

Food Matters

MfN

MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORKMEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA

Did you know?

IN 2018,
MISSISSIPPI FOOD
NETWORK



Distributed **21.2 million**
pounds of food.



Provided over
17.7 million meals.



Served more than
1.5 million people.



Provided approximately **23,000**
backpack meal kits during the
school year.



Partnered with **430** member
agencies operating food pantries,
soup kitchens, shelters, and other
human service organizations.

YOU, OUR DONORS, MAKE A DIFFERENCE AND HELP FILL THE MEAL GAP

The latest report on food insecurity, Map the Meal Gap 2019, released by Feeding America reveals that every county in Mississippi Food Network's service area is affected. The report also shows children are more likely to be food insecure, with the child food insecurity rate at 23.2% compared to 20.5% for the overall population for Mississippi Food Network's 56 county service area in central Mississippi. Overall food insecurity in Mississippi Food Network's service area ranges from a low of 11.7% of the population in Rankin County up to 36.3% in Jefferson County, one of the top ten counties in the United States. The analysis also finds that **26% of residents in our service area who are food insecure are likely ineligible for SNAP benefits.** This means many households must rely even more on charitable food assistance such as Mississippi Food Network. **To find out what hunger looks like in your community, visit map.feedingamerica.org.**

Because of the generosity of you, our donors, we are able to help fill the meal gap by providing the much needed food assistance to these families and children. We are able to help families like Steven Lent and his wife. After retiring and planning to live comfortably, that was taken away in minutes when he fell off a ladder and broke his back. Since his accident, he and his wife now live on less than \$800 a month which doesn't go far with growing medical bills. So now, they visit the Second Harvest Food Pantry at Morrison Heights to receive help with their lack of ability to buy enough food. Ms. Clara is another client of the Second Harvest Food Pantry. She first started visiting while taking another elderly lady to pick up food. But, she didn't realize how important they would become to her in her following year. The only income she receives is disability that is less than \$800 per month. For Ms. Clara, the food pantry is more than a place to get food, it also gives her a chance to socialize with others. She is thankful for a group of people who genuinely care about her well-being. Evelyn Harper had no idea what road she would travel in life. After being homeless for a while, she now has a home, but still needs help with food some months. She only visits when it is a necessity, but is thankful for Crossgates Baptist Church's food pantry. Currently, Evelyn's daughter is looking for another job, and they are using the services of the pantry. Despite her circumstances, she still smiles and believes blessings are always right around the corner.

These are a few of the families you, our donors, are helping each day through your generosity. **You are helping us provide meals and hope to these families who are facing struggles in their daily lives.** But, yet they are appreciative of the food pantries to help them make it through the month.



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.

Food Network Fact

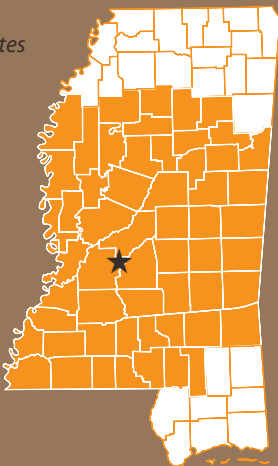
Our service area is big! Our 56 counties add up to 32,955 square miles of Mississippi fields, towns and cities.

With an estimated 367,150 food-insecure Mississippians across all that space, that's about 11 people per square mile who are struggling with food insecurity.

Our Service Area

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

★ = Mississippi Food Network Warehouse



FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Donors:

While Mother's Day weekend, 2019, was celebrated many weeks ago, mothers are special and should be honored no matter what the month or day may be. And why not ... the world population in 2019 has reached over 7.7 billion people, and each person who helps make up that number has or has had a mother.

In that regard, as I sat to write this note to you, my thoughts fell on mothers throughout the world and in particular, the hopes and dreams they hold for their children. As they raise them, **there are certain things every mother wants for their offspring. This includes a safe "neighborhood," a roof over their heads, good health, food to eat, and a bright future.** Such hopes and desires are shared by mothers regardless of where they were born, where they live, how they worship, or their socioeconomic status. Fortunately, or unfortunately, factors such as these play a significant role in determining whether or not what mothers want for their children will come to fruition.

For instance, a mother living in Mississippi has a greater chance of her children facing hunger or not knowing how or when they will get their next meal than mothers in any other state in the nation. The chances of a child facing hunger and food insecurity increase drastically for a poor mother living in the Mississippi Delta.

The work we do at Mississippi Food Network won't have a significant impact on the 7.7+ billion individuals who make up the population of the world; but, as the only food bank physically located in the state of Mississippi that is affiliated with Feeding America, **we can and do have a significant impact on the lives of the 163,000 children in our state who face hunger and food insecurity.**

Last year we distributed, through the 430 agencies in our service area, some 21.2 million pounds of food. One primary reason we are able to do as much as we can to help ensure that no child goes to bed hungry in our great state is because of the contributions and support we receive from our many friends and donors ... like you.

As always, your continued support is welcomed and needed and appreciated!

Sincerely,

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



MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

OFFICERS

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

BOARD

Ray Ables	Donnell Lewis	Worth Thomas
Cindy Barron	ReMonica McBride	Sam Walker
Bettina Beech	Elaine McKeown	Arrington Widemire
Pam Confer	Russell Morrison	Matt Williamson
Larry Houchins	Robert Peluso	Marcus Wilson
Ann Laster	Bilal Qizilbash	Keith Young
Todd Lawson	Trisha Richardson	

A DEEP SOUTH PALATE SUPPORTS PROGRAMS

The Fifth Annual Moonlight Market, A Deep South Palate, offered sponsors and guests the perfect blend of good food, shopping and fun with their friends, all while supporting Mississippi Food Network programs. Moonlight Market 2019 highlighted delicious foods from the Delta, Pines and River Regions of the Mississippi Food Network service area. From the Pines Smoked Confit Chicken with Fruit Mostarda to the Delta Catfish with Venison Rice Purloo, guest enjoyed their journey around the regions finishing with the River Mississippi Mud Pie, all prepared by Chef Nick Wallace and Chef Mark Coblenz. Mississippi farmers and other local vendors from around the area offered a variety of fresh produce, jams and jellies, plants, fresh eggs, local beef, and more for guest to purchase. T. B. Ledford and the Accumulators provided great entertainment and the evening was highlighted with a live auction of a dinner for eight donated by Chef Nick Wallace. Thank you to all the sponsors and attendees for supporting the programs of Mississippi Food Network. **Save the date for March 19, 2020, and join us next year for this great event!**



STUDENTS COLLECT CANS TO PROVIDE HOPE

Since 1992, 16-WAPT has been sponsoring the Food for Families food drive and partnering with area high schools to raise canned food items for Mississippi Food Network. And, to make it more challenging and exciting each year, the area high school raise the food items during the week of their "rival" football games. So, not only are they competing on the football field, but they are competing all week to see who can raise the most canned food items for this friendly competition. But, to keep it fair, the winner is not only based on the most canned food items, but calculated by cans per student. **Since its beginning, this food drive has collected more than 4.2 million cans.** To families facing food insecurity, these cans mean hope — hope for a meal for their families. Each year, the top three winning schools are announced at the annual appreciation luncheon. This year our winners are: First Place — Madison Central High School, Second Place — Lanier High School, and Third Place — Mendenhall High School. **Thank you to everyone who participated and made this another very successful year.** And, to our sponsors 16-WAPT, Sanderson Farms, Families First and St. Dominic Health Services for their continued support.

PROM
IT'S YOUR TURN TO SHINE

\$40 OFF
YOUR TUXEDO/SUIT RENTAL

GET AN ADDITIONAL
\$10 OFF

Bring two non-perishable food items
to be donated to
Mississippi Food Network

TUXEDO JUNCTION
SUIT WAREHOUSE

MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORK

RIDGELAND 601.957.1233 | FLOWOOD 601.992.4955 | WWW.TUXEDOJUNCTION.COM

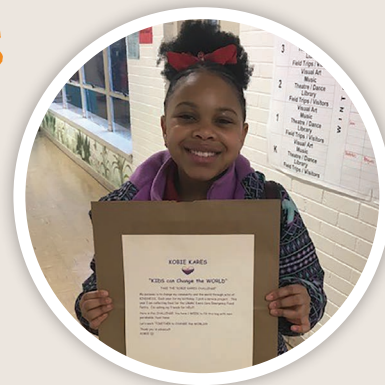
COMMUNITY PARTNERS MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Working with community partners is an important part of our work at Mississippi Food Network. From volunteer groups — to food drives — to monetary donations, these groups help us provide the programs and services to families and children.

Thank you.

Tuxedo Junction *It's Your Turn to Shine* — bring two (2) canned food items to receive \$10 off a tuxedo rental during prom.

Kobie Walker — asking for canned food donations instead of birthday presents to help The Evers Care Food Pantry. This is a new agency run by UMMC and the Mississippi Urban League.



SCHOOL PANTRY PROVIDES FOR FAMILIES IN RURAL AREA

Mississippi Food Network opened their second school pantry this year at Goodloe Elementary School in Canton thanks to grant funding from Monsanto. Through the pantry, up to 200 families and staff at Goodloe were invited to attend a monthly shelf stable foods distribution. **Pantry participants were treated to 15 pounds of shelf stable goods and a variety of nutrition education resources.** They also received fresh produce made available through the Weyerhaeuser Foundation. The pantry kicked off in February 2019 with an event featuring a food demonstration sponsored by the MS Egg Board.

LETTER CARRIERS PROVIDE MEALS FOR FAMILIES

On Saturday, May 11, 2019, the National Letter Carrier's Association held their 28th Annual Food Drive. Partnering with Mississippi Food Network, the letter carriers picked up canned food items while on their mail delivery routes. These donations of staple food items help Mississippi Food Network and their member agencies better serve their clients facing food insecurity who use our services. And, it comes at a perfect time with school being out and many families needing help during the summer months when school meals are not available. **We appreciate the Letter Carriers hosting this food drive each year and collecting 83,857 pounds to provide 70,000 meals.** Our thanks also to the community who are always so generous to donate food and help their fellow Mississippians.



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 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.