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**Mark Your Calendar:**

**Serving up Solutions**
June 14th, 6:00-8:30pm

If you're looking for an opportunity to get involved with hunger relief, we invite you to participate in Serving Up Solutions, our annual fundraising event in cooperation with the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus. This year celebrates the 10th anniversary of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus, one of the first in the nation to focus on the issue of hunger and...
The evening includes a delicious 4-course meal prepared by some of Arkansas's most celebrated chefs and served by members of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus. Guests can also participate in silent and live auctions.

**Live Auction items include:**

- An opal and diamond cocktail ring valued at $3,100.
- Four tickets to a Dallas Mavericks game and air fare to Dallas on Southwest Airlines. Valued at $2,000.
- A diamond and white gold necklace valued at $7,650
- A Cooking Class and dinner for 10 in your home. The class and dinner are taught and served by Kathy Webb and Capi Peck. Valued at $1,200.
- Live painting by Vickie Hendrix Seibenmorgen. The painting will be auctioned at the end of the evening. Value? Priceless.

Co-chairs for this year’s event are Daniel Campbell and Becky Barnes-Campbell.

Tickets and tables (seat 8) may be purchased online or by contacting Mary Bea Gross at mbgross@arhungeralliance.org.

**Presenting Sponsor:**

![NUCOR Steel Arkansas](image)

**Emerald Sponsor:**

![Walmart](image)

**Topaz Sponsors:**

![OCAH-PAH](image)  ![Arkansas Rice Council](image)  ![FirstSecurity](image)  ![Arkansas Cinema Society](image)  ![STALLION TRANSPORTATION GROUP](image)  ![Delta Dental](image)

**Pearl Sponsors**

AT&T  Baptist Health Foundation  Community Health Centers of Arkansas  Denise & Hershey Garner  inVeritas  Nabholz  Riceland Foods
Hunger Action Breakfast
September 20th  7:45-9am

Make plans to join us for the Hunger Action Breakfast where we recognize those individuals, businesses, nonprofits and governmental officials who have gone above and beyond in their efforts to alleviate hunger in Arkansas.

Cooking Matters: UPDATE

In last quarter’s newsletter, we reported on the partnership between the Alliance’s Cooking Matters team and the Arkansas Department of Correction’s (ADC) Wrightsville Hawkins Center to roll out a program that introduced Cooking Matters to the female inmates who would be completing their sentences soon.

The United States Department of Agriculture Nutrition Division was so impressed with this out-of-the-box application of a proven nutrition education program that they featured it in the national SNAP-Ed newsletter. Read the entire article here.

We were immediately contacted by organizations from Wisconsin, Vermont, Maine, Massachusetts, and other states about replicating our program with prison populations in their states using SNAP-Ed funding. Although we are a SNAP-Ed provider, regulations prohibit SNAP-Ed dollars from being spent on people who are serving sentences in correctional facilities. We were fortunate enough to have other funding sources to help expand the scope of the program to a population in need. That said, we hope federal regulators will recognize the importance of nutrition education in empowering inmates to make more responsible choices when they are released, and that those responsible choices begin with being able to feed one’s family through one’s own agency. Cooking Matters for everyone.
Cooking Matters at the Store: Event Days Coming Up

Marshall, AR
June 21st
9:00 am - 2:00 pm
Harps Grocery
700 US 65 North
Marshall, AR

The next Cooking Matters at the Store Event Day will be in Marshall in partnership with Food Bank of North Central Arkansas. The event is a self-guided tour of the grocery store where participants learn nutrition tips and tricks for stretching their food budget. Participants will receive a free $10 grocery gift card to practice the shopping skills they've learned on the free grocery tour.

We always need volunteers so if you or someone you know are in the Marshall area and are interested in volunteering, please contact Sam Stadter at sstadter@arhungeralliance.org. We will train volunteers before the event.

Cooking Matters At The Farmers Market

Cooking Matters and the Farmers Market is a match made in heaven. Add the Double up Food Bucks program and it's even better. USDA's Double up Food Bucks is being offered at many farmers markets and Harp's Grocery Stores across the state again this summer. That means SNAP recipients will get double the value of their market purchases when they use their EBT cards.

The Alliance Cooking Matters team is partnering with the River Valley Food Bank and the Fort Smith Farmers Market, and the Harvest Regional Food Bank, respectively, on these special days at the market.

June 16th 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Fort Smith Farmers Market
North 2nd and Garrison Ave
Fort Smith, AR

July 6th 9:00am-1:00pm
Howard County Farmers Market
110 S. Washington St.
Nashville, AR

Market shoppers will find out how to get the most from their fresh produce and get an opportunity to take the $10 Challenge: a free $10 token (while supplies last) to plan a healthy meal with fresh produce.

Arkansas Still Ranks High for Food Insecurity
Feeding America, a nationwide network of 200 food banks leading the effort to end hunger in America, released its annual Map the Meal Gap report in May. The 2018 report (based on 2016 data) focused on county and congressional district food insecurity and county level food cost in the United States.

Despite slight but steady progress in reducing food insecurity since the 2015 report, Arkansas remains second highest in the nation at 17.2 percent of households whose members -at times- experience lack of access to enough food for an active, healthy life. More than 515,000 Arkansans struggle to get enough to eat. Of that total, 165,000 are children. The report ranks the Natural State third in childhood food insecurity behind New Mexico and Mississippi. One in four Arkansas children, or 23.2 percent, are at risk of hunger.

Food insecurity by Congressional District:

<table>
<thead>
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<th>District</th>
<th>Food Insecure People</th>
<th>Percent Food Insecure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>142,640</td>
<td>19.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>137,330</td>
<td>18.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>103,830</td>
<td>13.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>131,470</td>
<td>18.5%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

"At a time when Congress is working on the 2018 Farm Bill, we hope our members of Congress will take to heart this alarming profile of hunger in America and in Arkansas," said Kathy Webb, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance executive director. "The reported $21 billion food budget shortfall makes cuts to federal nutrition programs such as SNAP and afterschool programs all the more dangerous. We hope our members of Congress will join with the Alliance and Arkansas's six Feeding America food banks to formulate policy that will move Arkansas out of the top ranks of food insecurity. We're also encouraging hunger relief advocates around the state to let their Congressmen and Senators know that SNAP must be protected and strengthened."

Other key national findings:
* 41 million people (or 1 in 8 Americans), including nearly 13 million children are food insecure.
* Rural counties account for 79% of the highest rates of food insecurity.
* Of U.S. counties with the highest rates of food insecurity, 89% are in the South.
* The estimated rate of child food insecurity is higher than the rate of overall food insecurity.
* Counties with the highest rates of food insecurity also have a higher prevalence of diabetes, obesity and persons with some form of disability.
* Counties with the highest rates of food insecurity also tend to have higher uninsured rates.

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Summer Meals Kick-off Emphasized Link Between Food Insecurity and Literacy
Fill a tall glass or pitcher with seltzer water, add a few slices of your favorite fruit, vegetable or herb. Stir. Enjoy.

Keeping kids well-nourished in the summer helps them retain what they learned in the previous school year and helps avoid the "summer slide." The Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign helps support summer meals sponsors statewide through grants and technical assistance to help them create and maintain sustainable programs that serve at-risk kids 18 and under in their communities.

**Arkansas Beef Project Welcomes A New Donor**

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association and Farmers Feeding the World welcomed County Line Sale Barn to the growing number of livestock auction facilities that are supporting the Arkansas Beef Project. Sale Barn owners who participate receive a sign that identifies them as supporters of the program. In support of this new, innovative hunger relief project, livestock auction groups such as County Line Sale Barn, are donating $.05 per head of cattle sold through their facilities. The money contributed goes toward the purchase of ground beef.

Having a reliable, affordable source of meat protein is a constant challenge for food pantries and food banks. The Arkansas Beef Project is a statewide partnership among the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association and Farmers Feeding the World. The project goal is to develop a reliable, sustainable and cost-effective source of meat protein for those Arkansans who cannot afford to buy meat on their meager food assistance benefits or wages.

(From left: Michelle Shope, Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance; Randy Black and Linda Sontchi, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association; Ron Koch, Joyce Koch and Deven Robberson,
The project offers cattle ranchers and others a unique opportunity to provide a much-needed source of protein to many Arkansas children and families in need and receive a tax deduction. Arkansas cattlemen, livestock auctions and others can participate in the the Arkansas Beef Project in three ways:

- Cash donations. Money is used to purchase domestic ground beef and process donated animals.
- Donate a live cow or bull. An adult cow or bull is transported to a USDA approved facility where it is processed.
- Donate a calf. The calf can be raised by a cattleman/cattlewoman, then donated to the program.

All donated beef is distributed in one-pound portions to food banks and food pantries across the state to help provide food insecure Arkansans a reliable source of protein. The minimal cost that food banks pay for the beef goes back into the program to help make the Arkansas Beef Project a sustainable program for years to come.

The Alliance Hunger Advocates Council

Our donors make so much possible for the children, seniors and families in Arkansas who struggle with food insecurity. Innovating and expanding programs that empower low-income Arkansans with the skills and access they need to increase their food security (like Cooking Matters, the Arkansas Gleaning Project, No Kid Hungry campaign programs and others) doesn’t come without a cost. We rely heavily on the financial support of the Alliance’s Hunger Advocates Council to sustain these exceptional programs that do so much for so many.

The Hunger Advocates Council is comprised of individual donors or family foundations that pledge unrestricted, tax deductible gifts of at least $1,000 annually. These important gifts allow us to build and maintain sustainable programs and resources that will have profound effects on eliminating hunger in the short term and into the future.

$1,000 - $4,999 - Friends

- Listed as a Hunger Action Friend in the Alliance newsletter and additional materials
- Invited to all donor receptions and "Coffee with Kathy" events
- Receive semi-annual Hunger Action Council newsletter

$5,000 - $9,999 - Partners

- Listed as a Hunger Action Partner in the Alliance newsletter and additional materials
- Invited to all donor receptions and "Coffee with Kathy" events
- Receive semi-annual Hunger Action Council newsletter
- Receive 2 tickets to Serving Up Solutions (if not an event sponsor)

$10,000+ - Champions

- Listed as a Hunger Action Champion in Alliance Alert newsletter and additional materials
- Invited to all donor receptions and "Coffee with Kathy" events
- Receive semi-annual Hunger Action Council newsletter
- Receive 2 tickets to Serving Up Solutions and 2 tickets to the Hunger Action Breakfast (if not an event sponsor)
- A garden row at Western Hills named in your honor with garden marker

Thank you to our Hunger Advocates Council:

Champions
JCT Trust
Jo and Presley Melton
Judy W. Fletcher Family Foundation

**Partners**
Anita Davis
Anne Fund
Phillip R. Jonsson Foundation

**Friends**
Keith Prevost
Marcy and Mark Doderer
Sally and James Jones
Becky and Mark Allison
Anita Southard
Bonnie Harvey
David Cash
Linda and Gordon Newbern
Robin and Butch Rice
Kyle and Ben Noble
Tammy and Brad Tebrugge
Camille and Wayne Bennett
Harriett Phillips
Lynn and Joe Copeland
Mary Jane and Mike Cole
Genie Power and Sue Lowe
Jan and Randal Hundley
Linda Barnes
Kathy Webb
Barbara Miles
Amy Caro
Barry Hyde
David Mitchell
Elizabeth Ginty
Patty and Don Crabbe
Phyllis and Michael Barrier
Sujit CanagaRetna
Tippi McCullough and Barb Mariani
Karen and Curtis Barnett
Julia Garcia
Sharon Sweeney

**Unspecified**
Susan Hardin and Barry Haas
Karen and Curtis Barnett
Mary Jane and Mike Cole
Julia Garcia
Sharon Sweeney
Chris Allen

For more information or to become a member of the Hunger Advocates Council, please contact Mary Bea Gross, development director, at mbgross@arhungeralliance.org.
Cooking Matters: Changing Lives

Are you, your church, or your organization looking for ways to make a difference in the lives of people in your community? Sponsoring a 6-week Cooking Matters course or offering Cooking Matters at the Store grocery tours are meaningful ways to give low-income adults, teens and families the skills they need to eat healthier and more economically.

"I had been looking for a way to bring cooking and nutrition into the Think Legacy re-entry program," said Deputy Warden Mark Warner. "When I learned about Cooking Matters, I knew it was exactly what I was looking for. It is a way to give inmates the skills to be good to themselves and their families. Cooking Matters is absolutely the most popular program we've offered at the Hawkins Center."

Deputy Warden Mark Warner
Hawkins Center
Wrightsville Correctional Facility

The Alliance Cooking Matters team will provide training, materials and other assistance to churches, individuals, civic organizations and others who wish to bring the value of Cooking Matters or Cooking Matters at the Store to their communities. Want to know more? Take a look at our video, Cooking Matters in Arkansas. For information, contact Alex Handfinger at alex@arhungeralliance.org.

Cooking Matters is sponsored nationally by Walmart

Become An Afterschool Meals Sponsor

Sixty percent of Arkansas students depend on free and reduced priced school meals. When school is out for the day, many of these children will not have another meal until they reach school the next morning.

That’s where Afterschool Meals Sponsors come in. Groups that meet USDA eligibility standards can be reimbursed for the nutritious meals they feed to children 18 and under at approved sites with programs that contain an educational enrichment component. Churches, housing authorities, libraries, Boys & Girls Clubs, schools, and other non-profit organizations can become afterschool sponsors.

Thinking about the need in your community? The Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign’s Out of School Team can help. They provide technical assistance and grant dollars to help build successful, sustainable programs that will serve kids in communities like yours well into the future. For more information, contact SiKia Brown, Out of School Program director, at sbrown@arhungeralliance.org and visit our website.
A Healthy Diet Isn't Always Possible for Low-income Americans

While researching how hard it is for low-income Americans to eat healthy on tight budgets, I've often found a mismatch between what people want to eat and the diet they can afford to follow. This made me wonder what eating right costs and how much of this tab gets covered by the largest federal nutrition program, commonly known as SNAP or food stamps. (Read the entire article)

Kroger Community Rewards Program

When you sign up for the Kroger Community Rewards Program, a portion of what you spend on groceries is donated by Kroger to the Alliance. Thank you to those families who make their shopping dollars do good for those who are less fortunate, and thank you to Kroger for offering such a community minded program.

You can be part of the program. Go to Kroger Community Rewards for details on how to make your grocery dollars do more to fight hunger in Arkansas.

Monthly Donors Key to Long Term Planning

Knowing that funds will be available month-to-month helps the Alliance maintain sustainable programs that meet the needs of Arkansas's low-income families, seniors and others. If you plan on making a donation to the Alliance this year, why not make it a monthly contribution?

Being a sustaining donor is convenient for you and helpful to the Alliance. If you're ready to become a monthly donor, contact Mary Bea Gross, Alliance development director, at mbgross@arhungeralliance.org or call 501.399.9999.