



NEWS RELEASE

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The Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC Receives \$80K Grant from the Walmart Foundation to Support SNAP Education and Outreach

RALEIGH, NC (August 15, 2018) – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina today announced a \$80,000 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help fight hunger in central and eastern North Carolina through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) education and outreach. SNAP is the largest federal program dedicated to providing aid to millions of low-income individuals and families in hunger insecure communities. Yet, 17 percent of Americans eligible for SNAP currently do not receive this benefit. Only 42 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled.

With this grant, the Food Bank hopes to scale access to SNAP among eligible households, with particular emphasis on reaching seniors, families with children, and other vulnerable populations. This gift will make it possible for the Food Bank to reach and assist more of our food insecure neighbors who are eligible for food assistance and bring added federal dollars into North Carolina communities.

“1 in 5 children in the 34 counties we serve have limited or no access to nutritious food; food that is essential in their educational and social development. At the Food Bank, we work tirelessly to help fill this need, but programs like SNAP can boost the supply of nutritious food in a child’s household, something our community really needs,” said Gideon Adams, Vice President for Community Health & Engagement.

SNAP provides more than nutrition assistance; it helps improve families’ overall well-being. With lower grocery bills, people are better able to pay for other basic necessities—rent or mortgages, medical expenses, utilities and transportation. According to the USDA’s Economic Research Service Report, SNAP is critical to moving families into long-term food security.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Locally, Walmart continues to be one of the Food Bank’s top food and funds donors. In addition to donating millions of pounds of food, the generosity of the Walmart Foundation, State Giving Program, and individual Walmart stores has allowed us to expand our child nutrition programs, Retail Donation Program, and Benefits Outreach Program, and provided the Food Bank with vital trucks and transportation equipment.

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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 35 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 2017-2018, the Food Bank distributed nearly 70 million pounds of food (over half 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.

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