



# NEWS RELEASE

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## *Sisters of Mercy Foundation of North Carolina Awards \$50,000 to Food Bank*

**RALEIGH** – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina was awarded a \$50,000 gift by the Sisters of Mercy Foundation of North Carolina, Inc. This award will allow the Food Bank to transport much needed nutritious food to people at risk for hunger in the 34-county service area. The Food Bank provides emergency food to an estimated 545,000 individuals through branches in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Sandhills (Southern Pines) and Wilmington. The Sisters of Mercy Foundation of North Carolina has donated over \$250,000 to the Food Bank since 2003.

“The grant comes at a time when the cost of transporting food is very high,” said Peter Werbicki, President and CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “We are grateful for the continued support and generosity from the Sisters of Mercy Foundation.”

Since announcing the beginning of its grant program in October 1996, the Sisters of Mercy of North Carolina Foundation has awarded 1,178 grants on behalf of the Sisters of Mercy of the Americas South Central Community, totaling more than \$52,600,000 to organizations focusing on unserved or underserved populations.

### **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 42.75 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).

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