



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.

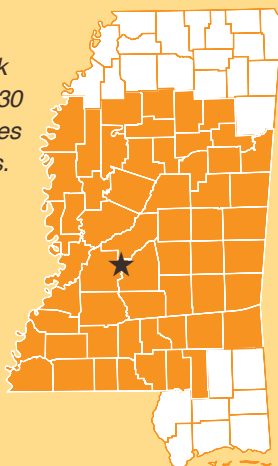
Vision

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.

8TH ANNUAL 16-WAPT TURKEY DRIVE PROVIDES MEALS AND HOPE

The annual turkey drive was another great success. With beautiful weather and great support from the community, we collected 3,263 turkeys for families. With four drop-off locations at Kroger stores around the Jackson area, it was easy for the community to drop off their turkeys. But, in the other Kroger stores, customers also had the option of using a scan card to purchase a turkey and we also introduced a virtual page on our website for those who chose to use it.

One gentleman donated an entire buggy of turkeys and told us that he was once homeless. He got a turkey and was able to contribute it to the Thanksgiving meal. He will never forget how good it made him feel and he donated every year to help others like himself.

Many thanks to WAPT, their anchors and staff, Kroger, volunteers, MFN staff and the community for providing a turkey for many families' holiday meals.



Dear Friends and Donors:

Over the course of my career, I have often heard the question asked: "What's in a name?"

I often find myself thinking about that question when I sign my name to the many hundreds of thank you letters that we send from Mississippi Food Network to those who donate to the important work that we do.

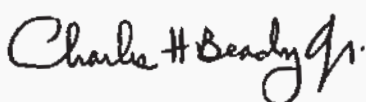
I continue to be fascinated by the racial, ethnic and religious diversity that appears to be represented in the names that appear at the beginning of the letters I sign.

That is, in addition to the many English/American-sounding names like Jones, Smith and Robinson, I see many names that probably find their roots in Spanish-speaking countries, India, Africa or one of the many Asian countries that represent different races, religions and ethnic groups around the world.

The lesson that I take from these thank you letters is that no matter where you, your parents, or your grandparents were born, there is a universal understanding that hunger hurts; and, those of us who are in a position to help our neighbors in need have a moral obligation to do so.

So, once again, we say thank you to those of you who have sent donations to MFN with the understanding that hunger has no regard for who you are, how young or old you are, what color you are, where you come from or how you worship. Your continued support is both needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,



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



MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORK

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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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 commitment to our organization, we would not be able to provide for families, children, and seniors facing food insecurity. The 2019 Hunger Hero Award, Spirit of Service Award, and Volunteer of the Year Award were presented at the Board of Directors Annual Dinner.

Woodforest Bank received the **2019 Hunger Hero Award**. Woodforest Bank operates 12 branches, all located in Walmart Supercenters, in our service area. They began donating to the Backpack Program in 2010 and make a generous donation to us each year to continue their involvement in providing for children. The money donated is raised within the branches who host various fundraising activities during the year. We are appreciative of their continued support of Mississippi Food Network and the Backpack Program.

Cassandra Stovall was recognized as our **2019 Volunteer of the Year**. Anytime we say “we need volunteers” Cassandra Stovall is always there ready to help with a great big smile on her face – Volunteer Saturday, food drives, turkey drive, Moonlight Market – and not only is she there, but she always brings others with her – sometimes it is ladies from her church and other times it is her Girl Scout Troop. Mrs. Stovall has a heart for service – she not only volunteers at Mississippi Food Network, but she also volunteers at her church Pearl Street AME, volunteers with the Book Buddy program at Jackson Public Schools, as well as many other organizations. Thank you Mrs. Stovall for all you do for Mississippi Food Network and others.

Blue Cross Blue Shield Volunteers received the **2019 Spirit of Service Award**. We have a long standing relationship with Blue Cross Blue Shield. They have supported us financially through grants, donations, and sponsorships of Moonlight Market. But, their employees who come to volunteer with us on a regular basis are one of the best ways they support us. During the last five years, their employees have volunteered more than 2,000 hours. Most Volunteer Saturdays you will find them working on the CSFP line with Mike Roche, our Warehouse Manager. And, they also help us with food drives and other events. Thank you Blue Cross Blue Shield for your continued support of Mississippi Food Network.



TYSON GRANTS HELP FIGHT HUNGER

The rural truck delivery system is an important part in the distribution of food for Mississippi Food Network. Our fleet of trucks covers approximately three-fourths of the state, delivering food to drop-off points for the member agencies in rural areas. Almost sixty percent of our agencies are directly affected and rely on this delivery system. **Through grant funding from Tyson Foods, we recently purchased a brand new 18-wheeler trailer. The new trailer not only provides us with reliable transportation, but it also helps build our capacity to distribute additional food and provide more meals for families in need.** In addition to the new trailer, Tyson also funded another year of Mobile Pantry distributions in Warren, Leake and Scott Counties. This grant will help us provide staple food items, protein and fresh produce to areas in Vicksburg, Carthage, and Forest, all areas where Tyson has facilities. The Mobile Pantry distribution model is a great way to get food to areas with a high food insecurity rate. We appreciate the continued support of Tyson through grants, donated product and Tyson volunteers who work with us monthly on the mobile pantry.



A SPECIAL THANK YOU

A special thank you to The Decal Guys for their donation of the great looking graphics on our new trailer. We also want to thank Southern States Utility Trailer Sales, Inc. for their donation of enhancements to our new trailer. We have done business with both of these businesses for many years and are very appreciative of their continued support of MFN.

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 member 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.**

ENTERPRISE

Mississippi Food Network received a \$35,266 donation from the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation to address food insecurity in Mississippi. The donation is part of Enterprise's Fill Your Tank program, which launched in October 2016 to mark Enterprise's 60th anniversary by providing \$60 million to fight hunger globally. In presenting the donation, Brad Garrison, Regional Vice President, said, **"We are proud to support Mississippi Food Network in its fight against hunger in Mississippi. At Enterprise, we are committed to making a real difference in local communities by helping address food insecurity across the globe."** Although there is enough food produced to feed the population, one in nine people still go to bed on an empty stomach according to the World Food Programme. In the U. S. alone, 37 million people face hunger, including more than 11 million children, according to Feeding America.

More information can be found at www.enterprise.com/FillYourTank (U.S.) or www.enterprise.ca/FillYourTank (Canada).



SAVE THE DATE

6th Annual Moonlight Market

Thursday, March 19, 2020

To find out more information visit www.msfoodnet.org/moonlightmarket/

