



# NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## ***Live Oak Bank Issues \$25,000 Challenge to Feed Kids this Summer***

**WILMINGTON** – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina announced a partnership that could mean 250,000 additional meals for children and their families this summer. As the Food Bank reaches the halfway point in the Stop Summer Hunger campaign, Live Oak Bank has stepped up to challenge the community and help feed those in need this summer.

In the Wilmington area, 32,000 children miss out on free or reduced breakfast and lunch when school is out for the summer. This means added stress and strain on parents and household budgets. Now in its seventh year, Stop Summer Hunger is an awareness campaign to collect food and funds to help these children and their families. This year the Food Bank's goal is to raise enough food and funds to provide 3.2 million meals across our service area.

Live Oak Bank is offering their assistance in a big way - a \$25,000 donation to Stop Summer Hunger if the community donates enough to match that amount in the next 90 days.

"We're so thankful that Live Oak Bank has stepped up to support the children in our area," said Jeff Rose, Wilmington Branch Director for the Food Bank. "This is an opportunity for the community to help us double the impact of their gift."

Additionally, Live Oak Bank employees will be volunteering at a Kids Summer Meals site in Wilmington on July 9<sup>th</sup>. Kids Summer Meals is a program that offers children a place to receive not only breakfast and lunch, but enrichment and physical activities. The Live Oak Bank volunteers will be serving lunch to the children participating in the program.

"Live Oak Bank is pleased to partner with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina for the Stop Summer Hunger campaign," stated Lee Williams, Co-Founder of Live Oak Bank. "It is difficult to think about the children who do not get proper nourishment during the summer months, so we are happy to contribute to this great cause."

**-MORE-**

***Live Oak Bank Issues \$25,000 Challenge to Support Food Bank***

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The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington is located at 1314 Marstellar Street in Wilmington. In fiscal year 2013-14, the Food Bank distributed 6.6 million pounds of food through a network of nearly 100 partner agencies in the service area of Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender Counties. In the four county area, 67,419 individuals struggle with hunger.

Based in Raleigh, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina serves 34 counties in central and eastern NC through six warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Southern Pines and Wilmington.

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### **About Live Oak Bank**

Live Oak Bank was founded in 2008 to provide small business loans to professionals across the country looking to start or expand their business. Aside from acquisitions and refinancing, Live Oak's lenders specialize in real estate loans and ground up construction projects. The bank originally began lending to veterinarians, and has since expanded not only into other healthcare-related industries, but into specialty areas as well. Having such a keen industry focus and trade specialists on board, enables the bank to offer an exceptional level of service to the client. To learn more about Live Oak Bank, please visit [liveoakbank.com](http://liveoakbank.com).

### **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 2012-2013, the Food Bank distributed nearly 53 million pounds of food (42 million meals) 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). Follow us on Twitter @FoodBankCENC.

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