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NEWS RELEASE

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LETTER CARRIERS PERFORMED DOUBLE DUTY DURING STAMP OUT HUNGER

SOUTHERN PINES - On Saturday May 14, Letter Carriers in the Sandhills, and across the country, performed double duty on their routes – delivered the mail and collected food items during the **19th Annual STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE**. In the Food Bank's 34-county service area, more than 277,648 pounds (233,809 meals) were collected. Sandhills Letter Carriers collected more than 39,553 of the 277,648 pounds. Food donations will benefit the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills located on 195 Sandy Avenue in Southern Pines and other agencies in the area.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has more than 545,000 individuals in their 34-county service area who struggle to put and keep meals on the table. In the four counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills, 36,402 individuals are at risk of hunger with about 50% being children and seniors.

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive comes at a critical time when holiday donations are long gone. The Food Bank is preparing for the increase partners, such as food pantries, see when thousands of children who are on the free and reduced-cost meal program will no longer have access to the school cafeteria during summer break. The Food Bank is also currently providing relief to areas affected by the April tornadoes.

In 2010, more than 300,000 pounds of non-perishable food items were collected along postal routes in the Food Bank's 34 counties. Letter Carriers in the Sandhills collected more than 15,000 pounds of the 300,000.

Go to www.foodbankcenc.org for more information.

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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 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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