

Summer 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.

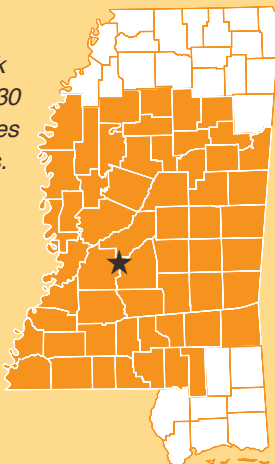
## Vision

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 386,650 food-insecure Mississippians across all that space, that's about 12 people per square mile who are struggling with food insecurity.

## FOURTH ANNUAL MOONLIGHT MARKET

*Treasures from the Farm* Event Promotes Mississippi Food Network

The Fourth Annual Moonlight Market *Treasures from the Farm* held on March 22, 2018 at the Farmer's Market in Jackson was again a great success this year. The event provides attendees the opportunity to shop with local farmers and other vendors for fresh vegetables, meats, honey, herbs, coffee, and other Mississippi items. But, along with the shopping, there is always delicious food such as smoked chicken, blackeye peas, dumplings and blueberry cobbler, all prepared by Mississippi Chefs Nick Wallace and Mark Coblenz. Each year the funds raised help support the programs and services of Mississippi Food Network and help raise awareness about the issue of food insecurity/hunger in Mississippi. Thank you to all of our sponsors, Chefs, farmers and vendors, attendees and others who help make this such a great event each year. Mark your calendar and SAVE THE DATE for March 21, 2019.



## Dear Friends and Donors:

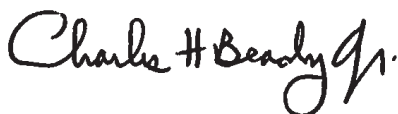
Thinking about summer in the months leading up to it can be pleasant and uplifting. What boy or girl, for instance, is not happy knowing school will soon be out for two whole months? Their thoughts turn to summer pleasantries such as sleeping late and spending hot days cooling off with friends at the pool.

Unfortunately, for many of our neighbors here in Mississippi, and particularly those from low socioeconomic backgrounds or individuals and families who have just recently fallen on hard times, summer means the additional stress of not knowing how or when they might get their next meal.

Schools are often the only place where struggling parents can be assured that their children are being fed at least one or two healthy meals during the week day. But, that option is often no longer available with the coming of summer. Other means for feeding the children must be found.

Summer is the season when many individuals and families take much-deserved vacations. But here at Mississippi Food Network we are ever mindful of the fact that while donations from our friends and supporters slow down during this season, hunger and food insecurity do not take a break. The summer months are the time when we need your support as much as ever...and as always, we are very grateful to you for taking the time to share what you have in order to help us provide for our neighbors in need.

Sincerely



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



MISSISSIPPI  
FOOD NETWORK

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### OFFICERS

Shannon McMillan, Chairman  
Felicia Lyles, Vice Chairman  
Ken Lefoldt, Treasurer  
Rebecca Turner, Secretary  
Aaron Akers, Immediate Past Chairman

#### BOARD

Cindy Barron  
Bettina Beech  
Josie Bidwell  
Pam Confer  
Tammie Dupree  
Larry Houchins  
Dick Largent

Ann Laster  
ReMonica McBride  
Elaine McKeown  
Russell Morrison  
Harold Nicholson  
Robert Peluso  
Marcus Robinson

William Sneed  
Worth Thomas  
Arrington Widemire  
Matt Williamson  
Marcus Wilson  
Jeff Wolfe



## 27<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL LETTER CARRIER FOOD DRIVE PROVIDES HOPE

On Saturday, May 12, 2018, Letter Carrier's held their 27th Annual Food Drive. While on deliveries, mail carriers across Mississippi Food Network's service area picked up food donations from local residents. This year we had more than 80,000 pounds (67,000 meals) of food collected. These donations of staple food items help Mississippi Food Network and their member agencies better serve the people facing food insecurity and needing our services. We appreciate the generosity of the Letter Carriers in hosting this food drive each year, as well as the people in the community who are so generous to donate food. It takes everyone working together to help our fellow Mississippians.



## Smithfield Foods Helping Hungry Homes® Tour Delivers Protein

Smithfield Foods joined forces with Food Depot parent company Potter and Sims on February 20 to donate more than 36,000 pounds of protein to Mississippi Food Network. The contribution was part of the 2018 Helping Hungry Homes® donation tour. Now in its 10th year, Helping Hungry Homes® is Smithfield's signature hunger-relief initiative focused on alleviating hunger and helping Americans become more food secure. The donation from Smithfield and Food Depot provided nutrient-rich protein, a vital element of a healthy meal, to many people served by our member agencies.



## AREA HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DO BIG THINGS



WAPT began the 16-WAPT Food For Families Food Drive in 1992 with area high schools competing with their rival schools to see how many cans they can raise during that week. It is a great event that raises much needed canned food items, provides friendly competition on and off the field, and helps fight food insecurity. This past year was no exception with 371,308 canned food items collected and donated to Mississippi Food Network. And, to make it even more exciting, we made another milestone with the total cans of 4,228,671. Thank you 16-WAPT for your continued support, as well as the area high school students and staff who work with us each year to help collect this much needed food. We also appreciate Sanderson Farms, Piggly Wiggly, and St. Dominic's Health Services for being sponsors each year as well.



Each spring we host an awards luncheon to name the winners. Pearl High School captured the First Place spot, followed closely by Madison Central High School for Second Place and Puckett High School for Third Place.



## Corporate Partners Help Make A Difference



A capital improvement grant from Tyson is helping make a difference for our warehouse facilities and operations at Mississippi Food Network. Through this funding we were able to install LED lighting in our warehouse buildings and administrative offices, remodel the ride-in cooler/freezer unit, and install new refrigeration for the cooler/freezer unit. All of this work will help reduce utility bills, make our warehouse facility and operations more efficient, and with the cost savings allow us to better serve our member agencies and their clients. We hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony on March 27, 2018.



Tyson has also awarded Mississippi Food Network a grant to host a mobile pantry distribution in the Vicksburg/Warren County area once a month running from June 2018 through May 2019. The Mobile Pantry distribution model is one way we provide food, especially fresh produce, to fight food insecurity in areas we have identified. We will be partnering with Warren Central High School and the Vicksburg/Warren Campus of Hinds Community College as site locations for the distributions, as well as utilizing some of their students as volunteers. We are looking forward to working with the Tyson staff at the Vicksburg Plant on this project.



## Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste Initiative Addresses Hunger



Through the Kroger Zero Hunger Zero Waste food rescue initiative, Mississippi Food Network will receive thousands of pounds of food to help address the problem of food insecurity and hunger.

To kick-off the program in our area, Chef Nick Wallace participated in a cooking demonstration teaching member agencies how to turn this rescued food into delicious meals. The preparation of butternut squash sliders was the main dish and was quite a hit with everyone attending the event. Kroger is a great community partner of Mississippi Food Network, our member agencies and their clients. It is always a pleasure to work with them in the fight against hunger.

