

# 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.

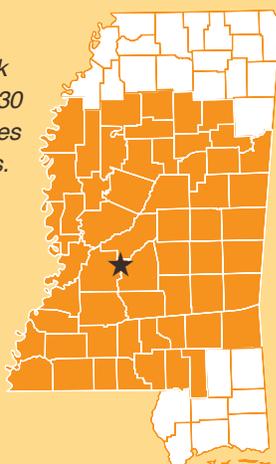
We also emphasize advocacy and related needs.

## 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.

## MORGAN STANLEY FUNDING HELPS EXPAND KIDS CAFÉ PROGRAM

Children attending the Boys and Girls Club of the Mississippi Delta afterschool programs in Greenwood, Grenada, Yazoo City, and Itta Bena are now all enjoying a hot, nutritious meal each evening before going home. A grant from Morgan Stanley helped fund the remodel of the kitchen facilities at these locations.

**We began serving a hot, nutritious meal each evening during the afterschool program and will also be preparing summer meals for the children who attend these programs each day.** Each day approximately 150 children are benefitting from this program.

A ribbon cutting event was held at each location in October 2018 with local officials, MFN staff, BGC staff, and the Club members. One Club member we visited with told us, "This is my first day, but I'm coming back. This food is so good." What a heartwarming moment for all who work daily to help provide for children and families in our service area who are food insecure. **With your help, our donors, we can continue to help these children build their future.**



## Dear Friends and Donors:

Many years ago I had a wrestling coach well-known for his long, grueling practices sessions. He was fond of telling our team, ***"When the going gets tough, the tough get going."***

Now, years later, I sometimes think about him when I see how Mississippi Food Network (MFN) employees respond to tough assignments or how the team comes together to successfully complete projects and to do the day-to-day work that we are blessed to be a part of.

MFN, for instance, has one of the largest service areas of all food banks nationally. This area includes 56 counties covering over 30,000 square miles. **Most counties in our network are rural. Almost all are poor. We distribute food in this large service area through the 430 agencies that comprise our network.**

We audit and monitor all of our agencies at least once every two years. We have two staff members who spend many hours on the road driving thousands of miles each year to make sure those agencies comply with requirements for the safe storage and distribution of the food they receive from us. We have two other staff members who often assist with this task when needed. **Our truck drivers are on the road every day delivering food to agencies that are too far away to come to our warehouse to pick up their orders.** The furthest distribution point for our drivers is 11 hours, round-trip.

Team members from our other departments pitch in regularly to help the MFN Agency Relations department with mobile pantries that are set up to provide food in areas that do not always have regular distribution sites. Likewise, team members have not hesitated to give up previously scheduled vacation time to help make sure the flow of food to our agencies is not interrupted.

**We take seriously our responsibility as good stewards of the gifts that you, our friends and donors, share with us.** Many times during the year the going gets tough here as we go about the business of distributing over 21,000,000 pounds of food to our neighbors in need. But, if my high school wrestling coach could see how we respond to the pressure, I am certain he would smile with satisfaction!

We hope you are smiling, too, when you see, hear and read about what we are able to do with your gifts on behalf of those individuals and families in our state facing hunger and food insecurity. **Your continued support is most definitely needed and certainly appreciated!**

Sincerely

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



### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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- Felicia Lyles, Chairman
- Rebecca Turner, Vice Chairman
- Ken Lefoldt, Treasurer
- Josie Bidwell, Secretary
- Charles H. Beady, Jr., Chief Executive
- Shannon McMillan, Immediate Past Chairman

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# BOARD OF DIRECTORS RECOGNIZE COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Community partners are a very important part of the Mississippi Food Network operations. Without their time, talent and treasure, we would not be able to reach as many people facing food insecurity. The 2018 Hunger Hero Award, Spirit of Service Award, and Volunteer of the Year Award were presented at the Board of Directors Annual Dinner.



Tyson Foods received the **2018 Hunger Hero Award**.

We all know Tyson Foods by their great products — and, of

course we think chicken, especially here in Mississippi. What many of us don't think about, however, is their commitment to fight hunger and helping food banks and other hunger relief organizations like Mississippi Food Network. **Tyson Foods works to get food to those in need, and provide support to the people who work tirelessly to end hunger every day.** Through this great partnership, Mississippi Food Network has been fortunate to be the recipient of funds and product from Tyson Foods to help us in our fight against hunger in central Mississippi. Congratulations to Tyson Foods as being Mississippi Food Network's 2018 Hunger Hero.

This year we did something a little different with our **Spirit of Service Award**. Mississippi Food Network has approximately 430 member agencies who, with their staff and volunteers, work daily to help us in the fight against hunger. But, sometimes there are agencies that always go the second mile and this year we recognized two very special people, both of whom unfortunately passed away.

**Rose Bingham** who operated We Care Services in Vicksburg was one who would always take on one more challenge when we were expanding programs and services. Rose worked tirelessly at We Care for those she served — they operated a food pantry, children's afterschool and summer program, helped families navigate through paperwork



when trying to buy a house, and much more. But, when we asked Rose to host one of our first Nutrition Education programs, become one of the first partners in our summer feeding program, participate in the Hunter's Harvest Program, pickup from Walmart, and distribute CSFP boxes in addition to her other programs, she agreed without any reservations. **Because**

**she knew it would help the children and families she served. Rose had a heart as big as this room and was such a joy to work with because of her contagious, positive attitude.** For that reason, we chose to honor her with a **Spirit of Service Award**. Rose's sister, Jackie who continues to run We Care, and her daughter, Crystal accepted the award.



We work with many food pantries and often refer people in need to these agencies for help. One of these agencies, Parkview Church of Christ, was managed by their Pastor, **Dannie White**. There wasn't a time that we referred a family to this agency that Dannie didn't take the time to go to the pantry and make sure the family received food. One time that will never be forgotten was on a cold, rainy day when a family did not have food, nor did they have transportation. But, what did Dannie White do? **He went to the pantry, picked up food and delivered it to this family. He was going to make sure this mom and her children were taken care of.**

Dannie was one that you call and he would go pick up food from Target, Up In Farms, and other groups that donated food all because it helped the clients he served, most of whom were senior citizens. He was such a pleasure to work with and always had such a big loving smile on his face. For these reasons and more, we chose to also honor Dannie White with a Spirit of Service Award this year. Dannie's wife Glenda and his children accepted the award on his behalf.

Mississippi Food Network is very fortunate to have many great volunteers that provide a valuable service with their time. But, sometimes, there is that "person" who keeps coming back, is willing to take on any project — large or small — and seems to know just the right time to appear when needed the most. **Carrie Jackson** has been very instrumental in working with the Agency Relations Department putting together data to help better serve agencies. Because of Carrie's hard work, great attitude, and big heart for our mission, we recognized her as the **2018 Volunteer of the Year**.



# COMMUNITY SUPPORTS 7<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL 16-WAPT TURKEY DRIVE

Cold weather didn't stop the community from supporting the 7th Annual 16-WAPT Turkey Drive. Held in November, **more than 2,323 turkeys for needy families were collected.** In addition, many people also dropped off staple food and monetary donations. With three drop off locations at Kroger stores around the area, it was easy for the community to drop off their turkeys.

The 16-WAPT news anchors, volunteers, and MFN staff kicked off the event at 4:30 a.m. — **all to help people have a happy Thanksgiving.** Everyone enjoys this event, meeting new people, and seeing people who have donated every year since the first annual event. The turkey drive is one of the premier events for Mississippi Food Network in our effort to provide hope for everyone to share a holiday meal. As one gentleman who brought a basket of turkeys told us, he was homeless one year staying with his friend when someone gave him a turkey. He was able to provide the turkey for the holiday meal and he remembers how much it meant to him. So, now that he is back on his feet he gives back each year by bringing turkeys.

We appreciate 16-WAPT as our community partner, everyone who came out and donated to us during the drive, the volunteers who helped during the day, and the MFN staff. **It is such a pleasure working together to help our fellow Mississippians.**

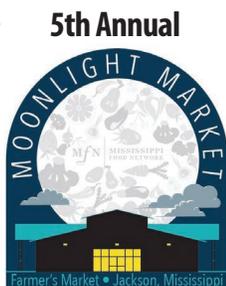


## MOBILE PANTRIES FIGHT HUNGER

Funding from Tyson Foods makes it possible for Mississippi Food Network to reach **approximately 300 families each month** in the Vicksburg/Warren County area through mobile pantries. Thanks to a partnership with Warren Central High School and Hinds Community College/Vicksburg Campus for allowing us to use their parking lots, the MFN truck parks at a central location. The clients then drive through for volunteers and MFN staff to load their cars with protein, canned food items, fresh produce, and other products as they are available, all totaling approximately 50 pounds each month. **The volunteers and staff enjoy working together on this project — doing what we do best, providing food and hope to our fellow Mississippians who need assistance.**



*Save the Date*  
**March 21, 2019**  
 Mississippi Farmer's Market  
 Jackson, MS



### How You Can Help: Become a Monthly Partner

**Hunger is a problem that exists every day in our community.** Through our programs and services, Mississippi is working with our partner agencies to help provide for people in their communities. When you become a **Monthly Partner**, your gifts ensure that nutritious food is available for our hungry neighbors all year long. To learn more about becoming a **Monthly Partner**, visit our website at [www.msfoodnet.org](http://www.msfoodnet.org) and click on the DONATE button. When making your donation, you can choose Monthly Gift. If you have questions, please call Marilyn at 601-973-7086.