

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina Receives Donation from Walmart Foundation to Fight Childhood Hunger, Purchase Truck**

*Donation to Fund Children's Programs throughout Central and Eastern North Carolina*

**RALEIGH, NC, April 15, 2014** – The Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina today received a \$162,000 grant through the Walmart Foundation's State Giving Program. The gift provides funds to purchase a new truck that will distribute more and greater variety of food to families at risk of hunger. The funds will also support six Kids Cafe sites providing 160,000 meals and enrichment to nearly 300 children.

"In a time when tough financial decisions have to be made in order to make ends meet by more and more of our neighbors and by corporations having to watch the bottom line, to see our friends at Walmart donate funds that will provide meals to children and their families is humbling," said Peter Werbicki, President & CEO of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. "Your generosity will restore hope and dignity to thousands of families in our 34-county service area.

The grant was presented to Werbicki during a check presentation ceremony held today at the Food Bank's main branch in Raleigh, NC. During the ceremony, the new truck, which has been in operation since February, was on display outside the main distribution center. The truck is anticipated to travel more than 23,000 miles year and provide 15,000 meals per load. **[PHOTOS ATTACHED]**

Forty-two thousand dollars (\$42,000) is allocated for the following six children's programs:

- Pioneer Court Community Enrichment Organization-Princeville Housing Authority (Edgecombe County)
- Scotland Neck Recreation Center (Halifax County)
- St. Mark's Church Ministries-Hands for Humanity (Lenoir County)
- New Vision Christian Church (Sampson County)
- The Salvation Army, Boys & Girls Club (Wilson County)
- Mt. Carmel HELPS (Onslow County)

When it comes to food insecurity, any number is too high. In the Food Bank's 34-county service area, more than 560,000 people struggle with hunger, including nearly 200,000 children who live in poverty. Those numbers increase when nearly 300,000 children in the service area receive free/reduced cost breakfast and lunch at school - but may not know if they will get dinner.

"Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are very pleased to be supporting the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and are committed to helping those in need in the communities where we serve," said Kathryn Wiseman, Manager of Public Affairs and Government Relations, Walmart. "Through this grant, we are hopeful that children and their families in central and eastern North Carolina will receive the meals and food they need and deserve."

The contribution to the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina was made possible through the Walmart Foundation's North Carolina State Giving Program (SGP). Through this program, the Walmart Foundation supports organizations that create opportunities so people can live better. The Walmart Foundation State Giving Program strives to award grants that have a long-lasting, positive impact on communities across the U.S.

Last year, the North Carolina State Giving Program awarded more than \$1.3 million to local organizations such as the Urban League of Central Carolinas, Classroom Central Inc., Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte, among many others. In North Carolina, a team of local associates determine needs within each state, review eligible grant applications and make funding recommendations to the Walmart Foundation.

To be considered for support, prospective grantee organizations must submit applications through the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program's online grant application. Eligible applicants must have a current 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status in order to meet the program's minimum funding criteria. Additional information about the program's funding guidelines and application process are available online at <http://foundation.walmart.com/apply-for-grants/state-giving>.

In 2012, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$1 billion in cash and in-kind contributions around the world. This includes \$1 billion in cash and in-kind gifts in the United States and \$82.2 million in cash and in-kind gifts in international markets. In addition, Walmart, Sam's Club and Logistics associates volunteered more than 2.2 million hours, generating \$18 million to U.S. nonprofits.

**PHOTO ID:**

- Corey Bierly (Left), Divisional Operations Manager, Supply Chain, Walmart presents \$162,000 check to Peter Werbicki (Right), President/CEO, Food Bank
- \$120,000 Truck on Display

**About Philanthropy at Walmart**

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are committed to helping people live better through philanthropic efforts. By operating globally and giving back locally, Walmart is uniquely positioned to address the needs of the communities it serves and make a significant social impact within its core areas of giving: Hunger Relief & Healthy Eating, Sustainability, Career Opportunity and Women's Economic Empowerment. Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are leading the fight against hunger in the United States with a \$2 billion commitment through 2015. We have donated more than 1 billion meals to those in need across the country. To learn more about Walmart's giving, visit [www.foundation.walmart.com](http://www.foundation.walmart.com).