



NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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KIDS SUMMER MEALS TO PROVIDE 200,000 MEALS TO CHILDREN THIS SUMMER

6,000 Kids to Benefit from the Program

Raleigh, NC –School is officially out for most kids in the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina’s service area and 300,000 children in our 34 counties have lost access to free or reduced-price meals at school. Instead of enjoying a fun-filled trip to the beach, or an exciting visit to a theme park, these kids are worried about having enough food to eat this summer. For their parents and caregivers, summer brings the stress of feeding their children when school cafeterias close for the long summer break.

Months before school ended, the Food Bank staff started preparing to feed as many children as we can through our Kids Summer Meals Program, also known as the Summer Food Service Program. The food pantries and summer feeding sites supported by the Food Bank see a spike in demand during the summer months as a result of families seeking alternatives to provide these lost meals for their children. The Kids Summer Meals sites provide a location for children to receive free breakfast and lunch meals in addition to various enrichment activities for children such as exercise and summer reading programs.

The Food Bank initially began sponsoring the program in the summer of 2010 and since has provided over 300,000 summer meals to children in our service area. During summer 2015 the Food Bank’s Kids Summer Meals Program will provide at least 200,000 meals to 6,000 children through 135 sites. This makes the Food Bank one of the largest nonprofit sponsors of the Kids Summer Meals Program in the state.

The Food Bank has also partnered with local caterers and restaurants throughout the service area so that 35 of those sites can serve hot meals to the children who participate. There are also sites that offer vouchers for family food boxes that can help provide additional meals at home.

“The Kids Summer Meals Program provides a vital resource to thousands of kids each summer who may not have enough food to eat at home,” said Tyler Weidig, Summer Food Services Program Supervisor for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC. “Without this program, children would be hungry and families would be forced to make tough budget decisions.”

In addition to the Kids Summer Meals Program, the Food Bank holds an annual campaign to “Stop Summer Hunger” to collect food and funds during June and July with a goal of providing 3.2 million meals to children and families.



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The Stop Summer Hunger Campaign ends on July 31. For additional information or to donate, go to www.stopsummerhunger.org. Join the conversation with @FoodBankCENC on twitter using the hashtag #StopSummerHunger.

The Food Bank sponsors Kids Summer Meals sites in each of our branch areas: Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Sandhills, and Wilmington.

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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 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.