



MEDIA RELEASE

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

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ARKANSAS HUNGER RELIEF ALLIANCE RECEIVES GRANT FROM UNION PACIFIC

LITTLE ROCK, AR (November 6, 2018) – The Union Pacific Railroad Foundation presented a Local Needs grant award in the amount of \$7,000 for the Arkansas Gleaning Project. The funds will be used to purchase bins, boxes and bags used to field-pack produce and help defray the cost of transporting gleaned produce to the nearest food bank.



(From left: Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb; Union Pacific's Senior Director of Public Affairs, Brandon Morris; Alliance Food Sourcing & Logistics Director Michelle Shope.)

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“The yield from many of the fields we glean is large enough to require a semi-truck loaded every day we are there,” said Michelle Shope, Alliance food sourcing and logistics director. “That is a huge expense, so we’re very grateful to the Union Pacific Foundation for its generosity in granting us these much-needed funds.”

“Having access to reliable, affordable sources of fresh produce is a challenge for most food banks, pantries and the people they serve,” said Kathy Webb, Alliance executive director. “We feel like the Arkansas Gleaning Project is a win/win solution for everyone, especially low-income families that cannot afford fresh fruits and vegetables,” continued Webb. The Arkansas Gleaning Project—in cooperation with Arkansas growers, volunteers and the Arkansas Department of Correction—rescues fresh produce that would otherwise be turned under after harvest.

“Union Pacific has a long-standing commitment to improving the quality of life in the communities we serve and where our employees live and work,” said Union Pacific President Scott D. Moore. “We are proud to support Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance and extend our best wishes for continued success.”

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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.

About the Arkansas Gleaning Project

The Arkansas Gleaning Project is a partnership between Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Society of St. Andrew and the growers of Arkansas who donate their unharvested crops to feed Arkansas’s hungry. Volunteers and others go into the fields and gather produce that is left after harvest. The cost of operating the Arkansas Gleaning Project is less than 5 cents per pound. Since the project began in 2008 more than 11 million pounds of fresh produce has been distributed to food banks, pantries, soup kitchens and shelters throughout Arkansas. The Arkansas Gleaning Project is funded in part through grants from Union Pacific, Kroger, Arkansas Community Foundation and appreciates the ongoing support of the Arkansas Agriculture Department.