

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives Mississippi County Community Foundation Grant**

**Jonesboro, May 19, 2020:** The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced that a \$500 grant it received from the Mississippi County Community Foundation, an affiliate of the Arkansas Community Foundation, will be used to provide healthy food boxes to senior citizens.

The Food Bank had originally planned a Cooking Matters event at the Manila Senior Center, a partner agency of the Food Bank. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the event was delayed. The Food Bank will instead select a healthy recipe from the Cooking Matters curriculum and purchase the ingredients needed so that food box recipients can prepare a healthy meal in the safety of their home.

Cooking Matters Pop-Up classes allows participants to learn how to shop for healthy foods on a budget in a workshop setting, as opposed to in a store. Cooking Matters at the Store provides families with hands-on education as they shop for food, giving them skills to compare foods for cost and nutrition. Participants learn how to plan and budget for healthy, affordable, and delicious meals for their families.

In the modified version of the event, the Food Bank will provide the key components and benefits of the Cooking Matters tour in a safe manner that doesn't involve face to face participation. The Food Bank will provide all of the ingredients for a healthy recipe, along with preparation instructions and nutritional education information in a food box to be delivered to recipients of the program.

"The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas is grateful to the Mississippi County Community Foundation for their flexibility in allowing us to provide healthy food boxes to senior citizens in lieu of our normal Cooking Matters Pop-Up Event. Senior citizens will still receive the benefit of nutrition education and a healthy meal, but from the safety of their own home," said Christie Jordan, CEO of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas.

### **About 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 nonprofit 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](http://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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