



FEEDING *the* HUNGRY

Letter from the CEO

According to Aspire Arkansas, our state ranks 19th in the nation for homelessness. While homelessness may not look the same here as it does in larger metropolitan cities, the sad truth is that homelessness does exist in Arkansas.

As a young college student, I had the opportunity to participate in a domestic mission trip to work with people who were homeless in the United States. Listening to their stories was heartbreaking. I remember meeting a homeless man who had a college degree and had been a teacher previously. His lack of access to mental health services led to his mental illness spiraling out of control. He lost his job. He lost hope. Ultimately his embarrassment led him to think his family would be better off without him, so he left and lived on the streets. Another family I met lived in a tent. Both parents were employed, but they couldn't provide food for their family and pay rent. They left their home and moved into a tent.

These experiences had a tremendous impact on me. Listening to the impossible choices people had to make allowed me to experience empathy at a whole new level.

Several of our partner agencies in Northeast Arkansas have specific outreach programs for the homeless population. I am grateful for their partnership and thankful for their outreach to homeless men, women, and children throughout Northeast Arkansas.



With Gratitude,

Christie Jordan





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 FoodBankofNEA.org

Staff Directory

Laura Anderson, *Agency Relations Coordinator*
 Marty Black, *Warehouse Associate & Truck Driver*
 Jeff Fielder, *Compliance & Facilities Manager*
 Angela Finley, *Development Assistant*
 Ethan Frazier, *Warehouse Manager*
 Allan Garner, *Director of Operations*
 Jennifer Hannah, *Chief Program Officer*
 Rebecca Hendrix, *Chief Development Officer*
 Elizabeth Johnson, *Donor Engagement Coordinator*
 Christie Jordan, *Chief Executive Officer*
 Cody LaRue, *Warehouse Associate & Truck Driver*
 Bonnie Mamula, *Office Manager*
 Harper Martin, *Food Sourcing Coordinator*
 Scarlett Mullins, *Service Insights Coordinator*
 Adam Stanage, *Warehouse Associate*
 Abby Thomas, *Programs Coordinator*
 Mark Ward, *Warehouse Associate & Truck Driver*
 LaToya Wallace, *Statewide School Food Pantry Coordinator*

For all the latest information,
 visit our website at
 FoodBankofNEA.org

We're very social!
 Join us on:



Fill the Food Bank Competition Top 5 Winners



The Academies
 at Jonesboro
 High School:
21,343 Meals



A-State Lambda
 Chi Alpha:
20,423 Meals



NEA Board of
 Realtors:
11,204 Meals



Garland & Greenwood
 CPAs and Advisors:
1,750 Meals



Nettleton Jr.
 High School:
823 Meals



Fill the Food Bank event held at Jonesboro Kroger parking lot

Agency Spotlight – Hope House

In the heart of Northeast Arkansas sits Craighead County, spanning 717 square miles with a growing population of over 110,000. In Craighead County, there are approximately 16,900 people reported to be living with food insecurity, with more than 330 of those people facing homelessness. This is where the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas partners, like the Hope House, step in.

Located in downtown Jonesboro, you'll find the Hope House, a resource center dedicated to making a positive difference in the everyday lives of people by addressing individual needs and connecting them to a network of support and services essential for actively learning, working, and living in the community.

The Hope House provides a number of services that include serving fresh and to-go meals, a place to do laundry, take a shower, receive mental health services, and basic medical services. They also provide a technology center where individuals can apply for assistance programs, work on their resume, and even work toward their GED.

Open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., the Hope House fills a much-needed gap in the lives of so many displaced people in Craighead County. "A lot of times when we think of homelessness, we think of someone sleeping under a bridge or on a street corner. But there are a lot of children and families who are displaced, and we are here to shed light on the issue and to help in any way we can," said Terri James of Hope House.

The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas is proud to work with the Hope House as they continue their efforts to meet the needs of people in Craighead County. "The services the Food Bank offers allow us to be a greater asset to people struggling," said James.



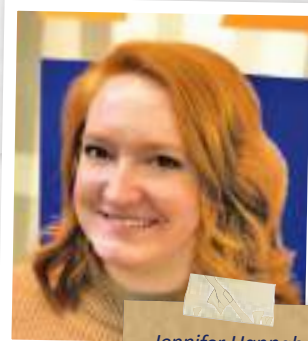
The Hope House - Located at 111 N. Fisher Street | Jonesboro, AR 72401



A look inside the Hope House



Employee Profile — Jennifer Hannah



Jennifer Hannah



Jennifer Hannah with Senator John Boozman and the Jonesboro Regional Chamber of Commerce

Q What brought you to the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas?

A When I was a freshman in college in 2012, I had a class that required 40 hours of community service, so naturally I reached out to the Food Bank to see what volunteer hours I could get there. At the time, the Food Bank was located on Culberhouse and had an agency shopping area. I helped stock the shelves in the agency shopping area, stuffed envelopes, swept the warehouse, and cleaned offices. The following summer, Feeding America was doing the Hunger in America study. The Food Bank needed some help collecting data for the study and they asked me if I would be interested in a summer internship. I stayed involved throughout my college experience and when I graduated, I applied for a position at the Food Bank. The rest is history!

Q What is your favorite part of the job?

A The people! Every day I get to work with people who are dedicating their time and energy to meeting the needs of their neighbors.

Q What is your least favorite part of the job?

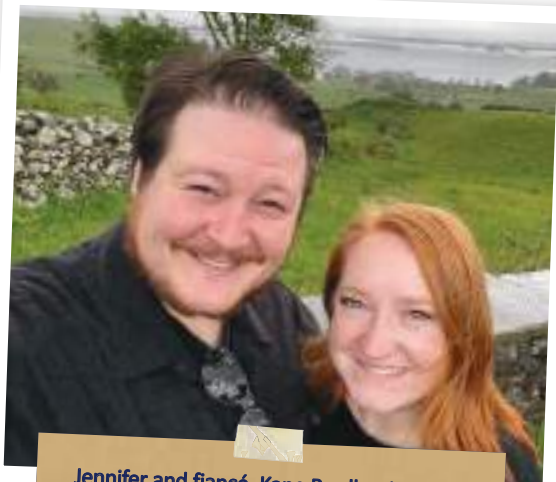
A Hearing some of the decisions our neighbors have had to make to try and provide for themselves or their family. Some people adjust their medications or go without just to feed themselves. A lot of parents will skip meals just so their kids can eat. I hate hearing that these are decisions our neighbors are making just to get by.

Q What has impacted you most since you started working at the Food Bank?

A I think the tenacity of our partner agencies has had the biggest impact on me. Many of our agency partners operate with minimal space, people, and budgets, but they still do all they can to serve their community. Even in disasters – when our pantry workers may have lost their homes or loved ones – they are still there, feeding their community.

Q If you could have dinner with any 5 people, dead or alive, who would it be and why?

- A • **Alan Alda** — I love his performances and I'm a big fan of all the work he has done in the field of communication science.
- **Robin Williams** — He was such a talented performer, and I would love to experience that again.
- **Dolly Parton** — She is such a giving person and has done so much good in the world.
- **Ruth Bader Ginsburg** — She was an incredible woman and leader.
- **Malala Yousafzai** — Her bravery is unmatched, and she has accomplished so much in her life. I would love to hear her thoughts on so many things.



Jennifer and fiancé, Kane Bradley, in Ireland



Jennifer packing boxes