

Food Matters

SPRING 2026

Mississippi Food Network changes lives by fighting hunger today and feeding hope for a healthier tomorrow.



Finding Strength in Service: Joyce's Story During the Shutdown

When the government shutdown paused paychecks, Joyce, a furloughed federal employee at the time, found herself navigating a challenge she had never faced: living without a steady income.

"I hadn't received a paycheck for weeks," she said. "We didn't know when they were going to call us back. It impacted me financially, emotionally, in every area of my life. I had worked since I was 16 years old, and at 57, it was hard not working. I felt isolated."

Even in the face of uncertainty, Joyce continued to show up for others. Between volunteer shifts at Mississippi Food Network and other local organizations, she found strength in giving back. "When I helped others, it helped me mentally, emotionally, and spiritually," she said. "That's what we're commanded to do: to help others."

During the shutdown, she chose to fill her days by volunteering. "Just by putting stuff in a box, it gave me the satisfaction and gratitude to know I helped someone," she said.

During that time, Joyce also visited a local food pantry herself for the first time. "It was very humiliating and humbling at the same time," she shared. "The whole country was struggling."

"We should reach out to those in our communities, at church, wherever they are, there's a need," Joyce said. "We don't always know what those needs are, but if you just lend a helping hand by coming to Mississippi Food Network or any pantry to volunteer, that's doing your part."

Mission

Mississippi Food Network changes lives by fighting hunger today and feeding hope for a healthier tomorrow.

Vision

A Hunger-Free Mississippi.

Our Service Area

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



★ = Mississippi Food Network Distribution Center

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.

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Moving Forward Together in 2026

As we welcome 2026, we pause to reflect on a year that tested our resilience and resolve. 2025 brought turbulence and uncertainty, moments that reminded us how fragile food security can be for thousands of Mississippians. Yet, in the face of these challenges, one truth stood firm: community and collaboration make the impossible possible.

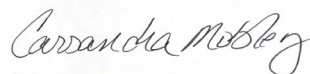
Through the unwavering support of our partners, donors, volunteers, and staff, Mississippi Food Network not only met the moment, we moved forward with purpose. Together, we ensured families had meals on their tables, children had nourishment to learn and grow, and seniors had the dignity of knowing they were not forgotten.

Our mission remains clear: to change lives by fighting hunger and feeding hope for a healthy Mississippi. And as we step into this new year, we do so with renewed commitment and hope. The same spirit of unity that carried us through 2025 will be the key to building a stronger, more food-secure future.

Thank you for standing with us. Your encouragement and partnership are the foundation of everything we do. Let's continue to work together, because when we unite for good, there is no challenge we cannot overcome.

Here's to a year of impact, compassion, and progress.

With gratitude,



Cassandra Mobley
Interim CEO/Chief Operating Officer



Award Luncheon

Every year, the Mississippi Food Network (MFN) hosts an award event to highlight and celebrate those who partner alongside MFN to help fight hunger in our communities. These supporters partner alongside MFN in a variety of ways and help ensure we can support our 56-county service area.



Hunger's Hero

Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation



Spirit of Service

Alcorn State University



Volunteer of the Year

Raytheon



Hall of Fame

Cal-Maine Foods, Inc.



Hall of Fame

James Gregory, Gregory Farms



Hall of Fame

Mississippi Department of Agriculture & Commerce

Turkey Drive 2025!



1,184

Turkeys Collected



\$36,053.58

Raised



230,715

Total Meals Provided



1,172,495

14-year meal total



Thank you for your support!

The government shutdown and delayed SNAP benefits left thousands of families wondering how they would put food on the table.

And then you stepped in.

Because of you, we were able to respond quickly and compassionately. Hope arrived exactly when it was needed most. Together, we provided:

- Food for over 150,000 families, a 15% increase from previous months.
- 3.6 million meals provided to neighbors in our communities in October and November, more than 300,000 meals from August and September.
- 66,642 meals in food drive donations.



We received a generous Instacart donation from a kind supporter.



Neighbors receiving food assistance at the Louise Food Pantry in Louise, Mississippi.



We provided emergency food boxes to federal staff at Jackson-Medgar Wiley Evers International Airport.



A mobile pantry at First Baptist in Raymond, Mississippi provided food to 300 families.



Scan here to donate



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

www.msfoodnet.org