



News Release

Contact: Jen Wood
573-475-7572
jewood@semofoodbank.org

SEMO FOOD BANK RECEIVES BAYER FUND GRANT FOR CHILD HUNGER RELIEF IN SCOTT, NEW MADRID COUNTIES

Sikeston, MO (July 30, 2020) - Bayer Crop Science in Matthews chose Southeast Missouri Food Bank to receive a \$9,000 grant from the Bayer Fund. The grant will fund four A Better Childhood (ABC) Mobile Food Pantries for Scott and New Madrid County Schools and more weekend backpacks of food at Scott County Central School.

Both of these programs provide much needed food to families in need. One in five children in Southeast Missouri is food insecure, higher than Missouri's average of one in six children.

"I know that for some of our students, the food in their weekly backpack is what gets them through the weekend when there are no school meals provided," said Pamela Glassner, of Scott County Central School. "I know they are in greater need during the summer months when school is not in session and those summer mobiles are very important to those families."

"This funding from Bayer makes a significant difference in the lives of students and their families in New Madrid and Scott Counties," said Joey Keys, food bank chief executive officer. "We appreciate the Bayer Fund choosing us for this grant. These employees also support us with their volunteer time at mobile food distributions and by packing senior food boxes."

"We recommended this program to receive a grant from the Bayer Fund because we believe it is important to invest in the well-being of this generation of children," said Robert Cook, tech specialist at Bayer Crop Science, Matthews. "We're happy and excited to support Southeast Missouri Food Bank with this Bayer Fund grant."

ABC mobile pantries provide easily accessible, nutritious food to hungry children at a familiar location and safe environment, such as schools, libraries, community centers and churches. The mobiles are especially important when children are out of school in the summer and parents struggle to provide three healthy meals a day. The food bank's Backpacks for Friday program provides a backpack of food during the weekend to students selected to participate in the program.

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About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides food to 140 member agencies including food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters, senior citizen programs, children's programs, and non-profit rehabilitation facilities in Southeast Missouri. The food bank's 16-county coverage area includes Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Dunklin, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, and Wayne counties. The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to end hunger and leverage the power of food to build a healthy community. Those interested in helping can do so by making a tax-deductible contribution, donating food, or scheduling a time to volunteer. Visit SemoFoodBank.org for more information.

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About Bayer Fund

Bayer Fund, a philanthropic arm of Bayer, is a nonprofit organization dedicated to strengthening the communities where Bayer customers and employees live and work by providing funding for food and nutrition, education and community development projects. For more information, visit www.fund.bayer.us.

Photo Outline

Joey Keys, right, and Lisa Church, of Southeast Missouri Food Bank, receive the donation of \$9,000 from Bayer Crop Science representatives Robert Cook and Andy Holm. The grant will be used to fund child hunger relief programs in Scott and New Madrid Counties.