

s e r v i n g HOPE

HOLIDAY 2018

YOUR GIFTS SPREAD HOLIDAY CHEER!

ALSO

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Has Hope



Rhonda Sanders, CEO

Dear Friend,

The holidays are about families being together. Growing up in a military family, we never knew if we'd all have the chance to celebrate with one another. We'd sometimes have Christmas in July just to make it work!

Because my own family couldn't always gather during the holiday season, we opened our doors to others. I grew up in an atmosphere where you provided home to whomever needed it. I think that's probably why I want to share food and comfort with others today.

At the [Arkansas Foodbank](#), we know the people who visit our network of partners don't just come once and have all their problems solved. Our hungry neighbors are often facing job loss, illness and other setbacks. By meeting their basic need for food, we're providing them with the means to get back on solid footing, be productive and contribute to our community.

The Foodbank is only able to share nutritious meals and groceries because you choose to give. Over the past year, your support has allowed us to reach even more Arkansans with healthy items like fresh fruits and vegetables. I'm excited to see our programs grow in 2019, thanks to your partnership.

I have the opportunity to meet some of the people you help through your gifts at our partner sites, and let me tell you — they are so, so very grateful. You can read some of their words of thanks in this special holiday edition of *Serving Hope*.

I want to sincerely thank you for your partnership in this important work. Your generosity inspires me every day.

Happy holidays to you and yours,

Rhonda

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You're Growing Strong Arkansas Families

Sarah and Ivey

Life on a fixed income can be really tough. Some months you might get by just fine, but when added expenses arise, your budget might reach its breaking point. Just ask Sarah.

A single mother, Sarah makes ends meet with only a monthly disability check to provide for her two growing children — Ivey, 4, and Chance, 6. She finds that often, her money runs out before she can cover all their needs.

Chance is fortunate to be able to eat meals in the school cafeteria. But at home, there's not always enough food to go around.

This is a big problem. Without consistent nutrition, kids like Chance and Ivey are at greater risk for illness, trouble concentrating, developmental delays and other issues.

Sarah wants to provide the best possible life for her children. They're a close little family — Sarah takes the kids to the park when it's nice out, and they love to read books together. It's painful to not have the means to fill their table with balanced meals.

Thankfully, she has somewhere to turn for help. Sarah found out about the food pantry at Northside Church of Christ in Benton, which partners with the Foodbank to share nutritious groceries. She says it's a real relief.

"It's a big help at the end of the month," she says of the pantry. "The kids get to eat."

During the holidays, Sarah will be able to stop by Northside and pick up all the fixings for a special meal for her kids. She's so grateful to have you in her corner.

"It's a big help."

There are so many parents across central and southern Arkansas who are giving thanks for your support this holiday season. Thank you for giving them hope.

You Share Joy During the Holidays!

THANK YOU!

Harvest Night



Thank you to everyone who came out and supported our 3rd Annual Harvest Night! Because of generous

donors like you, the Arkansas Foodbank was able to raise enough funds to provide food for an amazing 420,000 meals for hungry families, children, and seniors in central and southern Arkansas! This event would not have been possible without our hunger-fighting event chairs, Hannah and Jay O. Howe, and our presenting sponsor, Riceland. Thank you to everyone who attended and made this night a success!

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!

#GivingTuesday | November 27th

#GIVINGTUESDAY™

#GivingTuesday is happening on November 27th, 2018, and the Arkansas Foodbank is asking you to join us for this global day of giving and philanthropy! Help raise awareness about hunger in your community and provide food for families this holiday season. For more information about giving, visit our website at arkansasfoodbank.org

KARK Food 4 The Holidays Telethon | December 6th



KARK Channel 4's Food 4 the Holidays telethon will happen on December 6th and benefits the Arkansas Foodbank. Every dollar raised at this all-day event provides food for FIVE meals for hungry Arkansans! Watch KARK on December 6th to learn how to donate!

Holiday Tribute Cards!



Needing a gift for a friend or relative? Look no further! You can make a donation to the Arkansas Foodbank in celebration of someone you love,

and they'll receive a special holiday card in their honor. You can do your holiday shopping and make a charitable donation at the same time! For more information, contact Hannah Bryant at 501-569-4346.

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.



United Methodists of Arkansas Are Changing Lives Across Our State

During Ingathering, hundreds of boxes of food are packed for hungry Arkansans!

The Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church (ARUMC) has a long history of supporting hunger relief. The group's plan to provide food for Arkansas children — “200,000 Reasons to Fight Childhood Hunger” — includes all 660 UMCs across our state and aims to raise both donations and awareness.

ARUMC chose the title of the program to draw attention to the needs of an estimated 200,000 boys and girls who faced hunger in 2014.

“We know that there are hungry children in every county in Arkansas, and we were looking to see how we could make an impact,” says Mary Lewis Dassinger, ARUMC’s project coordinator.

United Methodists of Arkansas also come together statewide to fight hunger during the holidays. For the past three years, ARUMC has hosted “Ingathering,”

a food packing event at the [Foodbank](#), the Saturday before Thanksgiving.

This year, members will collect beans and sweet potatoes for Ingathering from local Arkansas farms, and around 250–350 volunteers will pack them up for distribution to our network of partners. Volunteers work in two shifts on Saturday, and in between, Mary Lewis speaks about the issue of hunger and how Ingathering helps make a difference.

Ingathering also includes an internal ARUMC drive for disaster-relief materials, which are sent on to the United Methodist Committee on Relief.

Providing food and hope for vulnerable Arkansans is clearly one of ARUMC’s top priorities, and we are truly grateful to have their partnership in this important work. Thank you, United Methodists, for your fervent commitment to improving life here in Arkansas!

Thank You for Helping Our Neighbors Thrive

“I want to give my kids the best head start they can have,” Tyler says.

He knows how important healthy food is for his two children, ages 2 and 4. That’s why Tyler fills his grocery basket with fresh fruits and vegetables whenever he can. Unfortunately, on his limited budget, that’s not often possible.

Tyler was hit by a car in 2014, and the accident resulted in serious injuries to his lungs and head — he actually had to undergo brain surgery.

He’s made great strides in his recovery, but Tyler still has continuing issues that make earning an income difficult. He was able to secure a job, but with two growing kids at home, his paychecks don’t always cover monthly expenses.

“I feel blessed!”

Tyler’s wife hopes to go back to work, too, when the kids are old enough for school. Until then, the couple’s so grateful they can visit Soul Food Cafe Mission in Conway for help feeding their family.

At Soul Food, a [Foodbank](#) member agency, Tyler can find just the kind of quality food he wants to provide for his children — like fresh fruits, vegetables and whole grains. We had the chance to talk with

Tyler picks up food for his family of four at Soul Food Cafe Mission in Conway.



Tyler on a recent visit, and he told us how much the groceries mean to him.

“I feel blessed!” he says. “I don’t have to stress about how to provide for my family. It really puts my mind at ease.”

Before his accident, Tyler spent two years serving our country in the military. It’s such a privilege to now serve this deserving neighbor. This holiday season, your support means he and his family can share a special meal together — and have the peace of mind knowing they won’t have to go hungry. Thank you sincerely for making this possible.



Because You Give, Luvenia's Family Has Hope

Luvenia & D'Angelo's children take home healthy food from Vine and Village in Little Rock!

Luvenia and D'Angelo are raising their four children — a 10-year-old, two 8-year-olds and the youngest, 6 — in Little Rock. We met the family on their first visit to Vine and Village, one of our partners in southwest Little Rock.

The couple decided to reach out for help when they realized they needed to buy gas but wouldn't have money left over for groceries. They said they'd been having a tough time financially since D'Angelo was laid off from his job at a courier company.

“Y'all are a lifesaver.”

“When you don't have a job, it's hard to provide food...you've got to pay bills,” D'Angelo says, dismayed.

The family's eyes lit up when they saw the bins filled with fresh fruits and veggies available at Vine and Village. The kids are all healthy eaters — they love carrots, peas, watermelon and strawberries — and their parents are thrilled they can fill their plates with good, nutritious food.

As D'Angelo continues his job hunt, he has the comfort of knowing his family won't have to skip meals. Your support will continue to be a lifeline as the couple's budget recovers from this temporary setback and they get back on solid financial footing.

We asked the family if they had a message for the Foodbank supporters who help provide the food, and Luvenia smiled brightly.

“Y'all are a lifesaver,” she says. “[This is] good help in a time of need.”

Your gifts are making the holidays bright for countless local families. Thank you!

