



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
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Wilmington Food Bank Reaches 5 Million Pound Milestone Over 5 million pounds will be distributed in fiscal year 2011-12

WILMINGTON – The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington tipped the scales on Tuesday, and for the first time will distribute over 5 million pounds in one year. Distribution to the Wilmington Branch service area of Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover, and Pender Counties has been on the rise for the last several years. In fiscal year 2010-11, the Wilmington Food Bank distributed more than 4.8 million pounds and in 2009-10 more than 4.7 million pounds.

Food Bank partner agency Burgaw PFWB, a food pantry in Pender County, broke the 5 million pound mark on Tuesday, June 12. Ted Mercer, who works with the pantry, received more than 200 pounds of food from the recent Stamp Out Hunger food drive held in May. **(PHOTOS ATTACHED)**

“It’s an amazing milestone to reach and truly speaks to the need that exists in our service area,” said Jeff Rose, Wilmington Branch Director for the Food Bank. “We are able to continue to meet the need through the generous support of the community.”

The distribution milestone comes at a time when nearly 30,000 children in the Wilmington service area, who receive free or reduced meals at school, are on summer break. Summer is typically a low donation period for food banks across the country, while the need increases as families struggle to fill this gap.

The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington is located at 1314 Marstellar Street in Wilmington. In fiscal year 2010-11, the Food Bank distributed 4,804,726 pounds of food through a network of over 90 partner agencies in the service area of Brunswick, Columbus, New Hanover and Pender Counties. In the four county area, 61,543 individuals struggle with hunger including 7,142 seniors and 18,338 children.

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Based in Raleigh, the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina serves 34 counties in the central and eastern through six warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, Southern Pines and Wilmington.

Attachments:

DennisConnor – Dennis Connor, Operations Manager for the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina at Wilmington loads the food that broke the record onto Burgaw PFWB's truck.

5MillionPounds – Food Bank volunteers and staff celebrate 5 million pounds distributed with Ted Mercer from Burgaw PFWB.

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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 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 42.75 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.

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