



# NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM RECEIVES AWARD FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT** *HOMEWORK HAVEN CONTINUES TRADITION OF EXCELLENCE*

**RALEIGH, NC** – The Parental Involvement Award was presented to Homework Haven, an after school program in Raleigh, on Wednesday, May 14 during the Standard of Excellence Awards Celebration for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina Kids Cafe Programs. The Standards of Excellence Awards Celebration honors Kids Cafe partner agencies that have excelled in the core components and have achieved distinction with the operation of their program. The Agency Services and Programs (ASAP) Department of the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina hosted the event at the Wake County Commons Building in Raleigh. Winners received \$1,000 to improve and further supplement their Kids Cafe Program.

At a time when childhood obesity is on the rise, Homework Haven seeks to bridge the gap between the skills parents may lack and the needs of their children. They offer parent meetings to keep them informed on program activities. In addition, they offer parenting classes and healthcare workshops. They regularly communicate with parents to learn the special needs of the students. This program cares about the whole child and offers various community programs to support the entire family beyond the Kids Cafe components.

The Physical Activity Award rewards the agency that has incorporated physical activity into the program operation by utilizing the Active Steps Youth Program as a central component of the physical activity curriculum. Eligible programs are those programs that promote physical activity that lead to increased recognition of the importance of physical activity both during the program operation and outside of normal program operation.

The Homework Haven Kids Cafe program, located at 513 Branch Street in Raleigh, NC, has partnered with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina as a Kids Cafe site since October 1999. It operates Monday through Thursday and serves 20 children. Since 2002, the program has served more than 14,000 meals and has benefited from more than 9000 hours of volunteer service to the Kids Cafe program.

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The Food Bank currently has 27 Kids Cafe programs in 26 counties.

Other 2008 award recipients were:

Best All-Around – Scotland Neck Recreation Foundation

Nutrition Education – Beulaville Youth Center

Physical Activity – Friends of Chapel Hill Parks & Recreation – Hargraves Center

Community-Based – Wilmington Residential Achievement Place (WRAAP) in Wilmington

The Kids Cafe program is one of the nation's largest charitable meal service programs, providing free and prepared food and nutrition education to children. The Food Bank's programs are sponsored by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina.

For additional information on the Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina Kids Cafe program, contact J. Caprice Brown, Outreach, Evaluations & Programs Manager, at 919-865-3037.

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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 provides food for people who are hungry in 34 counties in central and eastern North Carolina. The Food Bank serves a network of more than 870 partner agencies offering soup kitchens, food pantries, shelters, and programs for children and adults. In fiscal year 2006 - 2007, the Food Bank distributed more than 32.6 million pounds of food and non-food essentials to these agencies. Sadly, hunger remains a serious problem in central and eastern North Carolina. In these counties, more than 400,000 struggle each day to provide enough food for their families. [www.foodbankcenc.org](http://www.foodbankcenc.org)*

**About the Kids Cafe Program**

*The Kids Cafe program is one of the nation's largest charitable meal service programs, providing free and prepared food and nutrition education to hungry children. It is a comprehensive approach to ending childhood hunger through after-school programs - initiated by America's Second Harvest - The Nation's Food Bank Network and administered locally by the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina for children ages 15 and under. The Food Bank's programs are presented in collaboration with Blue Cross and Blue Shield of North Carolina. One of the primary strengths to the program is its flexibility. The primary reason for this approach is that poverty and hunger manifests differently in different communities thus requiring a community based approach to solving the childhood hunger dilemma.*