

2014 Feds Feed Families campaign helps knock out local hunger

By Ian Thomas

NIEHS employees concluded the 2014 Feds Feed Families campaign with its third and final collection Aug. 27, bringing in more than one ton - 2,534 pounds, to be exact - of nonperishable food and personal hygiene items. This marked the fifth year of NIEHS involvement in the program, in partnership with the Durham Rescue Mission and Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, who received the donations.

"This year's theme was knock out hunger, and I'm really proud of the way our institute has stepped up to the plate, as it does every year, to honor that mission," said Monya Brace, member of the NIEHS Office of Management and 2014 campaign co-coordinator.

Other co-coordinators included Bill Jirles, president of the American Federation of Government Employees Local 2923, and Sheila Withers, a representative of the Raleigh-Durham Area Chapter of Blacks In Government.

A national effort with roots at home

Since [Feds Feed Families](#)

(<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?navid=feds-feed-families>)

began in 2009, federal workers have donated and collected more than 24.1 million pounds of food and other nonperishable items to support families across the country. Food donated includes canned meats, meals, fruits, and vegetables, as well as cereal, peanut butter, juice, rice, pasta, and dried beans. NIEHS employees also brought in diapers, wipes, cleaning supplies, and hygiene products.

Still, despite the reach of the campaign throughout the nation, organizers insist that part of the program's appeal is its emphasis on keeping donations at home.

"NIEHS is a leader in public health and gives so much to the U.S. research enterprise, but a lot of those efforts aren't local," said Jirles, a program analyst with the institute's Office of Policy, Planning, and Evaluation. "That's why it is such a special program, because when we donate thousands of pounds of food to the campaign, that equates to thousands of meals for families right here in the Triangle who might have otherwise gone hungry."

(Ian Thomas is a public affairs specialist in the NIEHS Office of Communications and Public Liaison, and a regular contributor to the Environmental Factor.)



Pinkney Wilder III, left, and William Boyd, load the last of the NIEHS donations, as the 2014 campaign comes to a close. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)



As she received a donation from Toni Ward, NIEHS and NTP Director Linda Birnbaum, Ph.D., center, enjoyed the gorgeous weather during the final curbside drop-off of 2014. (Photo courtesy of Steve McCaw)

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