

Food Matters

IMPACT REPORT • SUMMER 2020

Thank you for providing food, fighting hunger, and offering hope.

**Your support helps
feed people throughout
our community.
Because of you, we can:**

- ✓ Work with partner agencies to distribute food
- ✓ Help feed families in local neighborhoods
- ✓ Keep kids fed when school is out
- ✓ Provide meals to the growing population of seniors
- ✓ Give food to our neighbors facing hunger for the first time



\$10
PROVIDES ENOUGH
FOOD FOR
60
MEALS

**Your gift makes a
BIG difference!**

Thanks to compassionate friends like you, Mississippi Food Network has been serving children, families, and seniors in our community since 1984. Your Food Bank is the place our neighbors turn to when the paychecks stop, tragedy strikes, school ends, or other hardships lead to hunger.

But we have never before seen such high demand for our services as what we're experiencing due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

This crisis has offered unique challenges in the ways we have been able to work with volunteers and staff to sort, package, and distribute food. We have also had to take additional safety precautions and limit our physical interactions among the community to help prevent the spread of the virus.

But through it all, we have had the reassurance that our struggling neighbors won't go hungry thanks to YOU! Thank you for recognizing the tremendous need in our community and giving generously to help feed local men, women, and children.

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.

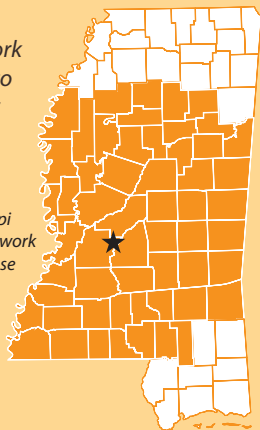
Vision

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.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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FROM THE CEO

Dear Friends and Donors,

Hopefully, as you read this letter, COVID-19 will be a recent bad memory. However, current models, developed by the agencies that have been mapping the spread of this dreadful virus, suggest that may not be the case. And even when tools and processes are in place to prevent or control its spread, our society will never be the same. Our long-held tradition of shaking hands may become a thing of the past. Many jobs that existed prior to the pandemic have ceased to exist and may never return.

No matter how we change, and whatever is in store in the months and years to come, the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic allowed millions of Americans to see and experience, up-close and personal, the purpose and value of the 200 food banks that are members of the Feeding America network of food banks. For instance, like most if not all of them did with the food banks in their respective states, the governor of Mississippi declared Mississippi Food Network (MFN) an essential service. Accordingly, **our dedicated staff members did not and have not wavered in their commitment to come to work in order to distribute food to our neighbors in need.**

With support such as yours, we are continuing to set MFN records with an increase in the number of pounds of food being distributed.

Although a few of our agencies had to close due to COVID-19, our employees continued to work at the risk of their own health. And, with support such as yours, we are continuing to set MFN records with an increase in the number of pounds of food being distributed to help mitigate hunger and food insecurity in our state.

The words "thank you" are inadequate to express the depth of my gratitude to our staff for going above and beyond the call of duty during an unprecedented time of anxiety and uncertainty ... **and to you, our friends and donors, for your support that allows us to continue this important work. Your continued support is needed and appreciated.**

Sincerely,

Charles H. Beady Jr.

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



INVESTORS COME IN ALL SIZES

The COVID pandemic has been overwhelming to us all. Our way of life has changed — the way we do business, our social activities, and the way we are distributing food at Mississippi Food Network (MFN). **But, one thing has remained the same — we have the best donors investing in our organization.** From James Pacelli, the 10-year-old who saw us on the news and wanted to do something to help raise money for meals, to our regular donors, new donors, donors participating in virtual food drives, and large corporations with Mississippi roots, we are able to meet the needs of people in Mississippi who are facing food insecurity and hunger for the first time.

As always, we are distributing food daily through our member agencies who are on the front line making sure people in their communities are not going hungry. But, we are also distributing food through mobile pantries, especially in rural areas where grocery stores and other services are limited. In addition, we are providing child meal/snack bags to children in rural areas who are not receiving their breakfast and lunch at school and do not have access to services. Our staff has been busier than ever. In April 2020, we distributed 900,000 pounds more than April 2019 — that is 750,000 more meals than the previous year.

But, we could not do this without you — our donors — our investors. **Your investment in MFN has provided us the opportunity to serve our member agencies and their clients during this time.** It has provided us with the additional resources we needed to meet the increase in demand. Thank you for helping us provide to people needing to feed their families.



Child Feeding



MVSU – BGC

Leaders at the Boys & Girls Club at Mississippi Valley State University helped distribute the child meal/snack kits to their children, even they are closed at this time.



James Pacelli

Ten-year-old James heard about Mississippi Food Network on the news and wanted to do something to help. He rode 10 miles, 5 with his mom and 5 with his dad and raised \$3,000 to help provide 18,000 meals to people during the COVID pandemic.



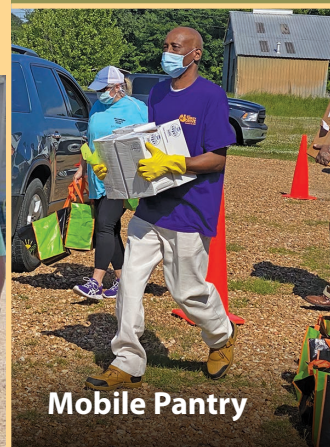
Arionna Miller

Member of the Boys & Girls Club of Grenada enjoying breakfast from the meal/snack kit provided by MFN. Arionna's dad, Floyd, is the Unit Director and even though he is unemployed at the present time, he delivered these kits to all of his Club members.



Constable Leon Seals

Delivering food boxes, child feeding kits, and fresh produce to people in Bolton, Edwards, and Utica.



Mobile Pantry



Drew Mobile Pantry



Lexington Mobile Pantry

Thank you for helping us help those who have never had to ask for help.

Impact Report

During this crisis, record numbers of people are turning to Mississippi Food Network for food assistance — many for the first time. Your support is hard at work helping to:



Distribute 675,000 pounds of food each week

While we've had to add new procedures such as wearing masks, gloves, and limiting physical contact, your generosity ensured we were able to meet the increased need for service. You're helping get food into the hands of those who need it most!

Hand out 2,339,004 pounds of fresh produce



For those who are struggling to put food on the table, often the most requested items are fresh fruits and veggies, which can be too expensive to purchase on an already limited budget. You're providing healthy produce to your neighbors in need!



Serve groceries to provide 8,052,916 meals for kids and families

Many children rely on school-provided breakfasts, lunches, and snacks. With schools being closed, many parents are unable to provide enough food for hungry kids. But you're giving local families the nutritious food they need during this difficult time!

Help distribute food at 250 locations



Though the pandemic changed the way we were able to distribute food — creating drive-thru distributions and other ways to minimize interaction — our commitment to feed our neighbors hasn't wavered. Thanks to you, we've been on the frontlines fighting hunger!



Meet the increased demand — 22% more pounds than this time last year!*

An unexpected consequence of COVID-19 was that people working in areas deemed "non-essential" lost their jobs during the crisis. Many people turned to Mississippi Food Network for the first time ever — and were welcomed thanks to your generosity!

*As of June, 2020.

Your kindness and generosity makes a BIG impact. Thank you!

www.msfoodnet.org