

**FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA WINS MORGAN STANLEY AWARD TO EXPAND PROGRAM DELIVERING NUTRITIOUS MEALS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES**

***\$25,000 Grant Will Fund Weekend Power Pack Program***

RALEIGH, N.C.—December 5, 2013— Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina received a \$25,000 grant from Morgan Stanley in October to fund its *Weekend Power Pack Program*, a child hunger initiative that helps to make sure kids are fed when they aren't in school.

The local award is part of *Fill the Plate*, Morgan Stanley's long-standing partnership with [Feeding America](#), the nation's leading hunger-relief charity. In total, Morgan Stanley has committed more than \$13 million for the Feeding America network to distribute millions of meals to children and families across all 50 states. As part of that initiative, Morgan Stanley will award more than \$1 million each year for the next four years to local food banks like Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina to launch, expand and sustain critical childhood feeding programs.

"We are thrilled to receive this important grant from Morgan Stanley to fund our efforts to deliver more nutritious meals to children and families," said Ashley Delamar, Vice President of Development for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. "What's extraordinary and groundbreaking about this award is that we were able to choose how to use the funds in a way that best matches the nutritional health needs of the Raleigh community."

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina's Weekend Power Pack Program works by putting nutritious food directly into the hands of children at risk of hunger by filling backpacks with staples such as peanut butter, milk and cereal, bread, and canned goods. With this program, kids who usually get reduced or free lunch at school can get the nutrition they need even when they aren't in school over weekend or long breaks.

"Giving back to the communities where we live and work is one of Morgan Stanley's core values," said Dave Pottenger, Branch Manager, Morgan Stanley Wealth Management, Durham. "We are proud of our Firm's grant to the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, especially since so many of us are also long-time volunteers at this important community organization."

In the 34 counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, more than 560,000 people are at risk of hunger. Nearly 200,000 are children and the number increases to 300,000 during the summer when school cafeterias close for summer break.

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Nationwide, child hunger is a critical problem. According to the United States Department of Agriculture, nearly 16 million children in the United States live in households where they are unable to consistently access enough nutritious food necessary for a healthy life. Feeding America's most recent [Map the Meal Gap](#) research indicates more than one in five children in 37 states and Washington D.C. do not have access to enough nutritious food to learn, grown and thrive.

**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).

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