



Summer 2021

FEEDING *the* HUNGRY

Letter from the CEO

While the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas may be considered the hub of the hunger relief system in Northeast Arkansas, we certainly couldn't do this work without our partner agencies. Our partner food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, and programs are our hands and feet in the local communities where they live, work, and serve.

2020 presented many challenges, but it also presented some unique opportunities for the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. Through the generosity of grantors, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas was able to purchase and gift more than \$282,200

in equipment to some of our partner agencies throughout Northeast Arkansas. These equipment grants ranged from household refrigerators to large walk-in cold storage units.

The agencies we work with are true partners. I hope you enjoy learning a little more about some of our partners in this issue while we also give them the opportunity to show off some of their new equipment.



With Gratitude,

Christie Jordan

Christie Jordan

Woodruff County Food Pantry

"We received a couple of food credits last year which were very helpful. One of them was because we stayed open through COVID.

"We were very blessed to receive a grant for a walk-in cooler. We had been talking about needing one. It is really great when we get a lot of produce; it certainly extends the shelf life of produce.

"We received funds to pay for a carport/awning to use outside after switching to drive-thru only. We also received funds to purchase a heater. This was really appreciated, it helped us stay warm and dry while still providing services to our clients."

— Martha Ray, Director
Woodruff County Food Pantry, Augusta, AR



The awning granted to Woodruff County Food Pantry for use in drive-thru distributions. On average, the pantry serves approximately 480 individuals each month.

Woodruff County Food Pantry was also granted a walk-in cooler. The pantry uses the cooler to store fresh produce for distribution to their clients.





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Staff Directory

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Sheila Wilson, *Development Assistant*

For all the latest information,
visit our website at
FoodBankofNEA.org
We're very social!
Join us on:



@FoodBankofNEA



The Food Bank granted an awning to the Cherry Valley Food Pantry for use in their drive-thru distributions. Since January 1, 2021, the pantry has served more than 1,600 people.



Volunteers load food into a car under the new awning at Cherry Valley Food Pantry.

Cherry Valley Food Pantry

"We opened the Cherry Valley Food Pantry in 2009. The Food Bank is literally the mechanism that keeps our pantry operating. We couldn't do what we do without the Food Bank. They supply us with the products to give to our families like fruits and vegetables that they cannot afford. But more than that, they are a source of inspiration and motivation. They keep us going. Thanks to everyone at the Food Bank."

— Joan Ball, Director
Cherry Valley Food Pantry, Cherry Valley, AR



Food bags packed and ready for distribution at Cherry Valley Food Pantry.

Provision 88

"Provision 88 thrived through the pandemic due to the help we received from the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas! We received commercial freezers, commercial coolers, a walk-in cooler and a walk-in freezer in the past year! These units allow us to take our 'customer service' to the next level. We are a customer choice pantry. These units allow our customers to shop our cold storage items easily and make the right choice for their family.

"The walk-in units give us the space to take advantage of fresh fruits and vegetables available from the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. We have had to turn down these items in the past. Now we have space for milk as well!

"Our freezer storage allows us to provide meal items and frozen meal options as well! We became a USDA pantry during this time, and I now have space for those items when they send frozen and dairy products.

"We received food credits that allowed us to service families multiple times per month and provide when other pantry choices were not available for them.

"A huge 'thank you' for all the help you provide the people of Northeast Arkansas!"

— Mark Taylor, Director
Provision 88 Food Pantry, Jonesboro, AR



Commercial coolers allow Provision 88 clients to shop for their own frozen and refrigerated food items. On average, Provision 88 serves approximately 1,475 people per month.



Caring Hearts Food Pantry at Westridge Church of Christ

"During the peak of the pandemic, the number of people that we were serving tripled. The food credit was such a blessing. It allowed us the ability to continue to serve the same amount of food that we had been serving and sometimes even more food to three times the number of people that we were used to serving."

— Terry Baker, Volunteer
Caring Hearts Food Pantry, Pocahontas, AR



Walk-in cold storage units granted by the Food Bank sit outside of Provision 88. These units have helped the pantry expand services to clients and provide a greater variety of food.

Southwest Church of Christ Food Pantry

"[Before we had cold storage] we just had to turn the refrigerated stuff down. We couldn't take any refrigerated food. We couldn't stock food from the Food Bank that we got every week because we didn't have room for it. But now if they offer us some food, we just take it. We put it in there. We've got half the freezer out there full. We can plan now. It's very valuable. It's been very helpful to us."

– Norman Rudd, Volunteer
Southwest Church of Christ Food Pantry
Jonesboro, AR



The new walk-in freezer granted by the Food Bank to the Southwest Church of Christ Food Pantry. Expanded cold storage capacity has allowed the pantry to provide more food to individuals in need. On average, the pantry serves more than 950 clients each month.



Empty Bowls Luncheon 2021

Thursday, September 23, 2021

Help us provide 140,000 meals!

For more information contact Jordan Griffin at 870-932-3663 ext. 113 or jgriffin@foodbankofnea.org or visit FoodBankofNEA.org/empty-bowls.



Hunger Action Month 2021

September 2021

Hunger impacts people in every corner of the country, including 71,800 of our neighbors in Northeast Arkansas. For the month of September, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas and Feeding America food banks across the nation are taking part in Hunger Action Month. We hope to inspire people to take action and bring attention to the reality of food insecurity in America.

Visit FoodBankofNEA.org/hunger-action-month for a list of actions you can take to fight hunger.

