

Winter 2018

Food Matters



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.

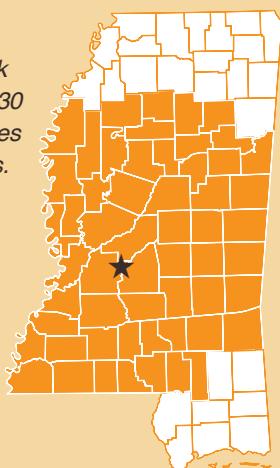
Vision

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.

KIDS CAFÉ PROGRAM® CELEBRATES TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY

For ten years Mississippi Food Network and the Boys & Girls Club of Washington County have been partners in providing meals for at-risk youth.

Beginning in September 2007, we began providing hot meals each night for children attending the enrichment activities at the Club. Since that time, more than 99,000 meals have been served to children who might not otherwise have a meal when they are not at school.

The Kids Café Program® provides free meals and snacks to low-income children through a variety of community locations where children congregate for a safe place under the supervision of trustworthy staff. In addition to meals, children also benefit from educational, recreational and social activities when they might otherwise be home alone after-school and during summer months.

Since the beginning of the program in 2007 with one location, Mississippi Food Network's child feeding program has expanded to 20 Kids Café locations in 11 counties serving more 950 children daily, 25 Backpack Program sites providing weekend meal kits for 1,500 children each week at 31 sites during the school year and 25 Summer Feeding sites in rural counties of our service area serving 48,532 meals in 2017.

Because of the generosity and support of our individual and corporate donors, we are able to invest in the development of our youth.



Dear Friends and Donors:

The year 2017 will be long remembered as having one of the top ten, all-time, most active hurricane seasons on record, featuring 17 named storms, with multiple Category 5 hurricanes. Further, it has been reported that the 2017 hurricane season was the most costly on record, with some cost estimates ranging as high as \$300 billion.

Many of us who were not directly impacted by storms such as Harvey, Irma, Jose, and Maria, were nonetheless spellbound as stories, images, and reports of devastation, suffering, and heroic acts in the aftermath of these storms dominated the news reports. Many victims in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands were still reeling from the effects of these deadly storms when the calendar year ended and the new one began.

As we entered 2018, for instance, much of Puerto Rico remained without power. Many citizens where the hurricanes hit on the mainland were still rebuilding homes, mourning the loss of loved ones, pets, and belongings that can never be replaced.

In true American fashion, those of us whose hearts were touched and who were financially able sent and are still sending donations to organizations that exist for the purpose of helping victims of storms and other natural disasters. That is the good news.

The other side of that good news is that nationally, donations are trending downward to other organizations that champion important causes...causes such as the longstanding and vexing problem of hunger in the United States.

We certainly do not begrudge the fact that donations are up for disaster relief organizations. Each night, however, many of our Mississippi citizens, including children and senior citizens, still go to bed hungry or not knowing how they will get their next meal. In that regard, I have to remind you that your support of the work we do is needed as much now as it ever was.

Sincerely



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



MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORK

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6th ANNUAL TURKEY DRIVE 16 PROVIDES HOPE FOR MANY FAMILIES AT THANKSGIVING



For more than 25 years, 16-WAPT has been a community partner in our fight against hunger – along with the Annual 16-WAPT Food For Families food drive each year, they also host an annual turkey drive to benefit our organization. The 6th Annual Turkey Drive 16 held in November 2017 was a great success raising 1,863 turkeys and money to purchase another 156 making a total of 2,109 turkeys!!!!

While in the past there has only been only one drop off location in the Jackson area, in 2017 it expanded to three drop off locations to make it easier for people to donate. Beginning at 4:30 a.m. with the morning news anchors was quite an experience for our staff and volunteers and gave everyone a new appreciation for their work hours, but it was also such a fun time meeting people as they dropped off their turkeys and shared holiday greetings.

The Annual Turkey Drive 16 is one of the premier events of Mississippi Food Network providing many families a turkey for their Thanksgiving meal, but also providing hope for them as they share a holiday meal together. We are so appreciative of 16-WAPT for sponsoring this annual turkey drive, Kroger for allowing us to use their parking lots, the staff and volunteers who shared their time, and the donors of the central Mississippi area who dropped off turkeys and money to help provide for others during the holiday season. We are looking forward to 2018!!



COMMUNITY PARTNERS RECOGNIZED FOR THEIR IMPACT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER

Each year the Mississippi Food Network Board of Directors recognizes community partners for their commitment to our fight against hunger with the Hunger Hero Award, Spirit of Service Award and the Volunteer of the Year Award.



The Hunters' Harvest Program of the Mississippi Wildlife Federation received the 2017 Hunger Hero Award. This program provides funding for the processing of donated deer. The venison wrapped in two pound packages is distributed to families through our member agencies.

Protein is a food that is always

needed which makes this a great benefit to those served by Mississippi Food Network. Since 2011 we have received more than 50,000 pounds of processed meat through this program. We are pleased to have this partnership in our fight against hunger.

J. J. Carney, Owner/Publisher of Eat Drink Mississippi Magazine, received the 2017 Spirit of Service Award. In

her commitment to our Mission, she runs a FREE ad for Mississippi Food Network in each publication of the magazine (six times per year), along with being a monthly monetary donor and a volunteer. We appreciate the impact her partnership provides our organization.



Each month on our Volunteer Saturday there is one group we can always look forward to seeing – the members of the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity who were selected as our 2017 Volunteers of the Year. In addition to the local chapters, they also encourage the Youth Leadership and Development League to provide community service as well.



Thank you Kappa Alpha Psi for your continued support of Mississippi Food Network through your time and treasure.



ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR FOUNDATION FILL YOUR TANK PROGRAM FIGHTS HUNGER

In celebration of its 60th Anniversary, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation presented a check for \$35,266 to Mississippi Food Network to fight hunger in Mississippi. This donation is part of the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation's commitment to provide \$60 million over six years to fight hunger around the globe and is the second check Mississippi Food Network has received. Beyond donations, Enterprise Rent-A-Car is supporting the Fill Your Tank program with a hunger awareness and local engagement campaign. Hunger is often invisible and the campaign helps make hunger in our communities more visible. **Thank you to Enterprise and the local associates who chose to help Mississippi Food Network and provide 477,862 meals to date.**

WAYS YOU CAN HELP



Shop at Kroger to Help

Everyone buys groceries and if you are a Kroger shopper, you can help Mississippi Food Network by registering your Kroger card online at krogercommunityrewards.com. And, remember, you have to re-register each year for your donations to help us. So happy shopping everyone.

Amazon Smile

You can help Mississippi Food Network by shopping at Amazon Smile instead of Amazon! What is the difference? Absolutely nothing, except Amazon Smile makes a donation back to Mississippi Food Network from purchases made by those who support us on their page. To sign up visit smile.amazon.com, sign in with your Amazon account information, and then pick the non-profit you want to support – Mississippi Food Network – it's quick and easy to support us through Amazon Smile.

Monthly Partner

Every day, hunger exists in our community. Mississippi Food Network makes an impact on families twelve months a year collecting, storing and distributing food to our 430 member agencies for them to serve people in their communities. By becoming a Monthly Partner, your monthly gifts ensure that nutritious food is available for our hungry neighbors all year long.

To learn more about being a Monthly Partner, visit our website at:
<http://www.msfoodnet.org/get-involved/>

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Save the Date



4TH ANNUAL

Moonlight Market

March 22, 2018

Volunteer Appreciation Month

April 2018



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You shop. Amazon gives.

