



MEDIA RELEASE

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

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ACTING OUT AGAINST HUNGER AWARDEES HONORED AT ANNUAL BREAKFAST

LITTLE ROCK, AR (September 20, 2018) – More than 220 hunger relief agencies and advocates gathered for the 2018 Hunger Action Breakfast, a signature event of Hunger Action Month in Arkansas. The annual breakfast recognizes those individuals, organizations, government agencies and businesses that have gone above and beyond in the commitment to alleviating hunger in Arkansas. Awardees were nominated by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and Arkansas’s six Feeding America food bank members from across the state. “We work with many amazing people throughout the year who make the cause of ending hunger their top priority,” said Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb. “I know I speak for all of our Arkansas Feeding America food bank CEOs when I say that without hunger heroes like these and the selfless volunteers and devoted donors who support our efforts, the critical work of hunger relief would be all but impossible.”



From left: Kathy Webb, Alliance executive director; County Judge Barry Hyde, Jean Vogel Hyde; Mary Bea Gross, Alliance development director.

Co-chairs for the 2018 Hunger Action Breakfast, County Judge Barry Hyde and his wife Jeanne Vogel Hyde, challenged guests with a reminder: “If we all do one thing to help alleviate hunger this month, we can make a big difference, like our honorees are doing.”

This year’s Acting Out Against Hunger award winners are:

Category: Individual

Drury Hoover has volunteered almost weekly at Harvest Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, while also serving as the coordinator of Our Lady of Good Hope Pantry, one of the food bank’s longest standing hunger relief agencies. Ms. Hoover—age 82—leads the volunteer sorting and labeling effort each week at the food bank as well as helping orient new volunteers and overseeing food distribution days at her own pantry.

Deputy Warden Mark Warner was instrumental in bringing Cooking Matters to the Arkansas Department of Corrections Hawkins Unit in Wrightsville and most recently to the Department of Community Corrections in Pulaski County. Determined to provide inmates with skills that would benefit them after prison, Mark recognized the value of Cooking Matters programming and introduced it as part of the *Think Legacy* program, which helps inmates prepare for release. Deputy Warner was nominated by the Arkansas No Kid Hungry Campaign’s Cooking Matters team.

Category: Philanthropic or Non-Profit

Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association has been instrumental in building the Arkansas Beef Project, a successful new program that provides an affordable source of meat protein to Arkansans in need. The Arkansas Cattlemen’s Association leveraged its deep relationships within the Arkansas agriculture community to grow acceptance for the program and a donor base that will help sustain the program into the future. The Association was nominated by the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance’s Food Sourcing and Logistics Department.

Baptist Health & Little Rock School District partnered with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to provide the Good2Go Breakfast Program that was instituted at the school district’s three highest need high schools. The fruit smoothie breakfast program has been a huge success, increasing breakfast participation by more than 200 percent at Hall, J.A. Fair and McClelland high schools. Thanks to the Good2Go program, students can grab nutritious smoothies on their way to class. Building on the success of the program, the school district plans to implement the program in all Little Rock School District secondary schools.

Mountain Home Public Schools was nominated by the Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Mountain Home for their unwavering support of the food bank, its programs and the people it serves. The school district provides student volunteer groups to help at the food bank, multiple campuses & student organizations participate in the annual

Spirit of Giving Food Drive, Empty Bowls dinner, 5K's, and student dances to raise funds. Students have developed county maps modeling areas with high poverty and hunger. Students and faculty have also implemented alternate breakfast programs and participate in Cooking Matters and Cooking Matters at the Store classes.

St. Francis County Food Pantry was nominated by Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, where it has been a partner agency since March 2005. Through July 2018 the pantry distributed more than 340,907 pounds of food and fresh produce to those in need in Forrest City and St. Francis County. The pantry also delivers home cooked meals at Christmas, Thanksgiving and Easter. They have a robust volunteer effort and a strong relationship with local churches, first responders and other community partners that help with their work.

Category: Business or Corporation

First Security Bank was nominated by Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock. In addition to supporting food bank events, First Security as provided valuable financial guidance that saved the food bank many thousands of dollars. They have been a significant player in the THV Summer Cereal Drive, helping provide food for hungry children. First Security also volunteers as an organization to help sort and pack food for member pantries.

Tyson Foods was nominated by River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. Tyson Food's impact on the fight against hunger is considerable through its donations. The food bank is a beneficiary of Tyson's "50 in 5" campaign which pledges to give \$50 million in cash or in-kind donations by 2020 to fight hunger in the River Valley region. When the food bank moved to their new location, Tyson provided a grant to purchase a 40-foot walk-in freezer and filled that freezer with 32,000 pounds of protein. In 2018 alone, Tyson has gifted the food bank with more than 61,000 pounds of meat protein.

Walmart Northwest Arkansas Championship by P&G was nominated by the Food Bank of Northwest Arkansas. The golf tournament has been a supporter of the food bank since the tournament began. Conservatively, they have donated cash and product equivalent to more than 5 million meals. In 2018 they helped celebrate the food bank's 30th anniversary with a cash contribution of \$30,000.

Category: Government Agency or Elected Official

Beverly Kay Adams and the Howard County Department of Human Services (DHS) pooled personal money to help a woman—who was new to the area and disabled—afford food and toiletries until her food assistance benefit could be transferred from another county. Beverly Kay Adams and the staff of the Howard County DHS office went above and beyond in making this woman feel safe and cared for, and they resolved the concerns she had about her case. Beverly Kay and her staff were nominated by the Alliance’s SNAP Outreach team.



Left front: Anye DeGrand, Walmart Northwest Arkansas LPGA Championship by P&G; Howard County DHS office staff; Drury Hoover, Our Lady of Good Hope Pantry; Mountain Home Public Schools; Cody Burkhams, Arkansas Cattlemen's Association; Mark Warner and Christine Walker, Arkansas Department of Correction; back left: Derek Burleson, Tyson Foods; Stephanie Walker-Hynes, Little Rock School District; Margo Vogel, Baptist Health; LaTwon Whitby and Bernadine Witherspoon, St. Francis county Food Pantry; Terri Javert, First Security Bank.

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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.