



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 2012

DURHAM FOOD BANK REACHES MILESTONE

50 Million Pounds Distributed Since 1999

DURHAM, NC – The staff at the **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina at Durham** was concerned about a few pounds. No, not their weight, but reaching a major poundage milestone in service to those at risk of hunger in Chatham, Durham, Granville, Orange, Person, and Vance counties. At 9:10am on Tuesday, April 17, Urban Ministries of Durham placed 131 pounds of white potatoes onto the scale at the Food Bank of Central & Eastern NC at Durham; they became a part of Food Bank history. The blue bin of potatoes marked 50,000,046 pounds of food distributed by the Durham Branch of the Food Bank since it began operations in 1999. Larry Williams, Kitchen Manager at Urban Ministries of Durham, was presented with a certificate marketing the historic accomplishment. **[PHOTOS ATTACHED]**

The white potatoes were a part of a donation from the Society of St. Andrew (SOSA), a longtime food bank produce provider. The Society of St. Andrew operates a statewide, volunteer-driven Gleaning Network in North Carolina that coordinates with local farmers, thousands of volunteers, and food providing agencies, such as the Food Bank. SOSA was recognized as a Food Bank Humanitarian Partner in 2011. Humanitarian Partners have made cumulative contributions in excess of \$1 million or 10 million pounds of food within the last 5 years.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Durham is located on 708 Gilbert Street and distributes food to over 160 partner hunger relief organizations such as rescue missions, soup kitchens, food pantries, after school programs, and elderly nutrition programs in six counties. Immediate recognition will be given to the agency that receives the major pound.

-MORE-

“It is humbling to know that our branch has provided more than 42 million meals to children, families, the elderly and those who are simply having a rough time”, said Pete Sloane, Senior Manager of Warehousing & Transportation for the Food Bank. “It is just another indicator that there is a great need in our community and shows how your donations go right back out the door to those who need it.”

Last year over 5.6 million pounds of food was distributed to 159 agencies in the six counties served by the Food Bank’s Durham Branch. The Food Bank at Durham operates 2 trucks that traveled over 38,000 miles last year. Volunteers donated over 17,000 hours of their time last year: equivalent to over 8 full-time employees

In the counties served by the Durham branch, over 93,000 individuals are at risk of hunger; 28,000 are children and over 11% are 65 years and over.

For every dollar donated, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina is able to distribute 10 dollars (\$10) worth of food or provide five meals.

The main office and warehouse is located at 3808 Tarheel Drive in Raleigh. Additional warehouses are located in Greenville, New Bern, Southern Pines, and Wilmington.

PHOTO ID:

Larry Williams, Kitchen Manager, Urban Ministries of Durham; Pete Sloane, Senior Manager, Warehousing and Transportation for the Food Bank; James McAllister, Durham Branch Operations Supervisor

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 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 2010-2011, the Food Bank distributed more than 42 million pounds of food and non-food essentials through these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 500,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families.
www.foodbankcenc.org. Twitter: @FoodBankCENC

-MORE-

For more information on The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, contact:

Media Contacts:

Christy L. Simmons
Manager of Public Relations
(919) 865-3050 (office)
(919) 906-4798 (mobile)
csimmons@foodbankcenc.org
Twitter: @publicitychris

Jennifer Caslin
Coordinator of Marketing, Public & Branch Relations
(919) 865-3063
(919) 840-6879
jcaslin@foodbankcenc.org
Twitter: @FoodBankJenC

###

