



# arkansas Hunger Relief alliance

*One Mission. One Voice Working Together to End Hunger*

## Special points of interest:

- State Food Purchasing Program set to begin July 2009.
- Join the Alliance and be able to apply for capacity building grants.
- Hunger Action Breakfast set for September 2, 2009 at the Governor's Mansion.
- First *Yam Jam* set for September 26, 2008. Come be a part of this huge gleaning in Eastern Arkansas.
- The Census is coming in the spring of 2010. It is in our hands to remind everyone to fill out their form and return it. Make a plan to spread the word!!

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## Summer 2009 Newsletter

### Update from the Alliance

The past six months have been filled with lots of activity. The Alliance board and staff have worked diligently to develop the newly merged organization and to set a course of action for the next year. The work has been successful and a new board will be installed on January 1, 2010. The board will be representative of the new Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and will include Feeding America Food Banks, other hunger relief organizations, Hunger Advocates and key stakeholders from across the state. Current members of the Alliance are able to nominate representatives to the new board. Members can get a board nomination form on the website at [www.arhungeralliance.org](http://www.arhungeralliance.org).

Other activities that have been successful include:

- The 2008 Spirit of Giving Campaign resulted in 46,000 pounds of food collected, more than double last year's total!

- The Arkansas Legislature passed a one time general improvement appropriation of \$1 million. This money will fund \$2,500 capacity building grants in each house legislative district and will provide for capacity building at the 6 Feeding America Regional Food Banks in Arkansas.
- A new State Food Purchasing Program with annual funding of \$1 million a year was approved in the 2009 Legislative Session.
- The Arkansas Gleaning Network has gleaned over 160,000 pounds to date and the season is not over yet!
- The 2009 Hunger Study was implemented and results will be available the fall of 2009.
- The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance held its first *Hunger Day at the Capitol* to raise

awareness with legislators about hunger.

- The Hunger Awareness Breakfast and Serving Up Solutions were held in September 2008 and May 2009. Both events raised money to help support our work to reduce hunger in Arkansas.

The work of the Alliance is more critical than ever. As the economy continues to tighten and resources are scarce it is increasingly important that we continue to pool our resources to reduce waste and to increase distribution through out the state.

We will continue to promote opportunities to build the capacity at the local level, to advocate for funding and policies that will help people with their day to day needs and to seek access to quality nutritious foods.

### State Food Purchasing Program

The 2009 Arkansas General Assembly passed legislation that was part of Governor Beebe's legislative package to start a State Food Purchasing Program. This program will receive \$1 million annually to help purchase food from Arkansas companies and vendors. This food will be distributed through the charitable food system in Arkansas.

Additionally, a portion of the money is set aside for local capacity building grants that will help ensure the state has an adequate distribution system to get the food to the people who need it.

All hunger relief organizations that are members of the Alliance can apply for these grants.

Grant guidelines will be made available this fall.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Alliance see the back cover of this newsletter.

Special thanks to our Governor and our Legislators for funding this program!!

“Making the commitment to help your neighbor through gleaning is a reward you have to experience to understand. “



Rep. Bruce Maloch above and Speaker Robbie Wills below along with Rep. Rick Green were honored at Serving Up Solutions for their commitment to end hunger in our state.



## Gleaning the Fields

There is lots of excitement and good news to report from the **Arkansas Gleaning Network**. The Society of St. Andrew and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance are working hard to expand this program and it is paying off.

As you know, gleaning is the Biblical term used for picking or gathering crops left in the field after harvest. In 2008, the gleaning partnership gathered over 148,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables that were distributed through the Alliance network. During July 2009 we broke the 160,000 pound mark and have many more activities planned!

We are still looking forward to gleaning apples, pears, greens, and sweet potatoes. Mark your calendars for the 1<sup>st</sup> annual “Yam Jam” to be held on September 26. This sweet potato gleaning promises to be a “yam” good day!

Thank you to our many friends whose generosity and hard work make this program possible! It takes donors and volunteers to have a successful gleaning. Randy Clanton Farms in Hermitage, Matthews Ridgeview Farms in Wynne, O’Neal Farms in Scott, and El Paso Orchards in El Paso are all working to help provide nutritious food to Ar-

kansans in need. Over 100 volunteers have responded to our call for help. Making the commitment to help your neighbor through gleaning is a reward you have to experience to understand.



Cabbage Gleaners in Hermitage, Arkansas

## Serving Up Solutions—An Event to Inspire Advocacy

Last year the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus initiated a new dinner to benefit the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Network at Trio’s in Little Rock. The dinner featured food prepared by local celebrity chefs. The idea of the dinner came from co-owner of Lilly’s DimSum, ThenSome, Nancy Tesmer, as a way to raise funds for solutions to hunger in Arkansas. This has now become an annual event for policy makers and policy shapers.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual *Serving Up Solutions Dinner* was held on May 12, 2009, at the Governor’s

Mansion in Little Rock and was attended by 100 plus people. The celebrity chefs that prepared food this year were

- Chef Kathy Webb of Lilly’s DimSum, ThenSome
- Chefs Capi Peck and Brett Peterson of Trio’s
- Chefs Yvette Brady and Liz Sorvillo of 1620 Restaurant
- Chef Jason Knapp of the Governor’s Mansion.

First Lady Ginger Beebe and members of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus

served the meal which included lots of opportunity for entertaining!! Speaker of the House Robbie Wills, Rep. Bruce Maloch and Rep. Rick Green were recognized for their commitment to reduce hunger during their tenure in the legislature.

Nancy Tesmer was recognized for founding the event by the naming of the Nancy Tesmer Mini-Grant Fund. The event raised approximately \$16,700 that will go to fund the Nancy Tesmer Mini-grants at local hunger relief organizations through out the state.

## Don't Miss this Year's Hunger Action Breakfast

Hunger Action Month is right around the corner. To kick off this month the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance will be hosting a Hunger Action Breakfast at the Governor's Mansion on September 2nd starting at 8:00 am. The theme of this year's breakfast is **Acting Out Against Hunger**. We

will be recognizing individuals and organizations that have really gone the extra mile to help end hunger in the past year.

The cost for attending the event is \$50 per person or \$500 for a table of ten. Contact Temeka Douglas to make your reservations at

501-399-9999 or e-mail at [tdouglas@arhungeralliance.org](mailto:tdouglas@arhungeralliance.org).

We owe a special thanks to the Walton Family Foundation for underwriting this event. Additional sponsorship opportunities are available for interested organizations.



**Don't Let this  
Child's Plate  
Remain Empty.**

**"Act Out  
Against  
Hunger!!"**

## Federal Stimulus Update

President Obama, as part of his federal stimulus package, included several key provisions to help families put food on their tables during this recession. The first went into effect on April 1, 2009. The Food Stamp or SNAP benefits were raised for the first time in many years. This increase will not only provide \$63 million additional dollars to Arkansas families but the effect of those dollars will boost the Arkansas economy by \$120 million!

A second piece is the increase

in the Emergency Food Assistance Program or commodities. \$700,000 in additional funding will be made available to the state to purchase foods through the commodities program. This food will be distributed through the food banks in the state and the mass distribution sites at local Community Action Agencies. There was also money available to help with the administrative cost of the program.

Finally, the sixteen Community

Action Agencies in the state have access through the community Services Block Grants Programs to increase their capacity to help the individuals and families in their local area. Some have applied for and received money to help expand the charitable food system in their area.

You can stay on top of the stimulus programs in Arkansas by logging onto <http://recovery.arkansas.gov/>

## Federal Child Nutrition Update

As part of Child Nutrition Reauthorization, Congress is reviewing all the federal child nutrition programs, including the School Breakfast and the National School Lunch Programs, the Summer Food Service Program (SFSP), the Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP), and the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC).

With so much attention being focused on issues like health care reform hunger advocates must remain diligent in order to ensure adequate appropriations are made for these important programs. The debate on these bills will likely begin in the fall.

Log onto the FRAC website, <http://www.frac.org/>, to receive regular updates.

### Current Child Nutrition Bills

[AFTERSchool Meals Act of 2009](#) (S. 990), [Hunger Free Schools Act of 2009](#) (S. 1343), [Paperless Enrollment for School Meals Act of 2009](#) (S. 1226, H.R. 2803), [Enhancing Child Health with Automatic Enrollment for School Meals Act of 2009](#) (S. 1293), [Child Nutrition Promotion and School Lunch Protection Act of 2009](#) (S. 934, H.R. 1324)



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Rep. Kathy Webb  
Marge Wolf  
Arma Woods  
Bridgette Youngblood  
**Honorary Board Member**  
Cydney Pearce, Representing  
Senator Blanche Lincoln

## One Mission, One Voice — Working Together to End Hunger!!

The **Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance** is the state association of a collaborative network of food banks, other hunger relief organizations and advocates in Arkansas. The Alliance has categories of membership for organizations of all sizes, as well as individuals. Join the Alliance and become active in the Hunger Advocacy Network to help promote public policy and education that will reduce hunger in Arkansas. Memberships include Hunger Advocacy Activities such as:

- Newsletters twice a year
- Electronic email updates
- Advocacy bulletins
- Hunger Conference
- Capacity Building Grants

See Insert for more membership information!

### The Alliance Staff Members

Rhonda Sanders, Executive Director  
Michelle Shope, Director of Food Sourcing  
Temeka Douglas, Administrative & Programs Assistant

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# Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Membership Form

## Membership Levels

### Feeding America Food Banks

There are currently 6 regional food banks in the state that are also members of the Feeding America Network. These food banks pay membership dues based on an operating budget formula. They receive resources and assistance to increase the amount of food that is available in the hunger relief system in the state. Some benefits are only available to Feeding America Food Banks.

### Independent Food Banks

There are several independent food banks in the state. The Alliance will work one-on-one with these food banks to develop a membership that meets their needs and the level of benefits they would like to receive.

### Statewide Advocacy / State Agency Programs

Statewide organizations that advocate or do research, and are interested in ensuring that families have an adequate diet; Or, for state or federal programs that focus on nutrition or hunger issues.

### Local Hunger Relief Organizations

Local organizations directly providing food to those in need. These may be food pantries, emergency shelters or soup kitchens.

### Individual Hunger Advocates

Individuals or organizations that do not directly provide food to those in need but have an interest in reducing hunger in Arkansas.

## JOIN NOW! Fill Out the Form Below

### Membership Levels

(Mark the level of membership you want)

Statewide Advocacy / State Agency Programs

Local Hunger Relief Organizations

Individual Hunger Advocates

### Annual Membership Fee

\$ 125.00

\$ 25.00

\$ 25.00

**Total Amount Due** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact Name** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **AR** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address** \_\_\_\_\_

**Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

### Method Payment:

Check enclosed  Bill Me  VISA  Master Card

**Credit Card #** \_\_\_\_\_ **Exp. Date** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature** \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this form with payment to:

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

1400 W. Markham, Ste 304

Little Rock, AR 72201