



## NEWS RELEASE

### Letter Carriers Call on Community to Stamp Out Hunger this Saturday

**May 9, 2018 (RALEIGH, NC)** - On Saturday May 12<sup>th</sup>, Letter Carriers in the Food Bank's service area (Durham, Greenville, Raleigh, Southern Pines, and Wilmington), will perform double duty on their routes – delivering the mail and collecting food items during the **26<sup>th</sup> Annual STAMP OUT HUNGER FOOD DRIVE**. Food donations will benefit the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina. In 2017, Letter Carriers collected more than 418,000 pounds (352,000 meals) in the Food Bank's 34-county service area.

Grocery bags and cards are delivered to most homes in the area in the week prior to the event. This year bags are donated by Food Lion, who are also collecting food in their stores leading up to Stamp Out Hunger. In addition, Food Lion donated 200,000 meals earlier this week nine food banks, including the Food Bank CENC branch in Greenville.

On Stamp Out Hunger Day, the public is asked to simply place bags filled with nonperishable food items next to their mailbox. A Letter Carrier will collect the donation and take it back to their postal branch where Food Bank volunteers will be on site throughout the day to unload the postal trucks. The community can also visit [foodbankcenc.org/SOH](http://foodbankcenc.org/SOH) to donate to the Stamp Out Hunger Virtual Food Drive.

#### **MOST NEEDED ITEMS LIST INCLUDES:**

- Canned Meals: Stews, Soups, Tuna, Ravioli, etc. *(Pop-top cans a plus!)*
- Peanut Butter
- Cereal
- Canned Fruits and Vegetables
- Rice, Pasta and Dried Beans
- Hygiene Items: Toothpaste, Shaving Items, Soap, etc.
- Paper Products: Toilet Paper, Paper Towels, etc.
- Infant Products: Diapers, Wipes, Formula, Infant Cereal

#### **NO GLASS, PLEASE!**

The Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive comes at a critical time when holiday food drive donations are long gone and nearly 300,000 children who depend on free and reduced breakfast/lunch programs at school will lose access to those meals during summer break.

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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 2016-2017, the Food Bank distributed 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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