



Food Matters

MfN MISSISSIPPI FOOD NETWORK

MEMBER OF FEEDING AMERICA

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. We provide nutrition education to our needy clients.

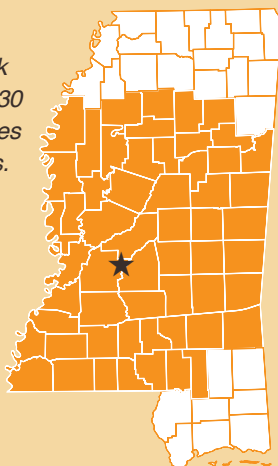
We also emphasize advocacy and related needs.

Vision

To eliminate poverty-related hunger in our service area.

Our Service Area

Mississippi Food Network distributes to 430 partner agencies in 56 counties.



★ = Mississippi Food Network Warehouse

Food Network Fact

Our service area is big! Our 56 counties add up to 32,955 square miles of Mississippi fields, towns and cities.

With an estimated 400,840 food-insecure Mississippians across all that space, that's about 12 people per square mile who are struggling with food insecurity.

When They Needed Help, You Made A Difference

Where do you turn when tragedy happens to your family?

My Brother's Keeper, a food pantry and member agency of Mississippi Food Network, has been an answered prayer for Ms. Patricia Ingram. When she found herself in a situation she thought she would never face of raising her grandchildren she had to find ways to feed her family. Her life was drastically changed when her daughter was taken from her in an act of violence leaving her four children behind. Ms. Ingram went from taking care of herself to her four grandchildren as well.

Up to this point, she had been able to pay her bills, even though some months were tight on her salary as a school cafeteria worker at a local high school. Her grandchildren receive survivor benefits which often keeps her from qualifying for other services needed to help her family. As Ms. Ingram told us, "It is a numbers game when you ask for additional services. In reality, just because you have funds coming in, they go right back out when you are trying to provide special services for your grandchildren who have lived through a tragedy." This is why

continued on page 3



Dear Friends and Donors:

The beginning of the season we call fall triggers many feelings, thoughts, memories and emotions. For the hunter and avid outdoorsman (or woman), it may mean the thrill of the hunt and the joy of being outside. For the football fan, it may be the excitement of the "Friday night lights" for high school games, crisp, cool Saturday afternoons on the college gridirons, Sunday afternoons and Monday nights for professional games. For others, fall may simply mean enjoying the art that nature provides through the turning of the colors of the leaves.

For those of us here at MFN, fall signals the beginning of our busiest season. Over the next few months we will see our Volunteer Saturdays back in full swing. It will be a time for us to gratefully interact with the many individuals and organizations that will be helping us with food drives. And it will be a time to "put our shoulders to the grindstone," as we engage in the tremendous amount of work that we will undertake before, during and after the upcoming holidays, as we do our best to secure the funds required to help provide food for those in need.

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For all of the joy that fall brings to many, we are ever mindful of the fact that it is also a grim reminder that an overwhelming number of our friends and neighbors are grateful that schools have reopened and their children can get at least a couple of nutritious meals during the day. It is also a reminder that programs like our Kids Cafe®, AfterSchool Snack and Backpack initiatives will provide food in the evenings and over the coming weekends to those children and families who would otherwise not have access to enough food to ease their hunger.



And, while thoughts of the upcoming holidays are pleasant musings for most of us...times when families come together to celebrate their religious beliefs, the good things that life offers, and the comfort of just being together, it is also a time when too many of our fellow Mississippians will be hungry or continue to experience food insecurity (the state of not knowing how or when they may get their next meal).

As for me, the beginning of the fall season also signals a reminder that I should write once again to express my thanks, on behalf of our board of directors and our staff to those of you who support us in the work we do. Our continuing goal is to help ensure that as few of our neighbors as possible, including the most vulnerable among us, our children and senior citizens do not go hungry. What we do would not be possible without you. **THANK YOU!**

Sincerely,

Charles H. Beady, Jr.

Charles H. Beady, Jr., Ph.D.
Chief Executive Officer



When They Needed Help, You Made A Difference continued from page 1

Ms. Ingram is so grateful for the services of My Brother's Keeper Food Pantry. For the past two years they have been like family – someone she can reach out to for help to make it month to month. They are always ready to greet her with a warm smile which makes her feel like she matters and that she can keep going for her grandchildren. Even though you can't always control what happens to you in life, Ms. Ingram and her grandchildren know with the help of My Brother's Keepers Food Pantry, there will always be food on the table.

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2017 FACTS & FIGURES: A Snapshot of Our Year So Far

2.3 million pounds of food recovered through our Retail Donation Program.

11.3 million meals provided

15,000 meals provided each month of the school year through the weekend Backpack Program.

1 million+ pounds of fresh produce distributed through our 2017 Produce Initiative.

2,949 hours contributed by 865 volunteers.

729,052 clients served



Save the Date



4TH ANNUAL Moonlight Market

March 22, 2018



MfN | MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORK

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Scouts Helping Fight Childhood Hunger

Last year when Zeke Morgan was looking for an Eagle Scout project, he came up with the idea to do a food drive for the Backpack Program at Mississippi Food Network. While talking with Zeke about his project, he thought it was important for members from his Scout Troop 30 to help other children who were less fortunate than themselves. Troop 30 had such a great time working on this project with Zeke they voted to make this an annual community service event.

We appreciate their efforts to help others, especially with the Backpack Program where children go home with child-friendly foods during the weekends when they do not have access to meals at school. Thank you Scout Troop 30 for raising 2,071 pounds of food and collecting \$367 during your 2nd Annual Scouts Helping Kids Food Drive.



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Action Against Hunger: How You Can Help



As September comes to a close, so does Feeding America's nationwide hunger awareness campaign. However, it is never too late to make a difference for one of the 400,840 people in Central Mississippi whose plates are empty.

It's tough to do basic activities on an empty stomach, but it's easy to make a difference. We're asking everyone to come together to help ensure that no child, adult, or senior in our community lacks the nutritional fuel to get through the day.



Educate

Teach your kids and grandkids about hunger and encourage them to help. Hunger knows no age, and neither does fighting it.



Volunteer

Even the smallest gift of your time can help us make a big difference. Schedule a time together with your family, friends, or coworkers to help our fellow neighbors in need. Contact scain@msfoodnet.org to learn about upcoming opportunities.



Donate

For every donated dollar we provide 7 meals to food-insecure individuals in Central Mississippi. Without help from our donors, we would not be able to do what we do. Visit www.msfoodnet.org to make a gift today.