

# Agency Scoop

ARKANSAS

FOOD  BANK

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

August 2020

Agency Scoop, Arkansas Foodbank Member Newsletter, is your inside scoop for exclusive dates, information and stories from Arkansas Foodbank members. Distributed monthly, this is our primary contact to distribute information that applies specifically to our members.

## COVID19 & CRISIS COMMUNICATION AT YOUR PANTRY

During these uncertain times, you may find your pantry having to close due to a positive case, or just out of an abundance of caution. If you do have to close, here are a few suggestions for communicating this to your clients and community.



Transparency is key if you have a positive case:

~ You can post on your social that someone tested positive BUT be sure to list the actions you are taking such as closing for a few days, getting all of your volunteers tested, and deep cleaning.

~ You do not have to send anything to your local media. However, if they get wind of the positive case and contact you and you need help communicating with them, please call the Foodbank for assistance. We are more than happy to help you with talking points for media.

~ Put it on your social media page that you are closed BUT make sure the community knows alternate ways to get food. We now have a texting service that you can list to help

people find another place near them to get food if you are closed. They and **text FINDFOOD to 844-381-3663**. You can also put this on the door to your facility in case anyone comes to your pantry not knowing you are closed.



Please feel free to contact us at 501-565-8121 if you have questions.

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Keep up the great work – and remember to send us your pantry/agency stories.

You can email Shamim at:  
[sokolloh@arkansasfoodbank.org](mailto:sokolloh@arkansasfoodbank.org)

## NEW STAFF: DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS

June 2020, Robbie Kendrick joined the Arkansas Foodbank staff as the Director of Operations. In this role, Robbie oversees transportation, warehouse operations, inventory control, employee and food safety, sanitation and facilities maintenance. Robbie comes to us with 35 years of experience working in the grocery industry with the Kroger. As Director of Operations, Robbie is dedicated to provide the agencies and communities we serve with wholesome, nutritious food in the most efficient, timely manner. He is committed to ensuring agencies receive accurate and complete orders to serve their clients. Developing people has always been a passion of Robbie's. He is looking forward to developing his operations team to better serve hungry Arkansans.



Robbie received his bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Arkansas Tech University. He enjoys being outdoors hunting, fishing, and spending time with his son, Kyle and daughter Paige.

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## It's A Wrap: Summer Cereal Drive

We wrapped up our 20th Annual THV11 Summer Cereal drive on July 31st. Though things looked a lot different this year due to COVID-19, thanks to our teams and communities, we were still able to collect over 165,000 boxes of cereal to help our neighbors in need!



Thanks to partnerships with Kroger, Walmart, Harps and Super 1 Foods, we were able to have bins in stores to collect cereal from customers in central Arkansas all month long. This cereal was distributed to pantries in those communities to begin handing out immediately. Our teams also worked hard collecting cereal and virtually raising funds to be used by the Foodbank to purchase cereal that is available for free for your pantries on the shopping list.

For the past 20 years, we've been blown away by the support from the community during the THV11 Summer Cereal Drive. This year was no exception. We know the need is greater than ever right now and we hope that the cereal and breakfast items collected will help you all serve your community. We are already gearing up for a great and hopefully not "Social Distance Edition" of the 21st THV11 Summer Cereal Drive!

## CLEAResult Program

Entergy Arkansas is looking for agencies interested in partnering on regular distributions of energy efficiency products, such as LED light bulbs, as part of their Entergy Solutions Point of Purchase program. Products will be delivered along with regular food distributions, and agencies will be required to report quantity distributed on a monthly basis. Interested agencies should contact Regina Taylor at [rtaylor@arkansasfoodbank.org](mailto:rtaylor@arkansasfoodbank.org) or 501-565-8121 Friday, September 4th.



For those interested in receiving energy efficiency products from Entergy Arkansas, the first distribution will be advanced power strips, just in time for back-to-school. Advanced power strips function similar to a typical power strip but save energy by preventing electronics from wasting standby (or “vampire”) power, which is power that is used by devices even when turned off or not in use. This can add up to big savings when used in a home office or entertainment center. In fact, wasted standby power accounts for nearly 10 percent of the average household’s monthly electric bill. The strips will be delivered along with regular food distributions, and agencies will be required to report quantity distributed on a monthly basis. Limit 2 per household. Interested agencies should contact Regina Taylor at [rtaylor@arkansasfoodbank.org](mailto:rtaylor@arkansasfoodbank.org) or 501-565-8121 by Friday, September 4th.



## VIRTUAL Annual Agency Appreciation Conference Friday, October 23rd 2020

This year our annual conference will go virtual. We hope this opens it up for more people from your agency to attend (volunteers, staff and clients). We will miss seeing everyone but it’s the best platform to keep us all safe yet still able to celebrate our achievements.

*Details coming soon.*

### 2020 WARREN DELIVERY SCHEDULE

September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

October 6, 13, 20, 27

November 3, 10, 17, 24

December 1, 8, 15, 22

## LOW INCOME SOLUTIONS PROGRAM

Dear Food Pantry,

I'm writing to let you know about a new program offered by Entergy Arkansas that could benefit many of your clients during this difficult year. The Entergy Solutions Low-Income Solutions Program is available to low-income Entergy customers to help make homes safer, more comfortable and more energy efficient. There is no additional cost to participate in this program.

Funding is currently available for home-weatherization upgrades such as air and duct sealing, installation of energy-saving devices such as LED bulbs, advanced power strips and more, and qualifying minor health and safety related repairs to the homes. The program is available to both homeowners and renters who meet the income requirements for LIHEAP or SNAP eligibility.

I've attached a flyer about the program for you to distribute to your clients if you wish. If you would like hard copies of this handout for easier distribution, please let me know how many flyers you would like and your mailing address. I am available if you have any questions and thank you for your hard work and service in helping our vulnerable neighbors.

Sincerely,

*Sarah Amspacher*

Low-Income Solutions Program Manager

Email: [samspacher@resource-innovations.com](mailto:samspacher@resource-innovations.com)

Phone: 501-291-3970

Website: [https://www.entergy-arkansas.com/your\\_home/save\\_money/ee/low-income/](https://www.entergy-arkansas.com/your_home/save_money/ee/low-income/)

## LABOR DAY SEPTEMBER 7

The Arkansas Foodbank will be closed on Monday, September 7th in observance of Labor Day. All agency orders that are picked up, directly delivered or delivered to the Warren Branch on Tuesday, September 8th following Labor Day, must be completed in Agency Express no later than 8:00AM on Thursday, September 3rd.

[arkansasfoodbank.org](http://arkansasfoodbank.org)

