



NEWS RELEASE

HUNGER HEROES

*Triangle Veterans at Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC
Continue to Serve*

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2012

Raleigh, NC- The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina partners with 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, Operations Supervisor 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.” McAllister was recently voted by his peers as the Food Bank Employee of the Year.

ANTHONY REYEROS, Durham Branch Shopping & Product 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, Incerlik Turkey Air Base, and 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.”

JIM RASMUSSEN, Warehouse Projects Coordinator, is a well-known face at the Food Bank’s Raleigh warehouse. The groups and individuals who volunteer in Raleigh have to come through Jim first to log their thousands of volunteer hours.

“I spent a little over 20 years in the Marine Corps, retiring in 1989,” said Rasmussen. “I had 10 years of enlisted service rising to the rank of Gunnery Sergeant (E-7) and 10 years as an officer going through the Warrant Officer ranks and retiring at the rank of Captain. I had various duty stations around the world and would do it all over again in a heartbeat.”

This former Marine is now just as comfortable serving his community with a couple of hundred kids and parents swarming around him on Kids Day at the Food Bank. **[PHOTO ATTACHED]**

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.

“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.”

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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 eleven 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. **[PHOTO ATTACHED]**

JEFF SOSSAMAN, Senior Grants Writer working out of the Raleigh site, served as an Aerospace Physiology Specialist in the US Air Force from 1988 to 1994. He was stationed at Edwards AFB in the Air Force Flight Test Center. During the first Desert Storm, his role was to train air crewmembers on what happens to their bodies as they go to an altitude exceeding 10,000 feet. Sossaman also instructed crewmembers on the proper use of their oxygen equipment.

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“I joined [the military] to take advantage of the educational opportunities and the GI Bill,” said Sossaman. “The reputation of the Food Bank, coupled with the critical mission of feeding those who need it most was a huge draw. [I am] happy to be helping my neighbors in the community I love.”

DAVID FELIGNO joined the Food Bank staff early in 2012 as Facilities Maintenance Specialist. Feligno served in the Navy aboard the USS John F. Kennedy off the coast of Vietnam during the early 1970’s. The similarity between serving in the military and serving his community through working at the Food Bank boils down to one word for Feligno, “Camaraderie!”

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

Raleigh Branch

Michael Raper, U.S. Coast Guard

Sandhills Branch

Sam Levinson, U.S. Army

Daniel Smith, U.S. Navy

Wilmington Branch

Dennis Connor, U.S. Army

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

[PHOTO CAPTION]:

Jim Rasmussen , Food Bank Warehouse Projects Coordinator and former Marine, listens intently to a young volunteer during Kids Day.

[PHOTO CAPTION]:

Percy Hockaday, Shipping and Receiving Assistant at the Food Bank and 20 Year U.S. Army Veteran, pauses to take a photo.

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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 900 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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