



NEWS RELEASE

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Donation Expands Food Bank's Ability to Serve

DURHAM, NC (September 21, 2015) – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina will now be able to serve more people in our Durham service area thanks to a generous donation from Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina (BCBSNC). The company recently provided funds which allowed the Food Bank to purchase a new 26-foot refrigerated box truck. The truck will be unveiled at a ceremony at this Durham Branch, located at 2700 Angier Avenue, this Wednesday, September 23 at 11am.

The new truck will allow the Durham Branch to make nearly 50 additional direct distributions of fresh fruits, vegetables, dairy and other items to partner agencies in the Durham service area. It will also allow for pickup of additional retail and food drive donations. “We’re so thankful to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina for continuing to be a great partner in hunger relief,” said Peter Werbicki, President/CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “This donation amounts to more meals for those in need and ultimately a healthier community.”

“Ensuring that North Carolina’s hungry families have enough nutritious food to eat is central to making our state a better place to live for all of us,” said Barbara Morales Burke, BCBSNC’s vice president of health of health policy. “We’re proud to support the Food Bank of Eastern and Central North Carolina’s efforts to end hunger and we’re pleased that this truck will improve lives immediately and effectively.”

In the Food Bank’s 34-county service area there are nearly 650,000 individuals living in food insecure households, 33% of which are children. In the six counties served by the Durham Branch (Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, Vance), nearly 107,000 struggle with finding their next meal.

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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 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 2014-2015, the Food Bank distributed more than 57 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, nearly 650,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. www.foodbankcenc.org.

About BCBSNC:

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is a leader in delivering innovative health care products, services and information to more than 3.84 million members, including approximately 1 million served on behalf of other Blue Plans. Since 1933, the company has served its customers by offering health insurance at a competitive price and has served the people of North Carolina through support of community organizations, programs and events that promote good health. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina was recognized as one of the World's Most Ethical Companies in 2012, 2013, 2014 and 2015. Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina is an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association. Visit BCBSNC online at bcbsnc.com. All other marks are the property of their respective owners.

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