



## NEWS RELEASE

### HUNGER HEROES

*Veterans at Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC Continue to Serve*

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 7, 2013

**Raleigh, NC-** The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina partners with 800 rescue missions, food pantries, soup kitchens, after school programs, and senior nutrition programs throughout its 34-county service area. To the children and their families served by these agencies, the Food Bank and its partner agencies are often seen as heroes – providing food during difficult economic times and rescuing individuals from having to make decisions like whether to purchase food or medicine. Another group of heroes who are part of the Food Bank family are the many veterans on staff in its six branches. The veterans on staff at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina continue to serve the community by being a part of a team that fights hunger daily.

**JAMES MCALLISTER**, Operations Supervisor at the Food Bank’s Durham branch, served more than a decade in the United States Army from 1983 to 1994. McAllister was stationed at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Sill in Oklahoma, and Fort Hood in Texas. He served overseas in Germany and Korea. McAllister served with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne during Operation Desert Storm.

“I took Air Force ROTC in High School and my intentions were to go to college and get into the ROTC program and go in as an officer, but it didn’t work out that way. So after graduating High School, I enlisted in the Army.” McAllister’s work at the Food Bank is his way of giving back because “There was someone there for me when I needed help.”

**JIM RASMUSSEN**, TEFAP Lead, is a well-known face at the Food Bank’s Raleigh branch.

“I spent a little over 20 years in the Marine Corps, retiring in 1989,” said Rasmussen. “I had 10 years of enlisted service rising to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) and 10 years as an officer going through the Warrant Officer ranks and retiring at the rank of Captain. I had various duty stations around the world and would do it all over again in a heartbeat.”

**JERRY TURNER**, Dispatch Supervisor at the Raleigh branch, served with 1<sup>st</sup> Marine Air Wing Division of the U. S. Marines from 1967-1970. Turner’s tours took him to Camp Pendleton, California; DaNang, Vietnam; Iwakuni, Japan and Henderson Hall, Washington, D.C.

“I actually started working at the Food Bank because my brother was working here, he retired and I took his place,” said Turner. “It was the best thing I ever did as far as working! I love the Food Bank and what it does.”

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**ANTHONY BROOKS**, Warehouse Coordinator at the Raleigh branch, joined the U.S Army October 3, 1977 and served until April 4, 2004. Brooks was stationed in Germany for three years, Fort Bragg, NC for four years, and Italy for two years. Once leaving active duty, Brooks joined the U.S. Army Reserve Unit in Rocky Mount, NC. Brooks realized a long term goal by retiring with 27 years of service to his country.

“When I came across the job at the Food Bank, it was the same as my military duties in supply and warehousing,” said Brooks. “My military job was petroleum supply and storage. At the Food Bank, we supply food to the people in the community we serve. My nine years at the Food Bank has been the most rewarding in my life by helping people.”

**WILLIAM “CRAIG” CAMPBELL**, Special Programs Administrator & Warehouse Assistant at the Raleigh Branch, joined the U.S. Army on May 1989 where he underwent basic training and advanced individual training for eight weeks at Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri. He joined the military because his father was a veteran. Campbell’s military experiences have taken him to South Korea; Ft. Carson, Co. and back to Ft. Leonardwood.

“Since, I have been working at the Food Bank,” states Campbell, “ I have made new friends and I have enjoyed giving back to the community so that we can work to end hunger forever.”

**PERCY HOCKADAY**, Shipping and Receiving Assistant at the Raleigh branch, joined the U.S. Army in 1969. Hockaday’s military travels took him to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina; Ft. Dix, New Jersey; Boelinger, Germany; Ft. Gordon, Georgia; Ft. Benning, Georgia; Ft. McClellan, Alabama; Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and Ft. Hamilton, New York. Hockaday served until 1992 after more than 20 years.

**DAVID FELIGNO** joined the Food Bank staff early in 2012 as Facilities Maintenance Specialist. Feligno served in the Navy aboard the USS John F. Kennedy off the coast of Vietnam during the early 1970’s. The similarity between serving in the military and serving his community through working at the Food Bank boils down to one word for Feligno, “Camaraderie!”

**SAMUEL LEVINSON** is a third generation combat veteran. He joined the Army in December 2003. After training to become an Automated Logistics Specialist and was stationed at Fort Bragg, NC with the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division. While stationed there he completed more than 25 jumps, was part of the relief effort after Hurricane Katrina, received an Army Commendation Medal for being a part of the team that won the Army Supply Excellence Award for the Best Large Category Supply Activity in the United States Army, and conducted 15 months of combat operations in Afghanistan. Currently he is the Operations Supervisor of the Sandhills Branch in Southern Pines.

“I’m excited to be a part of the Food Bank team in Sandhills,” said Levinson. “I look forward to using my military skills to continue to serve the community in this role.”

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**DANIEL SMITH** joined the Food Bank staff as a Driver for the Sandhills Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC. Smith joined the U.S. Navy at the age of 17 because he felt a sense of duty to serve the country. Smith was stationed in San Diego from 1973 to 1975 and worked on a cargo ship. He helped transfer soldiers and freight. Being in a position to help other people was what drew him to the Food Bank. He feels that he is on a mission assigned to him from a higher authority to help feed Gods' people.

“My greatest accomplishment at the Food Bank is the service to the community and seeing the look on people’s face when the truck pulls into an agency,” said Smith. “It is a good feeling.”

Other Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina veterans who continue to serve the community are:

**Raleigh Branch**

Michael Raper, U.S. Coast Guard  
Rodney Johannsen, U.S. Marines

For more information about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC, go to [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

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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 has provided food for people at risk of hunger in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina for 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 2012-2013, the Food Bank distributed nearly 52 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 560,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

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