



NEWS RELEASE

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FOOD BANK CONTINUES DISASTER ASSESSMENT AND RELIEF *Distributes more than 73,000 pounds this week*

RALEIGH – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has a long history of responding to natural disasters. For 15 years, the Food Bank has responded to disasters around the state and in other parts of the country. The recent tornadoes on Saturday, April 16 have once again placed the organization in the dual role of continuing its day to day hunger relief operations to 34 counties and assisting agencies affected by the natural disaster. The Food Bank was open for volunteer opportunities and food donations at its Raleigh warehouse on Friday, April 22 and will be open on Saturday, April 23 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

In the past few days, great community support and donations from other areas of the country have allowed the Food Bank to provide the following for hard-hit agencies in Wake, Johnston, Lee, Harnett, Greene and Onslow counties:

- 39 pallets of snacks, water, produce and frozen meat to Wake County agencies and American Red Cross facility in Johnston County– totaling more than 26,500 pounds
- 20 pallets of produce, orange juice, water and canned goods to Lee County agencies – totaling 16,519 pounds
- 10 pallets of produce, orange juice, water, dairy and bread from Greenville Branch to Greene County agencies – totaling 9,962 pounds
- 10 pallets of produce, water and snacks to an agency in Harnett County – totaling 11,000 pounds
- Two deliveries from Greenville Branch to agencies in Onslow County – totaling 9,240 pounds
- The American Red Cross in Greenville is storing 22 pallets of product in the Food Bank's Greenville warehouse.

The Food Bank has distributed more than 73,000 pounds of food to the relief effort this week.

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Disaster Relief_Tornado

Community support from around the Food Bank's service area has poured in all week and continues into the weekend from individuals, groups and companies. A few of the donations that have made the immediate relief efforts possible and others expected early next week are:

- G105's Bob and the Showgram were the first to donate to the relief effort delivering seven pallets of water, food and other items on the morning of April 18. [image attached]
- Empire Distributers donated 400 cases water.
- Manna Food Bank in Asheville, NC donated dry product such as granola bars, Slim Jims, crackers, Gatorade, and fresh produce fresh tomatoes and squash.
- Kellogs in Cary, NC donated four pallets of snack product.
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida donated emergency food boxes, personal hygiene items and other dry product.
- Feeding America, the national network of food banks, will send a truck of Meals Ready to Eat (MREs) on Monday, April 25, 2011 from FEMA to help with Disaster Relief.
- Lipsey Logistic, a commercial trucking partner, will send three truckloads of water early next week.
- Central Pennsylvania Food Bank Harrisburg, PA will send a truckload of dry grocery product next week.
- Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina in Charlotte, NC will send a truckload of paper products and personal hygiene items next week.

The Food Bank's history providing of support during natural disasters include:

- In 1996 the Food Bank distributed a little more than 1 million pounds of food to disaster relief as a result of Hurricane Fran. The organization had about 15 employees at that time.
- In 1998, the Food Bank distributed nearly 300,000 pounds of food and relief supplies to emergency operation centers to our sister food bank in the east, the Food Bank of the Albemarle in the aftermath of Hurricane Bonnie.
- In 1999 the Food Bank distributed more than 5 million pounds in disaster relief to partner agencies and other agencies due to Hurricane Floyd.
- In 2005, in response to the devastation of Hurricane Katrina, the Food Bank distributed 233,358 pounds of food and relief supplies to assist the victims and sent nine tractor trailer trucks of food.

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Disaster Relief_Tornado

The Food Bank expects to see the need for emergency food to increase over the coming weeks as displaced families seek precious resources and disaster relief transitions to recovery. Food donations will help provide emergency and increased assistance to Food Bank partner agencies.

Food donations will be accepted at Food Bank warehouses in Durham, Raleigh, New Bern, Greenville, Southern Pines and Wilmington throughout the recovery period. Donate immediately by going to www.foodbankcenc.org or text "40meals" to 50555.

Most Needed Items List [image attached]:

- Pop-top, high-protein canned foods like soups, ravioli, spaghetti
- Single serving snacks
- Hygiene Products (hand sanitizer, toiletries, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, soap)
- Diapers
- Cleaning supplies (wipes preferred)
- Peanut butter
- Paper goods and products (paper towels, paper plates/cups/napkins, plastic utensils)
- Other single serving meals that do not require refrigeration or cooking/meals ready to eat

To be a part of hunger and disaster relief in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, take food donations to any Food Bank warehouse listed below or to read more about how you can be a part of the relief effort in the event of a natural disaster, go to www.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 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 2009-2010, the Food Bank distributed more than 41.5 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.

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