



News Release

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SEMO Food Bank Employees Transition to New, Expanded Roles

SIKESTON, Mo. (Oct. 12, 2021) – Southeast Missouri Food Bank has made staffing changes to help it better serve its mission to end hunger in southeast Missouri. Four staff members have taken on new and expanded roles at the food bank effective October 1.

“All of our employees are vital in helping us feed communities in our area,” said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of the food bank. “By moving these individuals into new and expanded roles, we’re able to focus their talents in areas that will best serve the people we help.”

- Gratten Allen has been promoted to director of operations. This position focuses on the execution of day-to-day goals and ensures short- and long-term delivery of services, measures progress against goals, and evaluates and uses the organization’s capacity to deliver outstanding services.
- Neisha Ivory, equity and community initiatives specialist, will oversee special projects and ongoing community initiatives with a focus on advocacy and equity.
- Laveta Williams moved into the expanded role of programs coordinator where she will oversee the food bank’s Backpacks for Friday partnership with area schools and help with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) outreach. Williams will also continue to oversee the food bank’s Good Neighbor Pantry and food distributions in Chaffee and Jackson.
- Reva Jones, SNAP outreach coordinator, will assist community members with applying for SNAP (formerly food stamps). This program is an important tool in the fight to end hunger.

Southeast Missouri Food Bank serves 70,000 individuals each month through a network of 140 partner agencies and other programs. The food bank’s 16-county service area has some of the highest rates of hunger in the state, with one in six families and one in five children not having enough to eat.

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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 30 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.