



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

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SERVING UP SOLUTIONS SETS NEW HIGH-WATER MARK IN FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER IN ARKANSAS

LITTLE ROCK, AR (June 19, 2018) – More than 250 donors, hunger advocates, business leaders and guests joined the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and 40 members of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus on Thursday evening, June 14th, to raise money for the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and awareness of the food insecurity problem in Arkansas. For the tenth consecutive year members of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus served dinner to sponsors and guests on this evening of bipartisan support for the work of the Alliance and its programs. Event co-chair, Becky Barnes Campbell and Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb, were pleased to report that this year's event, which included silent and live auctions in addition to dinner, raised \$130,500. This represents a new highwater mark for the event.



"We are very grateful to everyone involved in Serving Up Solutions over the past 10 years and for the members of the Legislative Hunger Caucus," said Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb. "Ten years ago, hunger was a topic that didn't get much attention outside of certain circles," said Webb. "Then 23 legislators took the SNAP Challenge and spent five days trying to feed themselves on \$4 per day. It was then that we realized the General Assembly could be a strong force in fighting food insecurity, and so we formed the Legislative Hunger

Caucus." Senators Ruth Whitaker and John Paul Capps, Representative Rick Green and then-Representative Kathy Webb served as the first co-chairs. It was the first state legislative hunger caucus in the country and was based on the U.S. model chaired by former Senator Blanche Lincoln. The U.S. caucus is currently led by Senator John Boozman.



“Our donors are doing so much more than giving money,” said Webb. “They are giving kids a chance to thrive and parents the skills to make healthy homes. That’s huge, and on behalf of the children, seniors and families we serve, we say thank you.”

Serving Up Solutions is a bipartisan effort to bring increased awareness of hunger in our state and encourage participation by

legislators in helping bring about policy solutions. The event has raised more than \$755,000 to help support the programs of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and provide capacity building grants to member food banks, food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters across Arkansas.

Guests were served a 4-course dinner by members of the Arkansas Legislative Hunger Caucus. This year’s meal was prepared by noted area chefs: Chef Mary Beth Ringgold of Capers and Copper Grill; Chef Rosalia Monroe, Café Bossa Nova and Rosalia’s Family Bakery; Chef Capi Peck owner of Trio’s; and Chef Sally Mengel of Loblolly Creamery. The event was held at the Albert Pike Masonic Center in downtown Little Rock.

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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 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 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 for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.