



MEDIA RELEASE

For immediate use. Contact Nancy Conley, Communications Director at 501.399.9999, 501.912.3194 or nconley@arhungeralliance.org for more information.

ARKANSAS HUNGER RELIEF ALLIANCE RECEIVES CONTRACT FROM ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL INNOVATION FUND

LITTLE ROCK, AR (November 14, 2018) – Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance will receive \$25,000 to expand their *Five to Thrive* campaign after receiving a contract from the Arkansas Children's Hospital (ACH) Natural Wonders Innovation Fund, a project focusing on programs that make children better today and healthier tomorrow.

The *Five to Thrive* campaign, developed under the 2018 Innovation Fund contract, encourages school districts across the state to offer a variety of nutrition and physical activity programming to improve student health and academic outcomes. Districts that participate are eligible to receive program implementation funds and technical assistance to implement all five program components that include:

1. Adopting Breakfast After the Bell and the Community Eligibility Provision (or similar universal breakfast program),
2. Serving or supporting USDA Summer and Afterschool meal programs,
3. Hosting Cooking Matters® or similar nutrition education programs,
4. Maintaining or starting school based pantries or family focused backpack programs, and
5. Implementing an evidence-based physical activity program such as Go Noodle or Fuel Up to Play 60.

In the campaign's first year, nine Arkansas school districts achieved Five to Thrive status. "We're looking forward to recognizing more *Five to Thrive* school districts this year thanks to the Innovation Fund contract," said Patty Barker, Arkansas No Kid Hungry campaign director. "When we can improve student health and academic achievement, it's good for students, families and our state. We're proud to be part of the Arkansas Children's Hospital Natural Wonders partnership that is putting Arkansas kids' health first."

The Alliance's *Five to Thrive* initiative is among 11 projects that Arkansas Children's Hospital will fund to back transformative community initiatives proposed through its Natural Wonders Partnership Council Workgroups.

The ACH Natural Wonders Innovation fund provides seed money to community benefit projects that address child health priorities identified in the Community Needs Assessment the hospital produces every three years. Each year, Arkansas Children's and the Natural Wonders Partnership Council come together to contribute proposals and help select the contracted projects, which are funded up to \$25,000 each as community benefit work.

"We truly believe that partnerships help us lay the foundation for creating a healthier tomorrow for Arkansas children," said Arkansas Children's President & CEO Marcy Doderer, FACHE. "When organizations like ours work together closely, we begin to see the needle move on child health in this state."

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 440 hunger relief 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 our [website](#) for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.

About Arkansas Children's Hospital

Arkansas Children's, Inc. is the only health care system in the state solely dedicated to caring for children, which allows the organization to uniquely shape the landscape of pediatric care in Arkansas. The system includes a 336-bed hospital in Little Rock with the state's only pediatric Level 1 Trauma Center, burn center, Level 4 neonatal intensive care and pediatric intensive care, and research institute as well as a nationally-recognized transport service. It is one the 25 largest children's hospitals in the United States and is nationally ranked by U.S. News World & Report in cardiology/heart surgery, neurology/neurosurgery, nephrology and pulmonology. Arkansas Children's Northwest in Springdale includes 233,613 square feet of inpatient beds, emergency care, clinic rooms and diagnostic services. Arkansas Children's also blankets the state with outreach programs that include telemedicine, mobile health and school-based health solutions. A private nonprofit, Arkansas Children's boasts an internationally renowned reputation for medical breakthroughs and intensive treatments, unique surgical procedures and forward-thinking research and is committed to providing every child with access to the best care available, regardless of location or resources. Founded as an orphanage, Arkansas Children's has championed children by making them better today and healthier tomorrow for more than 100 years. For more info, visit www.archildrens.org.

About the Natural Wonders Partnership

The Natural Wonders Partnership Council (NWPC) is a coalition of organizations that work together to improve the health of all children in Arkansas. The collaboration began in 2007 and has strengthened in the decade that followed, developing plans to improve child well-being based on public health data and in support of evidence-based solutions that improve children's health. Arkansas Children's serves as the backbone organization for Natural Wonders, which includes partners dedicated to child well-being such as state agencies, nonprofits, member organizations, educational institutions, and philanthropic partners.

#

Follow us on social media and visit our website:

