



## NEWS RELEASE

### **Anti-Hunger Advocate Earline Middleton Honored at National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference**

**WASHINGTON, March 3, 2020** — The Food Research & Action Center (FRAC) and Feeding America recognized Earline Middleton of the [Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina](#) (the Food Bank) for her passion and tireless commitment to ending hunger in her community and across the nation. She was honored during the [2020 National Anti-Hunger Policy Conference](#), held in Washington, D.C. from March 1–3. The conference brought together over 1,000 anti-hunger advocates, nutrition program providers, and policymakers from across the country for two days of networking and training to help attendees better fight hunger in their communities, followed by a day on Capitol Hill.

Middleton has been with the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina since 1990 and has served in various roles before leading the Food Bank's Partner Services department. She is now Vice President of Partner Services & Public Policy and is the organization's first female VP and first VP of color. Under her leadership, the Food Bank has worked with partners to launch programs aimed at feeding more children and seniors and has helped partner agencies expand their capacity. She also works to protect and strengthen federal and state nutrition programs.

These programs—including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), and the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP)—reduce hunger and poverty, improve health and learning, increase productivity, create jobs, and strengthen our communities.

"Earline has long served as a role model for anti-hunger advocates throughout the nation," said Ellen Teller, director of government affairs at FRAC. "She is passionate about solving hunger and poverty, and we consider ourselves lucky that she has dedicated a huge part of her life to partnering with us in this critically important work."

"Without strong advocates like Earline and the Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina, hunger in the U.S. would be far, far worse," said Carrie Calvert, vice president of government relations at Feeding America. "Whether she's overseeing a food drive or coming up with new ideas and programs to address hunger, she really puts the people that the food bank serves first."

**Attachments:**

Middleton 1 – Former President of FRAC Jim Weill, Earline Middleton, Director of Government Affairs at FRAC Ellen Teller

Middleton 2 – Earline Middleton on stage receiving award

Middleton 3 – Close up of the award

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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 900 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 2018-2019, the Food Bank distributed over 80 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, nearly 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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