



# NEWS RELEASE

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **Food Bank Focuses on Seniors during Difficult Economic Times** ***Cisco Grant Makes Food & Nutrition Services Outreach Possible***

**SOUTHERN PINES** – On **Tuesday, February 10th**, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina will launch the **Food and Nutrition Services Program Outreach Project in Moore County**. This program was formerly known as the Food Stamp Program. Funded by the Cisco Foundation, this project allows the Food Bank to team up with the local Department of Social Services and allows two select agencies in Moore County, **Moore Coalition for Human Care** and **Page United Methodist Church**, to connect the senior citizens who rely on emergency assistance programs for food to the Food and Nutrition Services Program.

Recognizing the importance of ensuring seniors in our communities have access to the most essential food resources, **The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills** will host a press launch to build awareness around the project from **10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. at Moore Coalition for Human Care, Voit Gilmore Client Services Building, 1500 West Indiana Avenue in Southern Pines.**

Through partnership and support from Moore County's Department of Social Services, **the two selected agencies** will be able to increase access to the Food and Nutrition Services Program through:

- educating seniors about the benefits of FNS Program participation;
- promoting facts about the FNS Program;
- providing a basic understanding of eligibility requirements; and
- explaining the process of applying for benefits;

Representatives from Moore Coalition, Page United Methodist Church, DSS and the Food Bank will be present and make brief comments. County and civic leaders have been invited to attend.

Partner agencies from Pitt and New Hanover Counties have also been selected to participate in the Food and Nutrition Services Program Outreach Project

Press launches are scheduled in Pitt and New Hanover counties later this week.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills is located on 195 Sandy Avenue in Southern Pines. The Sandhills branch distributes food to partner agencies (rescue missions, soup kitchens, food pantries, after school programs, elderly nutrition programs) in Lee, Moore, Richmond and Scotland counties.

Go to [sandhills.foodbank.cenc.org](http://sandhills.foodbank.cenc.org) for more information on how fight hunger in your neighborhood.

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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 at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of nearly 900 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2007-2008, the Food Bank distributed nearly 32 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 450,000 individuals struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

**About Feeding America (Formerly America's Second Harvest – The Nation's Food Bank Network)**

Feeding America provides individuals and families facing hunger with the fuel to survive and even thrive. As the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity, our network members supply food to more than 25 million Americans each year, including 9 million children and 3 million seniors. Serving the entire United States, more than 200 member food banks operate 63,000 agencies that address hunger through emergency food assistance programs. For more information on how you can fight hunger in your community and across the country, visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.org).

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