



# NEWS RELEASE

May 28, 2014

## ***Director of Backpack Pals Program Retires Food Bank to Continue Serving Moore County Children***

**SOUTHERN PINES** – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills announced the retirement of Linda Hubbard, Director of the Backpack Pals Program. Hubbard began the program in 2005 with a vision to address the needs of children who often didn't have enough to eat over the weekend.

Through Hubbard's leadership, the Backpack Pals Program grew from one school serving 25 students to now supplying more than 1,100 children in all 24 Moore County schools. Much of the growth can be attributed to Linda's unparalleled ability to form new and lasting community relationships which generated financial and volunteer support. She helped build a network of partners that includes churches, businesses, schools, and individuals that continues to expand even now.

In July 2011, Moore County Schools transitioned administration and operation of the Backpack Pals Program to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills. The Food Bank and Backpack Pals have been partners in the Moore County Schools program since 2006, working hand-in-hand– first serving to supplement food donations, store supplies, and host volunteers on backpack packing day. As a leader against hunger in the Sandhills region for more than 30 years, it was vitally important to put the full weight of the Food Bank's resources behind this program that connects so many children to nutritional food when they're not in school.

Linda Hubbard joined the Food Bank to ensure a smooth transition of the Backpack Pals program. She also maintained her enthusiasm and phenomenal efforts in fundraising, volunteer recruitment and ultimately carrying out the Food Bank's mission to ensure no one goes hungry in central and eastern North Carolina. Linda is looking forward to more time golfing, vacationing, and spending quality time with family and friends.

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The Food Bank places a high value on not only this program, but all those who support this program with their donations of funds, food, and time. And with more than 4,500 children living in poverty in Moore County, the Food Bank is committed to continuing the good work Linda Hubbard started.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Sandhills, located at 195 Sandy Avenue in Southern Pines, serves Lee, Moore, Richmond and Scotland Counties where 32,784 individuals are at risk for hunger, including 11,517 children.

Based in Raleigh, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina serves 34 counties in the central and eastern through six warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Southern Pines, and Wilmington. The Food Bank is a Charity Navigator Four Star Charity.

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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 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 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). Twitter: @FoodBankCENC

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