

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**



## **Food Bank Announces Investment from Caterpillar Foundation for Healthy Food Boxes**

*Investment will help fight hunger in three high-need counties in central and eastern North Carolina*

**April 15, 2019**

**Raleigh, North Carolina** – Today, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina announced a more than \$53,000 grant from the Caterpillar Foundation to provide food to more than 150,000 people who face hunger in Johnston, Lee, and Wake counties. A member of the Feeding America network, the Food Bank serves 34 counties and is one of 30 food banks selected to receive this grant, which helps support local hunger relief efforts.

"People who face hunger do not have regular access to enough food for a healthy, active life. Our Food Bank is thankful to the Caterpillar Foundation for its commitment to helping to support families in need in our community," said Anna Spell Miller, the Food Bank's Senior Manager for Organizational Partnerships.

More than 600,000 people in central and eastern North Carolina face hunger, and 1 in 5 of those people are children. This grant helps operate a healthy box initiative, ensuring that healthy foods are available on a regular basis to people with chronic health conditions who are also food insecure.

"The Caterpillar Foundation supports programs that alleviate poverty in communities in which we live and work. We are proud to partner with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina to support individuals in Johnston, Lee, and Wake counties who may not know where their next meal will come from," said Kathryn Karol, Caterpillar vice president and chairman of the Caterpillar Foundation Board of Directors. "When people's basic human needs are met, they are able to more effectively pursue economic and educational opportunities. And when they can do so, an entire community can benefit."

Since 2015, Caterpillar Foundation has provided \$3.9 million in county-level grants to Feeding America food banks. Caterpillar Foundation's grants also helped food banks provide 10.5 million pounds of food in counties where Caterpillar employees live and work. This donation will help provide more than 265,000 meals to local children and families in need.

For more information about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, visit [foodbankcenc.org](http://foodbankcenc.org)

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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](http://foodbankcenc.org).



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**About Caterpillar Foundation**

Founded in 1952, Caterpillar's philanthropic organization, the Caterpillar Foundation, has contributed more than \$740 million to help make sustainable progress possible around the world by providing program support in the areas of basic needs, education and environmental sustainability. To learn more about the global impact of the Caterpillar Foundation, visit [www.togetherstronger.com](http://www.togetherstronger.com). To connect with us on social media, visit [caterpillar.com/social-media](http://caterpillar.com/social-media).