



NEWS RELEASE

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Receives \$50,000 Grant from the Walmart Foundation *Funds to Support SNAP Education and Outreach*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 25, 2017

RALEIGH, NC – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (the Food Bank) today announced a \$51,700 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help fight hunger in central and eastern North Carolina through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) education and outreach. SNAP is the largest federal assistance program working to fight hunger in America. More than 70% of SNAP benefits go to households with children. Yet, 17 percent of Americans eligible for SNAP currently do not receive this benefit. Only 41 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled.

With this grant, the Food Bank will work to scale access to SNAP among eligible households, with particular emphasis on reaching seniors, families with children, and other vulnerable populations. Last year, working with more than 800 community-based partner agencies, the Food Bank supplied more than 54 million meals to food insecure families, children and seniors, but the need continues to grow.

To continue to address these needs, the Walmart Foundation grant will support the Food Bank's Three Squares for CENC benefits outreach program. This program connects underserved populations (seniors, working poor families, veterans, the newly unemployed) with the help for which they are eligible from North Carolina's Food and Nutrition Assistance (FNS) Program.

"No one should worry about where they will find their next meal. Every day, the Food Bank helps to provide food to the 1 in 5 people who struggle with hunger in central and eastern North Carolina. But we can't end hunger alone. Programs like SNAP help to fill a critical gap for people in need," said Gideon Adams, the Food Bank's Vice President for Community Health & Engagement.

SNAP provides more than nutrition assistance; it helps improve families' overall well-being. With lower grocery bills, people are better able to pay for other basic necessities—rent or mortgages, medical expenses, utilities and transportation. According to the USDA's Economic Research Service Report, SNAP is critical to moving families into long-term food security.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Locally, the Walmart Foundation has supported a retail donation trailer to increase the efficiency of food distribution, the Three Squares for CENC program, refrigerators and freezers for partner agencies, and disaster relief efforts.

For more information about what the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is doing to fight hunger, visit foodbankcenc.org

###

Media Contacts:

Jessica Slider Whichard
Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina
o. 919-865-3050
jwhichard@foodbankcenc.org

About the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is a nonprofit organization that has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for more than 30 years. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 800 partner agencies such as soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults through warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines), and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2015-2016, the Food Bank distributed more than 64.4 million pounds of food (60% of which was perishable) and non-food essentials through these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 600,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. foodbankcenc.org.

Stay connected with what we're doing in your community!



###