



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## GREENVILLE FOOD BANK REACHES MAJOR MILESTONE

### *100 Million Pounds Distributed Since 1999*

**GREENVILLE, N.C. (December 23, 2014)** –When the Salem Missionary Baptist Church Food Pantry arrived at the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Greenville to shop for food items for their pantry, they had no idea that they would be part of history. As Food Bank staff loaded food items onto the scale, the Greenville branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, in operation since 1999, hit its 100 million pounds distribution milestone. This is equivalent to more than 84.2 million meals. The Greenville Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is located at 1712 Union Street, Greenville and distributes food to rescue missions, soup kitchens, food pantries, after school programs, and elderly nutrition programs in ten counties: Carteret, Craven, Edgecombe, Greene, Jones, Lenoir, Onslow, Pamlico, Pitt and Wilson counties.

“I stand here today in awe of this organization and especially this Greenville Branch,” said Todd Penland, Greenville Branch Supervisor, Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “We have weathered storms, literally and figuratively over the past few years. To know that we have provided 100 million pounds of food, 84.2 million meals to families in Greenville and the surrounding counties, is a true testament to our mission: No One Goes Hungry.”

During a short speaking program, the Salem Missionary Baptist Church food pantry received a certificate and a trophy to immortalize their place in Food Bank history and the Greenville Branch staff received an award for Outstanding Service for distributing 100 million pounds since 1999. **[PHOTOS ATTACHED]**

Program participants from the community were John Farkas, Greenville Branch Regional Council Chair; Tom Price, 2016 Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce and Food Bank staff members Todd Penland, Greenville Branch Operations Supervisor; Christal Andrews, Greenville Branch Outreach Coordinator; Ruby Harrell, Greenville Branch Shopping Attendant; Mary Esther Baker, Greenville/New Bern Development Officer; and Charlie Hale, Food Bank Vice President of Operations and IT.

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Former Governors Hunt and Perdue, who supported the opening of the Greenville Branch in 1999 sent personal messages:

## MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR JAMES B. HUNT:

*“The Greenville branch of the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina has reached an impressive milestone—distributing its 100 millionth pound of food since opening in 1999!*

*I’m so proud of the dedication, effort, and time the Greenville branch has invested as a beacon of hunger relief to so many North Carolina families. It is with much gratitude and sincerity that I say, ‘Thank you for your labor of love for your fellow human beings!’.”*

## MESSAGE FROM GOVERNOR BEV PERDUE:

*“When the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC expanded its service area to include 10 counties in eastern North Carolina, it was literally in the midst of a powerful storm named Floyd. To know that this Greenville Branch has touched so many lives since 1999, reached across the hungriest and poorest counties in NC to distribute 100 million pounds, is humbling. For your service to the community, for bringing faith, corporate, civic and individuals together to pitch in and pass on their philanthropy to help feed our neighbors, I say thank you and congratulations on reaching such an important milestone.”*

In 1999, much of eastern North Carolina was devastated by Hurricane Floyd. The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina distributed more than 5 million pounds of food and non-food essentials from its Raleigh warehouse to victims of this powerful storm.

The opening of the warehouse in Greenville in 1999 was expedited due to this storm.

Go to <http://greenville.foodbankcenc.org> to learn how you can donate money, time or food to help those who are food insecure in the Greenville service area.

For **every dollar** donated, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is able to provide 5 meals or \$10 worth of food.

The main office and distribution center is located at 3808 Tarheel Drive in Raleigh. Additional distribution centers are located in Durham, Southern Pines, New Bern and Wilmington.

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## **Attached Photos:**

**Greenville100mill\_SalemMissBaptist\_Pounds:** Salem Missionary Baptist rolls the 100 millionth pounds onto the scales at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC's Greenville Branch to mark a major milestone.

**Greenville100mill\_BranchGrp:** The staff of the Greenville Branch of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina receives an award for Outstanding Service for distributing 100 million pounds of food to families in their 10 county service area.

## **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 distribution centers in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines), and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2013-2014, the Food Bank distributed more than 53 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 651,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

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