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NEWS RELEASE



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Stop Summer Hunger Aims to Provide Meals to 300,000 Children this Summer

RALEIGH, NC (June 3, 2015) – As the school year nears its end, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is announcing the 8th Annual STOP SUMMER HUNGER Campaign, presented by BASF and NetApp, has officially launched.

Summer is a time when many of us fulfill plans we've been making all year. Plans to enjoy the warm weather, take a break from work or school. Some children will head off to camp to spend time with friends and learn outdoor skills. Other will join families on beach trips, while some will head to amusement parks. Most of us are able to plan summer activities that focus on fun and relaxation. **But there are 300,000 children in the Food Bank's 34-county service area that will only be able to focus on one thing: an empty stomach.**

The Stop Summer Hunger campaign focuses on raising food, funds, and awareness at a time when school cafeterias are closed to 300,000 children across the Food Bank's 34-county service area who rely on the free and reduced-cost meal program. The campaign will continue until July 31 throughout the Food Bank's 34 counties. The goal this year is to raise enough food and funds to provide 3.2 million meals to children and families this summer. For more information visit www.stopsummerhunger.org.

The Food Bank will also serve these children by once again sponsoring the Kids Summer Meals Program (also known as the Summer Food Service Program). Children can visit select Food Bank partner sites to receive breakfast and lunch meals at no cost.

The Stop Summer Hunger campaign is also supported by ABC11, Food Lion, Leith Toyota, Dude Solutions, and Allscripts.

In the Food Bank's 34-county service area there are 651,000 individuals living in food insecure households, 33% of which are children. Food insecurity is the state of being unable to consistently access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. The households served by the Food Bank experience limited or uncertain access to food, at times unsure of where they will find their next meal.

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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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