



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **FOOD BANK PREPARES TO ACT AS FIRST RESPONDER IN EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA**

**New Bern, NC** – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina responds daily to the hunger crisis by distributing food and non-food essentials to more than 560,000 people at risk of hunger in its 34-county service area. The Food Bank also acts as a **first responder** during times of natural disaster, reacting immediately to serve victims of tornadoes, hurricanes, and floods throughout central and eastern North Carolina. In preparation for/response to the damaging storms in eastern North Carolina, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina is assessing the needs of its partner agencies and preparing itself to assist families affected in the area.

Outreach Coordinators and operations staff at the Food Bank's New Bern Branch are connecting with partner agencies and other first responders to identify where resources may be needed and ensure plans are in place. Additional supplies are on standby at our Raleigh and Greenville Branches and will be delivered as needed.

“We are assessing community needs and preparing to provide assistance and basic supplies such as food, water, hygiene items, and paper products to those who might be affected,” said Peter Werbicki. “The Food Bank is an essential part of emergency and disaster efforts as we support many of the front line agencies and first responder services aimed at providing essential items during response and recovery efforts.”

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The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina has a long history of responding to natural disasters. With the devastation of the 2005 hurricane season, the Food Bank sent nine truckloads of relief food and essentials to help the victims of the hurricanes in the Gulf Coast. The Food Bank distributed over 233,000 pounds of food to that area. In April 2011, the organization distributed nearly 500,000 pounds of disaster relief product to partner agencies affected by the tornadoes in the hardest hit counties in its 34-county service area.

The main office of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is located at 3808 Tarheel Drive in Raleigh. The New Bern Branch is located at 205 South Glenburnie Road, New Bern. Additional warehouses are located in Durham, Greenville, Southern Pines, and Wilmington.

**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 2013-2014, 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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