



Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Receives \$30,800 Walmart Foundation Grant to Build Retail Infrastructure Capacity

Grant will fund equipment designed to handle perishable products, facilitating increased distribution of nutritious food

RALEIGH, N.C. (September 30, 2015) – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina today announced a \$30,800 grant from the Walmart Foundation to fund retail infrastructure that will ultimately help secure and distribute more nutritious food for families in need. The grant will support investments in the equipment necessary to handle perishable products including refrigerated vehicles, coolers and freezers for transporting, storing and distributing food, thermometers and temperature calibration devices, among other items.

Since 2009, the Walmart Foundation has invested in more than 170 refrigerated vehicles so that Feeding America member food banks and their partner agencies can get more food to people struggling with hunger. This year, the Walmart Foundation expanded the scope of the grant to offer a broader variety of equipment options that will meet the needs of more food banks and agencies.

“The Walmart Foundation has been a tremendous partner in helping us design strategies that help us serve more people with nutritious food,” said Peter Werbicki, President/CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. “This grant will go a long way in helping the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina expand our capacity to serve the children and families in our 34 counties.”

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina secures fresh, perishable food from retailers across the 34-county service area. The Walmart Foundation has been instrumental in helping build the capacity of food banks to rescue and distribute more perishable food from retailers across the United States in a

sustainable, cost-effective way. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to Feeding America and its nationwide member network of 200 food banks. This work aligns with Walmart and the Walmart Foundation’s commitment to create a more sustainable food system, with a focus on improving the affordability of food by lowering the “true cost” of food for both customers and the environment, increasing access to food, making healthier eating easier, and improving the safety and transparency of the food chain. It includes a goal of providing four billion meals to those in need in the U.S. over the next five years.

With food insecurity remaining high throughout the country, the ability to distribute more food is critical for food banks. According to the USDA, about 49 million people – including 16 million children – in the United States are food insecure, which means at some point during the year, they won’t know where their next meal will come from. In the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina’s 34-county service area, nearly 650,000 individuals are food insecure.

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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 warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines), and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2014-2015, the Food Bank distributed more than 57 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, nearly 650,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. www.foodbankcenc.org.

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