



NEWS RELEASE

October 1, 2012

Food Bank CENC Offers Food Stamp Challenge *Participants to live on \$4.15 a day food budget*

RALEIGH, NC –The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is challenging the community to live on a food budget of just \$4.15 per person, per day. Beginning on Monday, October 1, Food Bank staff, board members, and other supporters taking the challenge will experience what life is like for thousands of low-income individuals and families living on the average daily FNS (Food Stamp) benefit for the state of North Carolina.

The Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), formerly known as the Food Stamp Program and currently referred to as Food & Nutritional Services (FNS) in North Carolina, feeds millions of hungry families in America every month. But with the rising cost of food and the economy struggling, these benefits are sometimes a family's only access to food. The Food Bank hopes that this activity will educate more people on the increasing importance of SNAP/FNS benefits, energizing them to take long-term action.

The purpose of the challenge is to enhance and assist our continued efforts to sign eligible recipients and their families up for FNS benefits. The Food Bank provides this service through the “Three Squares for CENC” program, in which dedicated Outreach Coordinators provide assistance with FNS applications in Wake, Edgecombe, Moore, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, and Pitt Counties. Having more families and individuals participate in the FNS program reduces the reliance on the Food Bank and its Partner Agencies and allows resources to be used for other needs and promotes dignity.

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The challenge ends Friday, October 5. Participants are being asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of the challenge to further document their experience.

For more information about the FNS (Food Stamp) Challenge visit www.foodbankcenc.org/FNSChallenge.

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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 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 2011-2012, the Food Bank distributed nearly 45 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.

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