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For more information, contact:  
Temeka Douglas  
Phone: 501.399-9999

Sanders Named Executive Director  
For Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

LITTLE ROCK, AR (April 7) -- Rhonda Sanders has been named Executive Director of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, the statewide association of six food banks.

Sanders had served as Director of Health Policy and Legislative Affairs for Arkansas Advocates for Children and Families (AACF). She worked on childhood hunger and nutrition issues during her 14 year tenure at AACF. In addition to her experience with Arkansas Advocates Sanders worked at the Arkansas Department of Health from 1989 to 1994 where she served as the director of the Child Health Planning project, the acting assistant director of the WIC program and lead trainer for the data processing department.

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance (Alliance) was established in 2005 to unify hunger relief organizations and coordinate statewide solutions to eliminating hunger in Arkansas. Through its members, the Alliance regularly distributes over 16 million pounds of food each year to nearly 300,000 Arkansans in all 75 counties in the state. Members of the Alliance are Arkansas Foodbank Network,

Little Rock; Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro; Food Bank of North Central Arkansas, Norfork; Harvest Texarkana, Texarkana; Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, Bethel Heights; and River Valley Regional Food Bank, Fort Smith.

“The food banks and the nearly 1000 agencies they serve do outstanding work, but the task is enormous,” Sanders said. “The current economic conditions are forcing families more than ever to choose between gas, rent, medication or food. As a result, our lines are growing longer.”

The first statewide study, “Hunger in America 2006 – The Arkansas Report,” conducted by the Alliance found that Arkansas’ hungry are our most vulnerable citizens. Half of Arkansans served are children (40%) and elderly (10%).

“Our job is to help our food banks and their agencies. One mission – one voice: working together to end hunger. Ours is a collaborative effort,” Sanders added.

For more information about the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, visit [www.arhungeralliance.org](http://www.arhungeralliance.org), or call 501-399-9999.

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