



NEWS RELEASE

HUNGER HEROES

Vets at Food Bank Continue to Serve

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 10, 2011

Raleigh, NC- The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina partners with nearly 800 rescue missions, food pantries, soup kitchens, after school programs, and senior nutrition programs throughout its 34-county service area. To the children and their families served by these agencies, the Food Bank and its partner agencies are often seen as heroes – providing food during difficult economic times and rescuing individuals from having to make decisions like whether to purchase food or medicine. Another group of heroes who are part of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina family are the many veterans on staff in its six warehouses. Veteran’s Day is a celebration to honor America's veterans for their patriotism, love of country, and willingness to serve and sacrifice for the common good. The veterans on staff at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina continue to serve the community by being a part of a team that fights hunger daily.

JAMES MCALLISTER, Shipping & Product Coordinator at the Food Bank’s Gilbert Street warehouse in Durham, served more than a decade in the United States Army from 1983 to 1994. McAllister was stationed at Fort Jackson in South Carolina, Fort Gordon in Georgia, Fort Bragg in North Carolina, Fort Sill in Oklahoma, and Fort Hood in Texas. He served overseas in Germany and Korea. McAllister served with the 82nd Airborne during Operation Desert Storm.

“I took Air Force ROTC in High School and my intentions were to go to college and get into the ROTC program and go in as an officer, but it didn’t work out that way. So after graduating High School, I enlisted in the Army.” McAllister’s work at the Food Bank is his way of giving back because “There was someone there for me when I needed help.”

ANTHONY REYEROS, Durham Branch Operations Coordinator, served in the U.S. Air Force for five years as a Transportation Officer. He was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) in San Antonio Texas, Pope AFB in Fayetteville NC, Incirlik Turkey Air Base, Al Jaber Kuwait Air Base.

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“I come from a Military family, so since I was little I wanted to be a soldier,” states Reyerros. “I came to the Food Bank like many other people looking for work,” says Reyerros. “I immediately realized that the Food Bank played a huge role in our community. I really enjoy being a part of that.”

Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) **CALVIN MCCOMMONS** is a twenty-seven year Army veteran. Growing up poor, he decided to enlist in the Army in 1980 in order to receive the GI Bill to help him pay for college. Calvin began his career as a cartographer serving in the 29th Engineer Battalion located Fort Shafer, Hawaii. In 1983, he was fortunate enough to receive an appointment to the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York and graduated in 1987 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil Engineering Studies. Calvin is a world traveler has served in some of the greatest places in the world like Germany, Korea, Japan, and Egypt.

McCommons is a combat veteran of the Persian Gulf War, Operation Southern Watch, Operation Desert Fox, Operation Enduring Freedom, and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

McCommons believes that there are great similarities between the military and the Food Bank – one of which is that both are serving their communities and are vital for both our country’s success as well as our local success.

JERRY TURNER, Dispatch Supervisor at the Food Bank’s main warehouse in Raleigh served with 1st Marine Air Wing Division of the U. S. Marines from 1967-1970. Turner’s tours took him to Camp Pendleton, California; DaNang, Vietnam; Iwakuni, Japan and Henderson Hall, Washington, D.C.

“I actually started working at the Food Bank because my brother was working here, he retired and I took his place,” said Turner. “It was the best thing I ever did as far as working! I love the Food Bank and what it does.”

ANTHONY BROOKS, Warehouse Coordinator at the Raleigh warehouse, joined the U.S Army October 3,1977 and served until April 4, 2004. Brooks was stationed in Germany for three years, Fort Bragg, NC for four years, and Italy for two years. Once leaving active duty, Brooks joined the U.S. Army Reserve Unit in Rocky Mount, NC. Brooks realized a long term goal by retiring with 27 years of service to his country.

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“When I came across the job at the Food Bank, it was the same as my military duties in supply and warehousing,” said Brooks. “My military job was petroleum supply and storage. At the Food Bank, we supply food to the people in the community we serve. My nine years at the Food Bank has been the most rewarding in my life by helping people.”

WILLIAM “CRAIG” CAMPBELL, Special Programs Administrator & Warehouse Assistant, at the main warehouse in Raleigh, joined the U.S. Army on May 1989 where he underwent basic training and advanced individual training for eight weeks at Ft. Leonardwood, Missouri. He joined the military because his father was a veteran. Campbell’s military experiences have taken him to South Korea; Ft. Carson, Co. and back to Ft. Leonardwood.

Campbell has worked at the Food Bank for ten years.

“Since, I have been working at the Food Bank,” states Campbell, “ I have made new friends and I have enjoyed giving back to the community so that we can work to end hunger forever.”

MARTIN BREWINGTON, Lead Warehouse Coordinator at the Food Bank’s Raleigh Warehouse, served in the U.S. Navy from 1969 to 1975.

“I’ve traveled to many, many countries,” said Brewington. “ my most memorable moment was traveling to the North Pole.”

Brewington came to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina in 1999 because he heard so many good things about the organization.

“And believe me, everything that was told to me was true and then some!” exclaims Brewington.

PERCY HOCKADAY, Shipping and Receiving Assistant at the Raleigh warehouse joined the U.S. Army in 1969. Hockaday’s military travels took him to Ft. Jackson, South Carolina; Ft. Dix, New Jersey; Boelinger, Germany; Ft. Gordon, Georgia; Ft. Benning, Georgia; Ft. McClellan, Alabama; Ft. Bragg, North Carolina and Ft. Hamilton, New York. Hockaday served until 1992 after more than 20 years.

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JEFF JOHNSON, Branch Operations Supervisor at the Food Bank’s warehouse in Southern Pines, served from 1980 to 1985 in United States Air Force (USAF). He was stationed at Lackland Air Force Base (AFB) , Travis AFB, Hickam AFB and Dobbins AFB.

“I joined the military because my parents thought it would be something I would be proud of,” said Johnson. “Guess what? They were right.”

Johnson was employed in Sanford before becoming a member of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina staff.

“I thought I could make a difference and I am so happy I have become a part of a fantastic organization with incredible people. I find myself getting tearful at the stories you hear of those we help. God has a calling for all of us and I believe I have found mine.”

He notes that one of similarities between the USAF and the Food Bank is that both turn things around in a moment’s notice.

“I have worked in warehouse capacity almost my whole life and this turnaround in the Food Bank is something we should all be very proud of,” states Johnson. “I truly look forward to coming to work every day because of the people we serve and those I work with.”

DANIEL SMITH also recently joined the staff as a Driver for the Sandhills Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC. Smith served in U.S. Navy.

Other Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina veterans who continue to serve the community are:

Greenville Branch

Roger Neely, U.S. Army (Vietnam)

Erin Frances, U.S. Air Force (Iraq and Afghanistan)

Raleigh Branch

Michael Raper, U.S. Coast Guard

Jim Rasmussen, U.S. Marines

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Wilmington Branch

Dennis Connor, U.S. Army

For more information about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC, go to www.foodbankcenc.org.

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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 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.

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