

Food Matters

SUMMER 2022

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



MISSISSIPPI
FOOD NETWORK

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Mobile Food Pantries – That's the Way We Roll

Mobile pantries bring free food and groceries to your community. Unlike traditional food pantries where you go to them, mobile pantry trucks come to you. People form a line and then the food is loaded into participant's cars in a drive-through distribution setup. Mississippi Food Network has increased our mobile food pantries in an effort to meet the growing needs of families who are struggling during these times of uncertainty.

Through valued partnerships with sponsors like Kroger, Mars Food, Mississippi Valley State University, Molina Healthcare, and Tyson Foods, MFN has been able to roll into towns like Greenville, Forest, Itta Bena, Carthage, and Bolton, and provide people with fresh produce, shelf-stable food boxes, and frozen meats.

A big thank you to Stephanie Floyd, one of our recent dietetic interns from the University of Southern Mississippi, for volunteering at our Tyson Mobile Food Pantry in Carthage. Stephanie interviewed those who were receiving the food and those who were serving the food to better understand the importance and impact of this program.

"This is a good program to be a part of."



MELVIN- 71 - CARTHAGE, MS

Melvin is an Army veteran, and this was his third time attending a MFP event. Melvin spoke about the cost of attending a MFP event. Melvin spoke about the cost of meat and having to forgo some groceries while shopping. "This food really helps money-wise. Lots of things I couldn't get and this helps out a lot."

The Mobile Food Pantry "really does help."



LOLA - 56 - THOMASTOWN, MS

Lola has been a MFP recipient since early 2021. Lola needed to change her diet and lose weight for better heart health, and this program helped improve her diet. "Mississippi Food Network gives out some really good food!" The program also helps her financially. "It's hard on us because we have to pay rent and bills. It helps us out a lot."

If your organization is interested in sponsoring a mobile food pantry, please contact Kelly Durrett at kdurrett@msfoodnet.org or 601-973-7086. The sponsorship for a mobile pantry for 300 households is \$7,000 per distribution for shelf-stable and fresh foods (25 pounds per household) or \$10,000 per distribution, which also includes 3-5 pounds of frozen protein per household.

It takes 12 volunteers to conduct a mobile pantry distribution. We need your support to help us expand our reach to our most rural communities.

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.

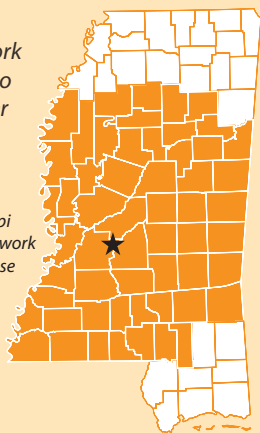
Vision

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	Molly MacWade
Angela Cockerham	Leanna Range-Norwood
Lauren Engle	Bilal Qizilbash
Crystal Fox	Worth Thomas
Vaughn Gresham	Ryan Upshaw
Faith Hadley	Michael Walker
Larry Houchins	Matt Williamson
Ted Kendall IV	Marcus Wilson
Michael Kinard	Caroline Wright
Ann Laster	Keith Young

Dear Friends and Donors:

Every day that goes by, I am reminded how fortunate and blessed the Mississippi Food Network family continues to be. The examples are plentiful.

For instance, a few months prior to the publication of this letter, a tornado touched down, literally at our doorstep. A small section of roofing on one of our warehouses was torn back by the winds. Some water got in, but the damage was minimal.

Prior to that, our van was traveling on the interstate, with the driver and several passengers on board, when the tread came off one of the rear tires. The rubber that came loose caused some damage to the air conditioning system, but it also was minimal; and fortunately, no one was hurt.

After that incident, around 3:00 p.m. one afternoon, an electric transformer blew on a power line located near our facility. The damaged transformer caused a complete power outage at our two warehouses and other businesses in our immediate vicinity.

When the transformer was replaced, and power restored around 7:00 p.m. that evening, our Information Technology (IT) Manager went to work to bring our equipment back online (freezer, cooler, telephones, computers, etc.) He worked until 1:00 a.m. the following morning but had to go home with the job incomplete. He returned at 6:30 a.m. to finish bringing everything back in service. His dedication is typical of how our employees respond to emergencies.

As we weather one storm or another, MFN is indeed fortunate and blessed to have dedicated employees who regularly go above and beyond the call of duty to make sure we can continue our efforts to feed our neighbors in need. **We are fortunate and blessed to have the faithful support of our many friends and donors. And, as always, your continued support is needed and most appreciated.**

Sincerely,

Charles H. Beady Jr.

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



Save the Date

Moonlight Market "Fields of Hope"

Thursday, September 8, 2022
The Farmer's Market, Jackson, MS
6:00 – 8:00 p.m.



Enjoy cuisine from local celebrity Chef Nick Wallace while shopping from a selection of fresh produce, meats, cheeses, and more, provided by Mississippi farmers. Tickets are \$50 per person or \$80 per couple. Groups of 10 are \$400 per group.

For more information, sponsorships, and tickets, contact Stacey Cain at scain@msfoodnet.org or call 601-973-7089.

Breakfast at the Bank

If you're interested in learning more about Mississippi's only Feeding America member food bank, then join us for Breakfast at the Bank. Want to know all about YOUR food bank and how we operate to serve over 150,000 of our hungry neighbors each month?



Each quarter we welcome you to join us for a complimentary breakfast and tour to meet our staff, board members, and fellow donors to learn about opportunities that are available through MFN's programs and volunteering. Spots are limited and reservations are required.

For more information, contact Crystal Pham at cpham@msfoodnet.org or 601-973-2214.

Calling All Volunteers

Volunteer Saturdays will kick off beginning **September 9, 2022, from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. on the second Saturday of the month.** This your opportunity to roll up your sleeves and help Mississippi Food Network pack food boxes and backpack meals for our hungry neighbors.

We're also looking for a core group of volunteers we can call upon to assist us with our Mobile Food Pantries throughout the year.

If you are interested in either of these volunteer opportunities, contact Stacey Cain at scain@msfoodnet.org or call 601-973-7089.



Getting Through the Summer

So many of us look forward to summer and make plans to get as much out of the season as possible. For kids in Mississippi who may face hunger, summer is simply something to get through. Without the meals they receive at school, the days can be long and difficult.

Mississippi Food Network helps our community partners across the state provide free summer meals to approximately 600 children a day. **Together, we're helping get kids through summer nourished and healthy:**

- Boys & Girls Clubs of Mississippi Delta (Itta Bena, Grenada, Yazoo, Greenwood)
- Boys & Girls Club of Washington County, Greenville
- Carthage Community Center
- Genesis and Light Center, Jackson
- Oseola McCarty Youth Development Center, Hattiesburg
- Payton Garden, Canton
- Sam Estess Estates, Pearl
- Winona Housing Authority

Your support helps fill the gaps for children and families during the summer months. Join Mississippi Food Network and our community partners in providing meals to kids in need. Donate, volunteer, spread the word. Every dollar you give helps more meals reach those who are facing hunger in our state.

AGENCY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT

Oseola McCarty Youth Development Center, Hattiesburg

At Oseola McCarty Youth Development Center in Hattiesburg, their mission is to empower youth to win in every area of their lives. They devote their resources to ensure that young people are able to build new skills, make contributions, and become productive members of their community. Youth who are there find an atmosphere of support and guidance ensuring a sense of competence, usefulness, belonging, and empowerment.

Oseola McCarty Youth Development Center has been partnering with Mississippi Food Network for over 18 years.



"This partnership has been very instrumental in continuing with the success of our programs. We are truly grateful for this partnership."

-Janet Baldwin, CEO

One of the Center's most popular programs is their Summer Camp with many activities centering around their community garden. Kids work in the garden and get to take the fresh produce home to their families. They have educational opportunities, like learning about the importance of honeybees and seeing how honey is made.

The Center's namesake, Oseola McCarty, worked a lifetime washing and ironing clothes, and became a national icon of generosity after donating her life savings of \$150,000 to the University of Southern Mississippi to establish scholarships for youth in need. Ms. McCarty's legacy lives on in the young people whose lives are enhanced by her gifts.

The X Factor – One Shirt Can Make a World of Difference.

Mississippi Food Network received a call from Randy Allison in California. He and his wife had just formed a new clothing company, Alter X, and wanted to know if we would be interested in a collaboration with them.



"Our X is symbolic of both the challenge and solution that powerfully emerges when people actively engage to change their world for the better," says Randy. The product of the collaboration between Alter X Company and Mississippi Food Network is a fashionable and comfortable t-shirt that is crafted in the USA with a unique blend of hemp and certified

organic cotton in factories that adhere to fair labor practices. For each shirt purchased, \$25 is donated directly to Mississippi Food Network – the label on the shirt lets customers know that their purchase is providing 150 meals and the invaluable gift of hope. **It is indeed apparel with a purpose!**

Visit AlterXCo.com and check out the men's organic crew t-shirt and the women's organic scoop t-shirt. Feel good about the clothes you wear, knowing you are helping make the world a better place.

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

WWW.MSFOODNET.ORG