



## News Release

For Immediate Release

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### Dragon Boats Support “Summer Hunger” in the Triangle

Raleigh, No. Carolina. (Apr. 9, 2013) — Individuals and teams from throughout the Triangle region will converge on June 22<sup>nd</sup> at Lake Wheeler to compete in the Stop Summer Hunger Triangle Dragon Boat Festival, benefitting the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina.

It is anticipated that up to 30 teams from local, corporate and community groups will be present at Lake Wheeler Park to partake in this fun community event and to raise dollars and awareness for the Stop Summer Hunger campaign at the Food Bank. Linda Fisher, Manager of Food Drives and Special Events at the Food Bank said "It's a privilege to promote an event that brings the community together and gives back to such a great cause." Fisher also added "We're very excited to bring awareness to the issue of summer hunger facing so many of our youth through this sport."

Dragon Boat Racing is great fun for anyone, young or old. Most local events attract primarily mixed teams from corporations, public service groups, clubs sponsored by small businesses, high schools, colleges and universities. There are now over 70 communities hosting Dragon Boat Festivals in the U.S. alone, and over 60 million participants worldwide.

Entering your own dragon boat team in the races is easy. Paddles, life vests, boats, and steerspersons will be provided as well as a one training session in advance of the event. Each team just has to provide 20 paddlers, a minimum of 8 must be female, and a drummer. On race day each team will race in three heats on a 350m course.

If you're interested in entering your own Dragon Boat team, you can attend a free introductory session at Lake Wheeler Park on Saturday, May 4<sup>th</sup>. For more information on the event or to RSVP for the intro session, visit [www.triangledragonboat.com](http://www.triangledragonboat.com).

#### **ABOUT Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina & Stop Summer Hunger**

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 warehouses in Durham, Greenville, New Bern, Raleigh, the Sandhills (Southern Pines), and Wilmington. In fiscal year 2011-2012, the Food Bank distributed nearly 45 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 560,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org)

“Summer” for over 279,000 children in the Food Bank’s 34-county service area doesn’t mean going to camp or to the pool. It means that since they won’t be at school, they may not have breakfast or lunch. To support those children and their families, the Food Bank invites corporate teams to participate in the FIRST annual **Stop Summer Hunger Triangle Dragon Boat Festival** on **June 22** at Lake Wheeler in Raleigh, North Carolina.

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