

s e r v i n g HOPE

FALL 2018

YOU'RE PREPARING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS!

ALSO

- P. 3 Thank You for Supporting the Whole Child.
- P. 7 You're Helping Families Stay Healthy!
- P. 8 A Dedicated Mom is Grateful for Your Gifts!



Rhonda Sanders, CEO

Dear Friend,

Children have a lot of obstacles to overcome in a school year — having enough to eat shouldn't be one of them.

Which is why I'm so thankful for you. You helped local children get the food they needed when they were on summer vacation, and through your support, we can ensure they resume classes this fall with the most important school supply: food.

Together with you, we're focusing our efforts on feeding hungry children in three main areas as they start the new school year: backpacks filled with nutritious, kid-friendly food for weekend meals and snacks, school pantries and after-school meal programs.

Plus, your generosity allows us to feed students of all ages — college students can pick up healthy groceries from the shelves at our campus pantries right where they go to school.

In this issue of *Serving Hope*, you'll read about how your gifts have been put to use for a backpack program at Chicot Elementary School. Chicot staff tell us that your gifts made a big difference for students last school year!

And on pages 7 and 8, you'll hear about how your donations are helping single moms feed their families the nutritious food they know will help them thrive.

Your gifts to the [Foodbank](#) are making a real and lasting impact on your community. Thanks to you, Arkansas kids have a lot of great things to look forward to in the school year ahead, and beyond!

Gratefully,

Rhonda

Board of Directors

Officers

Maggie Young – President

Will Montgomery – Vice-President

D. Trent Roberts – Treasurer

Ashley Wimberley – Secretary

Cliff McKinney – Parliamentarian

Members

Bob Beach

Don Brake

Amy Brantley

Patricia Brown

Clark Cogbill

Joe Copeland

Derick Easter

Gordon Garlington

Dr. Charles Glasier

Anton Janik

Jordan Johnson

Sharhonda Love

Cal McCastlain

Dr. Larry Miller

David Oakley

Kathryn Roberts

Neill Sloan

Maria Smedley

Dustin Smith

Brian Taylor



Thank You for Supporting the Whole Child.

A child shouldn't have to worry about where their next meal will come from, and your gifts are helping ensure they don't have to.

"Thank you for taking the time to care...that the child can be successful," says Adrienne Hawkins, guidance counselor at Chicot Elementary School.

Through a partnership between the [Arkansas Foodbank](#) and Feed Arkansas Kids, a ministry of the Church at Rock Creek, Chicot Elementary is able to provide at-risk students with backpacks full of nutritious food each Friday. Through your generosity, each backpack is filled with enough nutritious, kid-friendly food to feed a child over the weekend so they don't return to school with an empty stomach on Monday.

"I would like to thank
[you] for going above
and beyond to make sure
that the whole child is
taken care of."

Children who go without food, even for a short amount of time, are at a higher risk of developmental, physical and emotional problems — all of which can set them back in school. Your generosity helps reduce that risk for local children.

And kids aren't the only ones who are thankful for your gifts. One Chicot student's mom has a debilitating disease that often leaves her bedridden. Adrienne says the mom is relieved to know her child is eating nutritious food even when she can't provide it for them.

"[Caregivers] appreciate it so much — they're just so happy that someone cares about [their children] over the weekend," Adrienne says.

In 2016, your gifts made it possible for the Foodbank to give weekend food to nearly 7,000 Arkansas children through 116 schools.

"I would like to thank you for going above and beyond to make sure that the whole child is taken care of," Adrienne says.

Thank you for giving children a better chance to learn, grow and thrive. Your gifts make a world of difference.

You're Feeding the Future of Our Community!



THANK YOU!

THV Summer Cereal Drive



Thank you to everyone who supported our efforts during the annual THV Summer Cereal Drive! With the help of our amazing community, we are proud to announce that we raised 287,267 boxes. The cereal we collected will be given to hungry children and families all year long. Thank you to all the businesses, organizations and individuals who supported our cause, and a special thanks to THV !! This important work could not be done without you!



LEGACY OF HOPE



Planned giving is one of the best ways to ensure your support for hunger relief continues into the future. It's not just about tax law or asset transfers — it's about what you value most. Please consider becoming a charter member of Legacy of Hope today. Whatever your financial situation, there's a planned gift for you. Contact Sarah Riffle at 501-569-4319 to join.



JOIN US!

Join us at Harvest Night



We are kicking off Hunger Action Month with a bang this year! Join us at the third annual

Harvest Night on September 8th. There will be live music, true southern food and activities for the whole family to enjoy. Funds raised through this event will go towards fighting hunger in our community! Visit arkansasfoodbank.org for more info and to buy tickets.

September is Hunger Action Month!



September is Hunger Action Month. All month we will highlight the hunger issues in our state and offer ways you can help make

a difference in the lives of the hungry. 30 Ways in 30 Days is our interactive calendar of events. Each day you are given an activity to do or an event to attend to help bring awareness to hunger in our state.

There are over half a million Arkansans who don't always get enough to eat, which means they sometimes don't have the fuel they need to tackle the day. Join us this September and unite with us to fight hunger. [#unitedtofighthunger](https://twitter.com/unitedtofighthunger) [#hungeractionmonth](https://twitter.com/hungeractionmonth) #30waysin30days

BECOME A PARTNER IN HOPE

Even small, monthly gifts add up to make an incredible impact over time! You can provide food to hungry children, families and seniors all year long when you sign up to become a *Partner in Hope*. This group of passionate hunger-relief supporters is vital to our mission! It's easy to sign up, and you can go paperless with your gift. To join this special group of supporters, visit arkansasfoodbank.org.



From left to right: Tami Lambert, Kelsey Jackson, Nancy Pearce, Lisa Gober, Steven Bloomberg

It's no surprise that a college education isn't cheap. After stretching a limited budget to afford classes, books and other fees, many students lack enough funds for the basic nutrition they need to function and learn at their best.

When you give to [Arkansas Foodbank](#), you're providing vital food for students in need at Southeast Arkansas Community College. In March, the college hosted its first food pantry, in collaboration with the Arkansas Foodbank and Southeast Arkansas College Foundation.

The food pantry is offered once a month on the campus, and recipients are given a box filled with enough nutritious food for themselves and their family. Any current student, faculty or staff member can pick up food.

Lisa Gober and Tammy Watts both work for Career Pathways Initiative, a grant-funded program designed to provide tuition and non-tuition help

to low-income student parents. Through their work on campus, they've seen the vast need for food assistance at the college.

"Often [donors] think they are helping a student or staff member," says Lisa. "You don't realize you are helping these individuals' families also. We see kids, spouses and grandparents."

By April — just one month after the first food pantry opened at the college — the number of people seeking assistance nearly doubled.

"Obviously there is a need," says Lisa. "We have so many repeat clients."

Though the food pantry is only offered once monthly, individuals can also receive food on an emergency basis. Or, they can pick up "brain food" bags with just enough food to get through a long day of studies.

Thank you for giving college students and their families the nutrition they need to learn at their best!

Tiffany holds her daughter, Elise, while picking up groceries at the food pantry at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock.

You're Helping Families Stay Healthy!



It isn't easy finding affordable, healthy food on a tight budget, which is why Tiffany is so thankful for people like you.

Tiffany recently came to the food pantry at Immanuel Baptist Church in Little Rock, a member agency of the [Foodbank](#). She's a single mother of five children, ages 15, 12, 7, 5 and 10 months. For this family and many like them, your gifts make all the difference.

"Thank you — it's very much appreciated," Tiffany says.

Tiffany is a nurse by trade but had to stop working after an injury and back surgeries. Without a steady income, Tiffany relies on the groceries she takes home from the food pantry to help feed her family.

As a nurse, Tiffany is especially mindful that her children need healthy food to thrive — she knows they'll have health, developmental and behavioral problems if they don't have the right nutrients in their bodies.

Your gifts make it possible for the Foodbank's many member agencies to keep their shelves stocked full of wholesome, nutritious foods. Families like Tiffany's can take home shelf-stable groceries, as well as a variety of fresh produce.

"Thank you — it's very much appreciated!"

In fact, in 2016, fresh fruits and vegetables accounted for the highest percentage of foods provided through the [Arkansas Foodbank](#) across our 33-county service area. In 2017, your gifts helped provide 3.7 million pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Thank you for giving families access to balanced, healthy meals! You're making the future brighter — and healthier — for your neighbors.



This Dedicated Mom is Grateful for Your Gifts!

Bradley and Alexandria are thankful for the weekend backpacks you help provide!

Alexandria has always worked hard to provide for her kids. But when she recently became unemployed, she needed help feeding her family.

“Food is a big expense, especially with four children,” says Alexandria.

Two of Alexandria’s children are in high school, one is in middle school, and one, Bradley, attends Glenview Elementary, where Alexandria volunteers as president of the Parent Teacher Association.

Thanks to friends like you, Glenview Elementary families like Alexandria’s have access to needed healthy food through our [Food For Kids](#) backpack program.

Each backpack has enough food for complete, nutritious meals from the time the child leaves school on Friday to the time they show up again on Monday morning.

“It helps to fuel their bodies, so they can concentrate in school and not be hungry,” Alexandria says.

The backpack program fills the gap when children are home on the weekend and without free or reduced-price school meals, a resource many hardworking parents are grateful for.

“Thank you for thinking of the community.”

Alexandria says Bradley is always excited to see what food is in his backpack. She’s happy he’s learning about good nutrition in the process, thanks to the healthy meals each pack includes.

Without this program, Alexandria thinks more parents would not be able to provide their children with the nutritious food that they need to be healthy.

“Thank you for thinking of the community... thinking of the children who would go hungry because their parents are working or can’t always provide for them,” Alexandria says to friends like you.

