

# Food Matters

FALL 2021

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



MISSISSIPPI  
FOOD NETWORK

MEMBER OF  
FEEDING  
AMERICA



## NEW FACES AT MFN

### **KAMRYN GOODEN, PROGRAMS ASSOCIATE**

Kamryn joined MFN's Agency Relations Team in July 2021 after previously working as a Dietetic Intern. She earned her Master of Science degree with emphasis in Nutrition and Food Systems from the University of Southern Mississippi. Kamryn will work directly with Catherine Montgomery, who has recently taken on more duties as MFN's Community Engagement and Programs Manager. Kamryn resides in Byram and in her spare time enjoys reading.

### **QUINCY ROBINSON, DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS**

Quincy joined MFN back in December 2020 and has made great strides at updating and streamlining our distribution center to meet the needs of the increased demand in food coming in and out the door. He has an extensive background in supply chain and

logistics management most recently with McLane Company. Quincy is from Lexington, MS and together he and his wife Teresa have six adult children and one granddaughter that has stolen his heart. He is a diehard New Orleans Saints fan who loves watching football, traveling to games and fishing.

### **HOUSTON JONES, SPECIAL PROJECTS ACCOUNTANT**

Houston joined MFN's Accounting and Information Technology team in July 2021 after working as a temporary employee through TempStaff supporting both the External Affairs and Accounting/IT staff since December 2020. Houston earned a Master of Business Administration from William Carey University. While in college Houston had the opportunity to live in Amman, Jordan where he was able to see first-hand the big difference that just a little help can provide for those who are hungry and in need of food.

## 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.

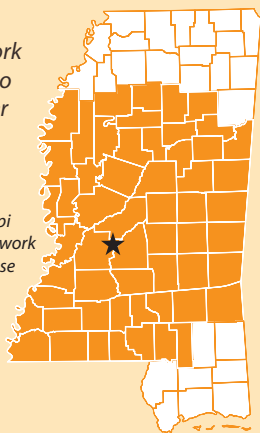
## Vision

To eliminate poverty-related hunger in our service area.

## Our Service Area

Mississippi Food Network distributes to 430 member 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

### OFFICERS

Russell Morrison, **Chairman**  
Cindy Barron, **Vice Chairman**  
Donnell Lewis, **Treasurer**  
Trisha Richardson, **Secretary**  
Josie Bidwell, **Immediate Past Chairman**

### BOARD

Ray Ables	ReMonica McBride
Angela Cockerham	Mike Neelly
Pam Confer	Bilal Qizilbash
Lauren Engle	Worth Thomas
Crystal Fox	Rebecca Turner
Larry Houchins	Ryan Upshaw
Ted Kendall IV	Matt Williamson
Michael Kinard	Marcus Wilson
Ann Laster	Caroline Wright
Fiona Lewis	Keith Young

## Dear Friends and Donors,

As we find ourselves well into the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, I have often been asked, "What is the most important lesson you have learned from it? What has it taught you?"



In response, two things come to mind. First, it has been disheartening to see that while there is an urgent need for our country to come together to apply our collective will and national resources to defeat the virus, so far, we have remained too divided, for a host of reasons, to make that happen.

Secondly, and at the opposite end of the spectrum, I find that I am encouraged by the sense of optimism that "all will be well" that I have heard coming from various presenters and food bank heads and employees who have been joined in conversation, over the past year and several months, in numerous virtual conferences, workshops and meetings. That optimism is fueled by the fact that food banks nationally have seen a tremendous increase in financial support. Americans of all stripes, backgrounds, beliefs and political persuasions have given unselfishly to help the increased numbers of our fellow citizens who continue to face hunger and food insecurity.

I am proud that our food bank is a member of the Feeding America network. **The positive attitudes of the people who make up that network are poignant reminders of the fact that the American spirit has faced dark challenges before and has always prevailed.**

What lesson I have learned from the pandemic? One of the most important lessons is that being a part of the national food banking community, the work we do, and your support of that work provides for me powerful and constant reminders that the American spirit will indeed prevail. It gives me the confidence to say that the defeat of the virus is just a matter of time. Your continued support of our work and or mission of eliminating hunger in our state is a reflection of that spirit. **What you share with us is welcomed, needed and very much appreciated.**

Sincerely,

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



## AGENCY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

### Grace Place – Galloway United Methodist Church

Food banks like MFN could not do their work without our agency partners who distribute food to those who need it most in their communities. Grace Place is one of those agencies who've been serving the homeless and marginalized in the heart of downtown Jackson area since 2007. As a ministry of Galloway United Methodist Church, Grace Place seeks to connect those in need with resources to help them overcome difficult life challenges. Not only does Grace Place serve coffee and a hot meal on Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday mornings along with to-go snack bags when needed, their holistic mission is to serve the whole person.

Grace Place offers a clothes closet to provide needed clothing and hygiene items on Thursdays. Guests also have access to phones and counselors to assist in obtaining photo IDs and birth certificates.

**"Grace Place recognizes the dignity of all people by seeking authentic, grace-filled relationships that focus on loving one another," says Sharon Davis, Missions & Outreach Director. "We are here for the homeless and also for those who are working in downtown Jackson but still continue to have struggles."**



Davis explains that many in Jackson can't work due to lack of suitable transportation, so Grace Place works to find bicycles to give to those who need a way to get to and from a job. To be eligible for a bicycle, the person attends training workshops as well as performs various service activities for the church.

If you are interested in learning more or donating new or gently used items to Grace Place, visit their website at <http://gallowayunc.org>.

Thank you to the many volunteers and staff at Grace Place for helping our neighbors in need in downtown Jackson.

## BY THE NUMBERS

### 2021 MID-YEAR IMPACT REPORT



**15,494,234**

pounds of food distributed



**12,911,861**

meals provided



**578,851**

Mississippians served



BREAKFAST AT THE BANK  
@The Mississippi Food Network

08:30 A.M

Tuesday, 26 October



## SAVE THE DATE

After several false starts due to COVID-19, MFN is thrilled to finally host the first **"Breakfast at the Bank" event on Tuesday, October 26 from 8:30 – 9:30 a.m.**

"Our hope is to have small groups of donors meet some of our staff and board members over breakfast and learn more about Mississippi Food Network and the food banking world," said Crystal Alfaro, MFN Major Gift Specialist. "We will offer one-on-one tours to share all

the awesome changes that our distribution center has gone through in recent months as well as share our future plans to make it even more efficient." Additionally, attendees will learn about opportunities that are available through MFN's programs and volunteering.

**For more information, contact Crystal Alfaro at (601) 973-2214 or [calfaro@msfoodnet.org](mailto:calfaro@msfoodnet.org).**

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

[WWW.MSFOODNET.ORG](http://WWW.MSFOODNET.ORG)