



# MEDIA RELEASE

Press release for Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. For immediate release.

For more information contact Nancy Conley, Communications Director, [nconley@arhungeralliance.org](mailto:nconley@arhungeralliance.org), 501.399.9999 or 501.912.3194.

---

## **Alliance Receives Walmart Foundation Grant**

*More Washington County Kids Are Eating A Nutritious Breakfast*

**LITTLE ROCK, AR (August 25, 2015 )**—The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance received a Northwest Arkansas Giving program grant from the Walmart Foundation in the amount of \$37,872. The grant will support the Arkansas Meals for Achievement [AMFA] program providing free breakfast to all students at Asbell Elementary in Fayetteville and Lincoln Consolidated Middle School in Lincoln. Both schools are in Washington County.

To increase the number of students eating school breakfast, the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance helped initiate the Arkansas Meals for Achievement pilot grant program (Act 383 of 2013). The act provides grant money to schools choosing to serve [breakfast after the bell](#) to all students at no charge. The grants complement federal school lunch funding and supplement the cost of providing a free breakfast to all students.

Of the more than 200 applicants, a total of 32 schools across the state have participated in the program in the 2013/14 and 2014/15 school years. Initial results show AMFA schools with an average growth in breakfast participation of 84 percent. Teachers, nurses, principals and parents have also reported improved classroom behavior, fewer trips to the school nurse, improved attendance and fewer tardies. Asbell Elementary and Lincoln Middle schools have reported participation increases of 33 percent and 81 percent, respectively. Existing funding for a final grant year will allow for a 3-year impact study and for schools to place future breakfast funding into their budgets.

This grant from the Walmart Foundation will fully fund the two AMFA schools in Washington County, allowing all of their students to continue eating breakfast free of charge, and giving those schools the opportunity to incorporate the program into their annual budget.

**X X X**

### **About The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance**

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry campaign, is a non-profit collaborative network of more than 480 hunger relief organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Texarkana Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfork, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance is dedicated to reducing hunger through direct relief, education and advocacy. We invite you to visit [www.ARhungeralliance.org](http://www.ARhungeralliance.org) for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.