



NEWS RELEASE

FOOD BANK AWARDS KIDS CAFE PROGRAMS FOR EXCELLENCE

RALEIGH, NC (March 26, 2015) –The Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina recognized five Kids Cafe programs in a ceremony held March 24, 2015. Awards were given in five categories related to the programs:

Parental Involvement Award: Think Smart Outreach Center in Erwin, NC (Harnett County).

Think Smart has implemented a comprehensive parent involvement plan that includes family conferences, quarterly events, newsletters, curriculum nights and an active Parent Advisory Board. Think Smart also seeks guidance to continuously improve the program through a family evaluation form.

Nutrition Education Award: Friends of Chapel Hill Parks and Recreation at the Hargraves Center in Chapel Hill, NC (Orange County). Friends of Chapel Hill focus on increased vegetable and fruit consumption while at the same time lowering the sugar and fat content of the children's meals. They have also created a "Snack with Chef" class in which community food experts prepare healthy foods with the kids. Students learn lessons on understanding labels, discovering nutritional differences in fresh, canned, and frozen foods, and also take recipes and ingredients home to share.

Physical Activity Award: Rebuilding Broken Places – Project YESS (Youth Empowerment for Success and Service) Academy in Goldsboro, NC (Wayne County). This Kids Cafe site has implemented the GenMove program, in which a dedicated instructor engages the children using innovative equipment and ideas. Students participate for 45 minutes each day and are engaged in real physical activity for 85% of that time. The program has been so well received that it will be available this summer for students and parents.

-more-

Community Based Award: WRAAP (Wilmington's Residential Adolescent Achievement Place, Inc.) in Wilmington, NC (New Hanover County). The program continuously engages the community through workshops, meetings and engages countless community partners such as UNCW and Cape Fear Community College. More than 55 local students have given their time, together with other volunteers, to mentor and tutor children in the program.

Best All-Around Kids Cafe Award: Heartworks 21st Century Community Learning Center in Bayboro, NC (Pamlico County). Heartworks programming incorporates all the elements of a successful Kids Cafe while introducing the children to new experiences. There is a strong focus on making healthy food choices, staying active (one example is their “Go Far” running club), and social skills (such as learning how to politely greet someone). They’ve also engaged community volunteers to teach the kids boating and kayaking. Heartworks goes above and beyond the afterschool program with a pantry available to the community and holiday food boxes for kids and their families.

Each of the programs received a monetary award of \$1,000 (Best All-Around received \$1,500) to reinvest in their program.

Kids Cafe is an after-school program that offers tutoring, nutrition education, mentoring, and nutritious meals to children at risk of hunger. Kids Cafe provides a safe and positive environment for children ages 15 and under to gather after school. The Food Bank’s Kids Cafe program began in 1999 with 5 Kids Cafe sites. The program currently supports 26 Kids Cafe programs at 32 sites in 25 counties serving approximately 1,692 children.

Each Kids Cafe site is operated in partnership with a respected community agency in order to provide the attention and accountability needed to ensure quality programs for children. Although the details and schedules vary by site, all sites are geared towards academic enrichment, mentoring, nutrition education, nutritious meals, physical activities and parental empowerment.

For more information about the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina or our Kids Cafe Programs, visit www.foodbankcenc.org.

-more-

Attachments:

Heartworks 21st Century Community Learning Center Best All Around.jpg – Best All-Around Kids Cafe Award winner

Friends of Chapel Hill Parks and Rec.jpg – Nutrition Education Award winner

Rebuilding Broken Places.jpg – Physical Activity Award winner

Think Smart Outreach.jpg – Parental Involvement Award winner

Media Contact:

Jennifer M. Caslin
Coordinator of Marketing, Public & Branch Relations
(919) 865-3063 (office)
(910) 508-0547 (mobile)
jcасlin@foodbankcenc.org

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 distribution centers in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines), and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2013-2014, the Food Bank distributed more than 53 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 651,000 people struggle to access nutritious and adequate amounts of food necessary for an active and healthy life.

www.foodbankcenc.org.

#







