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**Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives Grant from
Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation**

Jonesboro, April 27, 2020: The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced today that it received a grant from the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, totaling \$35,000, to assist in coronavirus and tornado relief efforts.

According to Christie Jordan, CEO for the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, as we read reports of high unemployment claims throughout the state and in Northeast Arkansas, we are reminded that the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas' crisis response will be measured in months, and not weeks. With the current COVID-19 crisis, the number of food insecure families is increasing as the rate of unemployment rises. Additionally, the March 28 tornado devastated our area. Many local retailers were destroyed, as well as multiple homes in the area.

“Right now, many people are facing hard times as they have been furloughed or unemployed due to COVID-19 and recent storms,” Jordan said. “People may be in a tough place they didn’t expect to be in just a few weeks ago. The Food Bank and our partner food pantries are here to help. We want families to know they shouldn’t feel embarrassed to ask for help.”

Jordan said that their food pantry network anticipates an increased need for their services for months to come as families recover from storms and economic hardships. The Food Bank’s distribution has increased by 24% compared to the previous month.

“Through the generosity of the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas can continue to fill pantry shelves to provide relief from the stress of not knowing if there will be enough food for the week. Nothing can measure what it means to help people take control of their lives during these times of uncertainty. For people facing hunger, hope is a hot meal, a bag of groceries, a well-nourished child,” Jordan said.

The Food Bank will use the grant funds to provide emergency food distribution to struggling families in our twelve-county service area of Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Francis, and Woodruff counties.

“The King Foundation is grateful for strong partners like the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas that are delivering relief to families during this time of extraordinary economic distress.” said Michelle D. Monse, president of the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation.

About the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation

The Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation was founded by Mr. and Mrs. King in 1966. The Foundation continues their work by supporting agencies that promote health, independence, and opportunity within their communities. The Foundation awards grants in both Arkansas and Texas. In Arkansas the King Foundation gives to agencies that serve a 28-county area in the eastern and southern regions of the state. Additional information on the Foundation can be found on their website, www.kingfoundation.com.

About the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas

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 119,000 meals each week to people facing hunger. The Food Bank works in partnership with 140 non-profit partner agencies and programs in 12 counties in Northeast Arkansas. These counties include: Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Francis, and Woodruff. Additionally, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas is a member of Feeding America, a national network of food banks. Through our many partnerships, every \$1 donated can help provide 4 meals. For additional information, please visit our website www.foodbankofnea.org. You can also find the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas on Facebook @FoodBankofNEA, Twitter @foodbankofnea, and Instagram @foodbankofnea.

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