



News Release

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COMMUNITY FOUNDATION OF THE OZARKS AWARDS \$5,000 GRANT TO SEMO FOOD BANK

Sikeston, MO (April 10, 2020) – The Community Foundation of the Ozarks has awarded a \$5,000 Covid response grant to Southeast Missouri Food Bank to increase Southeast Missourians’ access to food through COVID-19 response mobile food distributions.

The rate of food insecurity has increased significantly since the pandemic began. Currently, one out of every three children and one in five adults in Southeast Missouri is in a home considered food insecure, meaning they don’t have the resources to acquire enough healthy food.

SEMO Food Bank has increased the number of mobile food distributions throughout its 16-county services area to respond to the increased need. Mobile food distributions serve up to 250 families with needed groceries.

“Community Foundation of the Ozarks is committed to helping our local community and being part of the solution to end hunger, providing meals families may have otherwise missed,” said Joey Keys, food bank president and CEO.

The largest expense the food bank incurs every year is for food purchases, and prices have increased as grocers and hunger relief organizations try to acquire the same types of foods. Delivery times for orders also have increased.

A schedule of the food bank’s mobile distributions is available at semofoodbank.org/gethelp.

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About The Community Foundation of the Ozarks

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is a public foundation serving the Missouri Ozarks. CFO is dedicated to working with its donors, nonprofit partners, and affiliated community foundations in meaningful and purposeful ways. Founded in 1973, CFO has since grown to include 49 affiliate community foundations and more than 2,600 charitable funds totaling about \$285 million in assets, as of June 30, 2018. The Foundation’s mission is to enhance the quality of life in our region through resource development, community grantmaking, collaboration, and public leadership.

About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides food to 140 charitable and disaster relief programs 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. Member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters, senior citizen programs, children's programs, and non-profit rehabilitation facilities. 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.