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**Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives Grant from BNSF Railway Foundation**

**Jonesboro, January 7, 2020:** The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas received a grant from the BNSF Railway Foundation, totaling \$2,500, which will be used to benefit the organization's Backpack Program.

The mission of the Backpack Program is to meet the needs of hungry children by providing them with nutritious and easy-to-prepare food to take home on weekends and school holidays. Program recipients are defined as children who are pre-school to 15 years of age, who have been identified as at risk of hunger by teachers and counselors. The grant funds will be used to acquire nutritious foods to distribute to children in the Backpack Program each weekend throughout the school year.

According to Christie Jordan, CEO of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, the organization currently serves 1,204 students at 14 school districts in Northeast Arkansas.

"The Food Bank is only able to carry out our mission through the generosity of others," Jordan said. "We are grateful to the BNSF Railway Foundation for their support of this important program. The Backpack Program allows us to get food to children who wouldn't have enough to eat when they are home on weekends during the school-year."

The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas provides hunger relief to people in need by raising awareness, securing resources, and distributing food through a network of non-profit agencies and programs. The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas provides the equivalent of 113,000 meals each week to individuals at risk of hunger in twelve counties. The Food Bank is a member of Feeding America and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, and because we work in collaboration, we can help provide 4 meals for every \$1 donated. For additional information on the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, please visit [www.foodbankofnea.org](http://www.foodbankofnea.org). You can also find the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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