



News Release

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BNSF RAILWAY GRANTS FUNDING FOR MEALS IN CHAFFEE

Sikeston, MO (May 20, 2020) – BNSF Railway Company has awarded a \$5,000 grant to Southeast Missouri Food Bank for Truck to Table Mobile Food Pantries in Chaffee.

More than 6,200 individuals, including nearly 2,000 children, in Scott County are food insecure, meaning they don't have the resources to access enough healthy food to meet their needs. A reported 19 percent of Scott County households live below the federal poverty level, higher than the Missouri rate of 14 percent and the national rate of 12.7 percent.

To meet these needs in northern Scott County, Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides mobile food distributions at the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) building in Chaffee. A mobile food distribution consists of bringing a truckload of food to the community, unloading it and distributing it to needy families.

The grant from BNSF Railway Foundation will fund mobile food distributions every at the Chaffee VFW every other month beginning this June and ending in May 2021.

"We are grateful to BNSF Railway for their concern for Bootheel families," said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of SEMO Food Bank. "This grant meets a critical need and helps families provide healthy meals where one in six families is at-risk of hunger."

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About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides food to 140 charitable and disaster relief programs in Southeast Missouri. Member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters, senior citizen programs, children's programs, and non-profit rehabilitation facilities. 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. 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 scheduling a time to volunteer. More information about SEMO Food Bank and its programs is available at 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 their employees live, work and volunteer. The BNSF Railway Foundation is the company's main vehicle for charitable giving. BNSF Railway Company, which has operated for 60 years, is one of the largest freight railway networks in North America, and the freight trains are a familiar sight in Southeast Missouri.