



## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **Food Bank and Triangle Companies Partnered for Sort-A-Rama May 25**

*Volunteers met goal of 196,000 meals packed for local families*

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**May 26, 2017**

**RALEIGH, NC** – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, in collaboration with Triangle companies for the sixth annual Sort-A-Rama event, today announced it met a record number of meals packed for families in need. Over 1,000 corporate volunteers united to sort and package more than 190,000 meals for local families facing hunger.

The event took place on Thursday, May 25, at the Jim Graham Building on the North Carolina State Fairgrounds. Sort-A-Rama is the Food Bank’s largest volunteer event. Beginning in 2012, Sort-A-Rama volunteers have sorted more than 750,000 meals for distribution to individuals, families, and seniors in need through the Food Bank’s partner agencies in their 34-county service area.

The presenting partners for the 2017 Sort-A-Rama were BASF, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina, Cisco, Food Lion, and RTI International.

Additional sponsors included Dude Solutions, NetApp, Bank of America, PPD, Crown Lift Trucks, Duke Energy, Nationwide Insurance, and UNC Rex Healthcare.

For more information about the 2017 Sort-A-Rama, please visit [foodbankcenc.org/sortarama](http://foodbankcenc.org/sortarama).

#### **QUOTES:**

“We are incredibly thankful for the Triangle companies who come together to support Sort-A-Rama,” said Peter Werbicki, Food Bank President & CEO. “We couldn’t serve the hundreds of thousands of friends and neighbors in need across central and eastern North Carolina without the partners who contribute to this event year.”

“BASF is an innovator in providing technologies to help farmers in the production of food, so helping provide adequate food to our North Carolina neighbors is central to our mission,” said Paul Rea, Senior Vice President, BASF Crop Protection, North America. “With over 650,000 people in eastern and central North Carolina who are food insecure, our employee volunteers are eager to be part of Sort-A-Rama to help in this important work to prepare food for those in need across the state.”

“North Carolina regularly ranks among the top states for the number of citizens living with food shortages every day,” said Kathy Higgins, Vice President of Corporate Affairs at Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. “That’s one list where we want to be at the bottom. Sort-A-Rama takes a practical approach to solving the problem of hunger: get a lot of volunteers together and package food for people who need it. It’s an immediate way to relieve hunger and it’s proof that when we work together, we can make real progress in helping North Carolina’s families in need.”

“Cisco’s employee volunteers step up whenever we can be a bridge to those in need in our local communities,” said Kirsten Weeks, Director of Global Community Relations for Cisco. “Sort-A-Rama is an incredible opportunity to engage our employees, and partner with other companies, to support the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina as it works to solve a central challenge for many of our neighbors.”

"At Food Lion, we believe that no one should have to choose between dinner and rent or gasoline and buying groceries," said Troy Leshko, Vice President of Food Lion's Mid-Atlantic Division. "That's why we're so passionate about working with partners like the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina to end hunger in our local communities through Food Lion Feeds. Events like Sort-A-Rama provide a meaningful way for our associates to directly engage in helping to feed those in our community who need a helping hand, especially during the summer months when childhood hunger rises given schools are closed. Whether it's in a Food Lion store, at Sort-A-Rama or anywhere in our community, we want Raleigh to know: you can count on your local Food Lion team."

“We are so excited to have more than 100 RTI staff members volunteering for this important event,” said Eddie Story, executive vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary at RTI International. “As RTI works to improve the human condition around the world, we know that work begins at home. These meals will go a long way to lessen hunger in our community, and we’re proud to be a part of it.”

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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 2015-2016, the Food Bank distributed more than 64.4 million pounds of food (60% of which was perishable) and non-food essentials through these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 600,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life. [foodbankcenc.org](http://foodbankcenc.org).



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