



News Release

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SEMO FOOD BANK RECEIVES \$50,000 GRANT FOR SUMMER FEEDING PROGRAM IN THREE COUNTIES

Sikeston, MO (May 17, 2021) – When schools dismiss for summer, many students lose their most reliable source of nutritious food. With a \$50,000 grant awarded by Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation, Southeast Missouri Food Bank will be able to provide healthy food to children who may otherwise miss meals this summer.

One in five children in southeast Missouri live in homes without enough access to food. That number is even higher in some of our most southern and rural counties: one in four children in Mississippi and New Madrid and one in three in Pemiscot. Under the grant, the food bank and partners in these counties will hold a series of A Better Childhood (ABC) Mobile food distributions in conjunction with existing summer feeding programs.

“This grant enables us to efficiently get food to children and families who need it most,” said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of SEMO Food Bank. “By offering these distributions at summer feeding sites, children not only receive a meal, but a box of healthy food to take home to their family. Working together with our donor and partners, the food bank is committed to helping these communities end childhood hunger.”

ABC food distributions provide 200 to 300 families with food in a safe and familiar location, such as schools, parks, community centers and churches. These distributions also focus on providing access to nutritious food, especially fresh produce, which is the most requested item by families attending ABC mobiles. Distributions will be every other week at each site throughout the summer, providing more than 30 pounds of food each month to families.

Partners in the grant are Bowden Center/Fresh Start in Charleston, Life Changers in Lilbourn, Pemiscot County School District at the Hayti cafeteria and Faith Temple in Hayti. Parents can contact each organization for details on the feeding programs offered.

Distributions at Faith Temple will be May 28, June 11, June 25, July 9, July 23 and Aug. 9. The schedule for the remain three sites is June 4, June 18, July 2, July 16, July 30 and Aug. 13.

More information about SEMO Food Bank and its programs can be found online at semofoodbank.org.

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About Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation

Started in 1982, the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation was established to allow the company to give back to the communities where its partners and employees live and work. Thanks to Enterprise's generous \$15 million commitment over six years (2016-2021) as part of their Fill Your Tank program, Feeding America expects to be able to offer various member grant opportunities to help fight hunger among seniors and children. The FY21 rural summer feeding competitive grant is a component of that funding.

About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to end hunger and leverage the power of food to build healthy communities. The food bank provides food to 143 charitable and disaster relief programs in Southeast Missouri. These member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters. Southeast Missouri Food Bank also holds regular mobile food distributions and provides monthly boxes of food to 5,350 senior citizens and weekend backpacks of food during the school year to nearly 1,200 students in 32 school districts. 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. 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.