



NEWS RELEASE

FOOD LION FEEDS CHARITABLE FOUNDATION SUPPORTS FOOD BANK KIDS CAFE PROGRAMS

Raleigh, NC (January 28, 2016) – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina received a \$10,000 grant from the Food Lion Feeds Charitable Foundation to support the Kids Cafe programs in Harnett and Wayne counties.

With support from the Foundation, the Food Bank-sponsored Kids Cafes at Think Smart Outreach Center (Harnett County) and Project YESS (Wayne County) plan to distribute thousands of nutritious meals to children during the 2015-16 school year.

Funding for these Kids Cafes also help ensure children are given the support they need to allow them to achieve academic, social, and behavioral development goals, as well as nutrition education and healthy lifestyle mentoring which provides a positive impact on the children, their families, and the community.

In 2015, both programs were recognized by the Food Bank at its annual Kids Cafe Standards of Excellence Awards. Think Smart Outreach Center received the “Parental Involvement Award” for implementation of a comprehensive parental involvement plan. Project YESS received the award for “Physical Activity” for their innovative and engaging program that keeps kids involved in activity 85% of the time.

In the 34 counties served by the Food Bank, more than 212,000 children live in food insecure households, meaning they lack consistent access to enough nutritious food to live a healthy, active life. The Food Bank’s Kids Cafe Program addresses this problem by partnering with respected local nonprofit organizations to provide low income, food insecure children with nutritious food and enrichment activities in a positive and safe environment after school. Under the supervision of trustworthy staff and volunteers, children participating in our Kids Cafes receive nutritious meals, tutoring by volunteer counselors and mentors from the business and academic arenas, and physical activity, nutrition and health education to encourage healthier lifestyles.

Nearly 650,000 individuals are food insecure in the 34 counties served by the Food Bank.

For more information about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina visit foodbankcenc.org.

Attachments: Project YESS.jpg and Think Smart Outreach.jpg – Project YESS and Think Smart Outreach Receive Kids Cafe Standards of Excellence Awards.

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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.

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