



NEWS RELEASE

New Bern Food Bank Marks 5 Years of Service to the Community

NEW BERN, N.C. (July 21, 2015) –The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at New Bern marks 5 years of service to the community this Saturday, July 25. The Food Bank’s Greenville/New Bern Regional Council, a group of local community volunteers whose role is to generate resources for the Greenville and New Bern Branches of the Food Bank, will spend the morning working in the Food Bank’s garden with friends and family.

In July 2010, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina grew from five branches to six with the opening of the New Bern Branch. The branch was a response to the great need in the area as the Food Bank’s partner food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters were receiving more requests for assistance than ever before. The small but mighty 6,200 square-foot facility at 205 South Glenburnie Road was also needed to ease the travel on partner agencies in Carteret, Craven, Jones, Onslow, and Pamlico Counties. When the facility first opened, there was no ability to distribute frozen or refrigerated items, but the branch still distributed more than 568,000 pounds in the first year.

In September 2010, the New Bern Branch broke ground on a community garden. Local master gardeners volunteered their time and energy to turn an empty plot of land next to the facility into a flourishing garden that has provided more than 12,000 pounds of fresh produce over the last five years.

Hurricane Irene devastated many regions of the New Bern service area in August 2011. The Food Bank immediately mobilized and provided more than 550,000 pounds of disaster relief products over the course of five weeks.

In May 2014, the branch received a donation of a new walk-in freezer thanks to our generous partners Cubic, the USAA Foundation, and Christ Episcopal Church of New Bern. This allowed the branch to store approximately 14,000 pounds of frozen product.

The outpouring of support from the New Bern community has helped the branch grow by leaps and bounds over the last five years. The branch has distributed record amounts of food each year, including last fiscal year 2014-2015, in which they distributed 3,660,875 million pounds of food (equivalent to more than 3 million meals). In total, the New Bern Food Bank has distributed more than 9.2 million pounds of food since opening in July 2010.

The Food Bank recently hired its first Eastern Regional Director to oversee fundraising and operations at the Greenville and New Bern Branches. Lance Barton began on June 3 after serving as Director/CEO of the Northern Neck Food Bank in central Virginia.

In the five counties served by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at New Bern, 62,780 individuals live in food insecure households.

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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.

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