 counties of our service area, for whom food insecurity is a daily reality.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our organization. During our last fiscal year, volunteers at our branches in Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, Southern Pines and Wilmington contributed more than 127,000 hours, the equivalent of 61 full-time employees, enabling the distribution of 36.8 million pounds of food to more than 800 partner agencies.

Volunteerism enriches us all. I would like to salute the thousands of volunteers in our communities who are touching lives and being touched in return. Whether it's at the Food Bank, a soup kitchen, in our hospitals, our schools, ringing the bells on the sidewalks during the holidays or the countless other volunteer offerings, thank you for giving the gift of yourself. How very fortunate we are to live in communities that are blessed by the gifts of volunteers: "People in Action." We celebrate you!

PETER WERBICKI

President/CEO

Food Bank of CENC

Raleigh

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