

## How does Mississippi Food Network work?

- Mississippi Food Network receives food from manufacturers, distributors, processors, donors, food drives and USDA.
- Staff and volunteers sort, inventory and store the food in our 65,000 foot warehouse.
- Approved member agencies place orders from a weekly order guide (shopping list) and pick up the food orders from our warehouse. Some member agencies in outlying areas use our rural truck delivery program.
- Member Agencies distribute the food to families and individuals in need.
- Member Agencies report to Mississippi Food Network the number of individuals and families served on a monthly basis.

## Mississippi Food Network

Agency Relations Department  
P. O. Box 411  
Jackson, MS 39205

Phone: 601-973-7090  
Fax: 601-973-7091

[ddillon@msfoodnet.org](mailto:ddillon@msfoodnet.org)  
[www.msfoodnet.org/agencyrelations](http://www.msfoodnet.org/agencyrelations)

member of



Want to do something  
about hunger in your  
community?

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Become a Member  
Agency with



Mississippi Food  
Network

“Making Food  
Available to  
Charities Serving  
the Needy”

# You Can Help End Hunger In Your Community

## Why are Member Agencies so important?

Mississippi Food Network has a Mission to relieve poverty-related hunger in our service area by distributing donated and purchased food and grocery products through a network of member churches and non-profit organizations (member agencies). We provide nutrition education to our needy clients, and we also emphasize advocacy and related needs.

Member Agencies are on the front lines of ending hunger in their communities. Our member agencies consist of churches, religious organizations, and non-profit charities that provide services, resources and hope for individuals and families faced with hunger, on a daily basis.

Fulfilling our mission is a “shared responsibility,” and without our member agencies, we could not reach the individuals and families who desperately need food.

## What are membership requirements?

- Must have a 501c3 classification from the Internal Revenue Service, OR
- Must meet IRS requirements for classification as a church, OR
- Operate under the “umbrella” of a parent organization which holds a 501c3 classification.



## What costs are involved with membership?

Mississippi Food Network has a “shared maintenance fee” on some of the food accessed by member agencies. Shared maintenance fees are actually handling fees paid to Mississippi Food Network by member agencies in return for services provided to them. The cost is associated with soliciting, procuring, transporting, unloading, storing, distributing and maintaining the integrity of the product donated,

equal to a great deal more than the average 18¢ per pound a member agency shares with Mississippi Food Network. Shared maintenance is paid when an agency orders and is based on the number of pounds ordered. The shared maintenance helps us purchase and deliver the best products at the most economical rate to our member agencies. *USDA commodities do not have shared maintenance fees.*

## Types of Member Agencies

- Emergency Food Pantries
- Soup Kitchens
- After-School Programs
- Non-profit Daycare Programs
- Group Homes
- Emergency Shelters
- Mobile pantries
- Homeless Shelters
- Senior Citizen Programs

