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**Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives Grant from
the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund**

Jonesboro, April 29, 2020: The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced today that it received a \$25,000 grant from the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis. The grant will support the Food Bank's efforts to distribute emergency food boxes in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Christie Jordan, CEO for the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, their food pantry network anticipates an increased need for their services for months to come as families endure economic hardships. The Food Bank's distribution has increased by 24% compared to the previous month. With the current COVID-19 crisis, the number of food insecure families is increasing as the rate of unemployment rises.

"Because of the generosity of the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund, we can continue to fill pantry shelves to provide relief from the stress of not knowing if there will be enough food for the week," Jordan said. "Nothing can measure what it means to help everyday 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."

The Food Bank will use the grant funds to provide emergency food distribution to struggling families in its twelve-county service area.

"Though based in Memphis, the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund is sensitive to the critical needs of our neighbors throughout our tri-state area," said Bob Fockler, president of the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, which manages the relief fund. "We are proud to support the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas' efforts to provide food assistance for Arkansans struggling during the coronavirus crisis."

About the Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund

The Mid-South COVID-19 Regional Response Fund is managed by the Community Foundation of Greater Memphis, in partnership with City of Memphis, Shelby County Government, United Way of the Mid-South, and Momentum Nonprofit Partners/Mid-South Philanthropy Network. It provides flexible funding to nonprofit organizations serving community members impacted by novel coronavirus and the economic consequences of the pandemic in West Tennessee, eastern Arkansas, and northern Mississippi.

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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