



## NEWS RELEASE

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**The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina partners with SECU and the North Carolina Association of Feeding America Food Banks**  
*2016 is year two of the three-year 6 Million Meal Project*



August 30, 2016

*RALEIGH, NC* – With support from the State Employees Credit Union and the North Carolina (NC) Association of Feeding America Food Banks, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina (the Food Bank) has been able to significantly increase the amount of produce offered to its more than 800 partner agencies.

Thanks to the three-year grant, awarded in 2015 from SECU, the Food Bank has been able to keep its warehouse stocked with sweet potatoes, carrots and onions—all staples of the [Farm to Food Bank program](#).

“On behalf of SECU members who fund the SECU Foundation, we are proud to team up with the NC Association of Feeding America Food Banks to assist with solutions to alleviate hunger through programs like Farm to Food Bank,” said SECU Foundation Board Chair Jim Johnson. “SECU Foundation’s 3-year investment will expand and deepen the reach of the

community food system, making a powerful and positive difference in the lives of children and families throughout the state.”

The \$1.2-million-dollar grant, awarded over three years, supports Feeding America food banks in 100 counties across North Carolina. The \$400,000 the North Carolina Association of Food Banks received last year allowed the Food Bank to provide more than 1 million additional meals in its 34-county service area.

“Thanks to partners like SECU and the NC Association of Feeding America Food Banks, we’re able to continue our work offering fresh, healthy, food options for those who are hungry in our community,” said the Food Bank CEO Peter Werbicki. “We’re thankful for these resources, and the opportunity to bring awareness to the issue of hunger in central & eastern North Carolina.”

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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. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org).

#### **About SECU and the SECU Foundation**

A not-for-profit financial cooperative owned by its members, SECU has been providing employees of the State of North Carolina and their families with consumer financial services for 79 years. The Credit Union also offers a diversified line of financial advisory services including retirement and education planning, tax preparation, insurance, trust and estate planning services, and investments through its partners and affiliated entities. SECU serves over 2 million members through 256 branch offices, nearly 1,100 ATMs, 24/7 Member Services via phone and a website, [www.ncsecu.org](http://www.ncsecu.org). The SECU Foundation, a 501c (3) charitable organization funded solely by the contributions of SECU members, promotes local community development in North Carolina primarily through high impact projects in the areas of housing, education, healthcare and human services.

#### **About the North Carolina Association of Feeding America Food Banks**

The North Carolina Association of Feeding America Food Banks is a strategic alliance of the six food banks and one food recovery organization in North Carolina who also belong to Feeding America, the nation’s largest hunger relief charity. The North Carolina Association of Feeding America Food Banks is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable nonprofit organization. Member services include: Statewide networking and communication; raising food and funds for our food banks; public policy analysis and public awareness about hunger issues.