



## News Release

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### **SEMO Food Bank receives \$5,000 from BNSF for food distribution programs in Chaffee**

CHAFFEE, MO (July 12, 2021) – Southeast Missouri Food Bank was awarded a \$5,000 grant from BNSF Railway Foundation to fund food distributions in Chaffee.

“Strong community relationships are so important in fighting hunger,” said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of the food bank. “BNSF has a long history with Chaffee, and their support will help so many people in the community who do not have enough food.”

One in six households and one in five children in Chaffee are considered food insecure. The programs funded by BNSF Foundation will help address those needs with quarterly mobile food distributions. Each mobile food pantry provides at least 200 families with about 30 pounds of nutritious food.

The grant will also sponsor six Chaffee students in the Backpacks for Friday program for the 2021-2022 school year. Children in the program take home a pack of food each week of the school year, providing healthy, no-prep meals for the weekend.

For more information about Southeast Missouri Food Bank and its programs, visit [semofoodbank.org](http://semofoodbank.org).

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#### **About BNSF Railway Foundation**

The mission of the BNSF Railway Foundation is to support and help improve quality of life for thousands of communities across the 28 states where BNSF operates, primarily across the Midwest, Southwest and Northwest regions of the U.S. As one of the largest freight railroads in North America, BNSF Railway is focused on making a difference in the communities where our employees live, work and volunteer. The BNSF Railway Foundation is our company’s main vehicle for charitable giving. Governed by a Board of Directors consisting of the BNSF Railway CEO and other executives, the BNSF Railway Foundation is incorporated within the State of Texas and is managed from BNSF Railway's corporate headquarters in Fort Worth. Visit [bnsffoundation.org](http://bnsffoundation.org) for more information.

#### **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](http://semofoodbank.org) for more information.