



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **In Tough Times, Community Still Helps Food Bank Provide Basic Need in Record Numbers**

**Raleigh, NC (April 2, 2012)** – In the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina more than 545,000 individuals struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. Nearly 50% of those at risk of hunger in the 34 counties are children and seniors. As the economy continues to fluctuate and unemployment in North Carolina hovers above the national average, The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is able to be a consistent source of food to those who need it most. These meals are made possible through the generosity of a community that provides a basic need throughout the year and has recently helped the Food Bank break some notable records.

Supporters throughout the Food Bank's 34-county service area displayed extraordinary commitment to the Food Bank during February. The Food Bank distributed more than 4.1 million pounds of food in February. This is the first time ever that the organization distributed over 4 million pounds in one month.

Also in February, the Food Bank's Wilmington and Durham branches had the highest number of pounds they have ever distributed in one month:

Durham	625,390 pounds
Wilmington	519,465 pounds

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina continues to be one of the most efficient non-profits in the Feeding America network. According to Feeding America, the nation's food bank network, for every dollar donated to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, the Food Bank can now provide on average 5 meals or ten

dollars (\$10) worth of food. This is an increase from being able to provide 4 meals and 8 dollars (\$8) in the past.

“We are humbled by the continued support of the communities in our 34-county service area,” said Peter Werbicki, President and CEO, Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “The record food donations are critical to the support that is still needed every day for many families. We are proud that we are also able to justify that the dollars that will be so generously given now help us provide even more for children and families.”

The Food Bank will gradually roll out the new efficiency statistic over the next few months as web site and marketing updates take place throughout the organization.

### **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 2010-2011, the Food Bank distributed more than 42 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 500,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org). Twitter: @FoodBankCENC

For more information on The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, contact:

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Page 2 of 2

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