



News Release

For Immediate Release

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ENTERPRISE RENT-A-CAR FOUNDATION GRANT TO HELP FOOD BANK ADDRESS ISSUES RELATED TO SENIOR HUNGER

Sikeston, MO (February 4, 2021) – Southeast Missouri Food Bank has received a grant from Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation to build awareness and address issues related to senior hunger.

Enterprise has partnered with Feeding America, committing \$15 million for

senior and child hunger programs over the next six years. The funds were awarded to 46 food banks nationwide based on their applications for projects to address senior hunger. A reported one in 12 Missouri seniors are considered food insecure, meaning they don't have the resources to acquire enough food for a healthy diet.

SEMO Food Bank's program will focus on raising awareness of its resources to address senior hunger to encourage referrals for services.

"We don't have local stats on the prevalence of senior hunger, but we suspect it could be even higher than the state average because southeast Missouri has a higher concentration of people over age 65 and higher rates of hunger and poverty than other regions of the state," said food bank President and Chief Executive Officer Joey Keys. "Our goal is to make sure this segment of our population and the social service and health professionals who serve them know what programs we have available to access food."



The project includes educational materials and outreach to social workers and other service providers at area hospitals, skilled nursing centers, physician offices, senior nutrition centers, churches and more, Keys said.

Food bank programs to address senior hunger include:

- Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which includes monthly boxes of food for people over age 60 who meet income eligibility guidelines.
- Access to food pantries, soup kitchens and mobile food pantries
- Application assistance for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP/food stamp) benefits. According to one report, only 41 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled for SNAP benefits

“Enterprise Rent-A-Car is committed to helping address food insecurity around the world, including right here in Southeast Missouri,” said Shena Bolz, Enterprise Group human resources manager. “We support Southeast Missouri Food Bank in their fight against hunger in our community.”

For more information about SEMO Food Bank resources and senior hunger, visit the website at semofoodbank.org.

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Photo Cutline

Enterprise Rent-A-Car employees volunteer at a senior food pantry the organization sponsored Chaffee VFW.

About Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation

The foundation is the philanthropic arm of Enterprise Holdings, which through its integrated global network of independent regional subsidiaries and franchises, operates the Enterprise Rent-A-Car, National Car Rental and Alamo Rent A Car brands. For more information about Enterprise Car Sales, please visit enterprisecarsales.com.

About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides food to 140 food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters in 16 southeast Missouri counties. They include Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Dunklin, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard, and Wayne counties. The food bank also provides mobile food distributions, monthly boxes of food to eligible seniors and weekend backpacks of food to more than 1,100 students in 32 school districts. The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to end hunger and leverage the power of

food to build a healthy community. The Food Bank is affiliated with Feeding America, the nation's largest food bank network, and has received the highest possible rating from Charity Navigator, attesting to its adherence to best practices. Those interested in helping can do so by making a tax-deductible contribution, donating food, or volunteering. Visit SemoFoodBank.org for more information.