



MEDIA RELEASE

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

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Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Receives 2018 Emerging Advocacy Fund Grant

LITTLE ROCK, AR (June 20, 2018)– The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance has been named as one of 16 organizations nationwide to receive a 2018 Emerging Advocacy Fund Grant from MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger. MAZON's Emerging Advocacy Fund provides partner organizations with financial backing to hire or retain staff who are dedicated to anti-hunger advocacy. The Alliance has received \$60,000 in grant dollars to fund a new advocacy position.

"We're looking forward to having a full-time advocacy person to build on the success we are having in raising awareness of the importance of protecting SNAP and the role individuals can play in communicating with their members of Congress on food policy issues," said Kathy Webb, Alliance executive director. "MAZON's leadership in advocacy around hunger issues has been invaluable, and we're grateful to continue our relationship with them through this Emerging Advocacy Fund grant."

Arkansas consistently ranks in the top five for household food insecurity, with one in eight Arkansans receiving food assistance benefits and one in four children considered food insecure. With SNAP, SNAP-education and other anti-poverty programs under attack in the 2018 Farm Bill legislative process, keeping hunger advocates and community leaders advised of what's going on and how it will affect their work is critically important.

“Since its founding in 1985, MAZON has been committed to addressing food insecurity in the United States through policy change,” said Abby J. Leibman, president and CEO of MAZON. “Among the strategies we use, we are particularly proud of the pioneering role we’ve played in helping to build a strong and resilient anti-hunger advocacy infrastructure in diverse regions across the United States. But we are also mindful that there is still work to be done-especially in those states where hunger is both prevalent and persistent. With our nation’s nutrition safety net facing unprecedented threats, we must strengthen our resolve to empower state-based organizations to advocate on behalf of hungry people in their communities.”

About 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 500 hunger relief and advocacy organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfolk, 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 for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.

About MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Inspired by Jewish values and ideas, MAZON is a national advocacy organization working to end hunger among people of all faiths and backgrounds in the United States and Israel. For more information on MAZON, please visit mazon.org.

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