



## News Release

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### **DARDEN FOUNDATION AWARDS \$1,000 GRANT TO SEMO FOOD BANK**

Sikeston, MO (June 30, 2020) - Southeast Missouri Food Bank announced receipt of a \$1,000 grant from The Darden Foundation to help provide hunger relief to southeast Missouri families. COVID-19 has had a profound impact, and the food bank has been inundated with requests for food assistance.

"The funds from the Darden Foundation will help us provide nutritious meals to the many southeast Missourians seeking food assistance, including children who do not know where their next meal will come from," said Joseph Keys, food bank chief executive officer. "We are grateful for the Darden Foundation for helping us feed our hungry neighbors when they need it most."

Southeast Missouri Food Bank, a member of the Feeding America® network, is one of 192 food banks to receive this funding from the Darden Foundation. This grant will enable the food bank to strengthen the infrastructure of its hunger relief programs.

The Darden Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity in communities across the United States. Their commitment to help is demonstrated through their partnership with Feeding America and its network of food banks nationwide. Darden Foundation has continually supported Southeast Missouri Food Bank over the years.

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#### **About Southeast Missouri Food Bank**

Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides food to 140 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](http://semofoodbank.org).

**About Darden Restaurants and The Darden Foundation**

Darden is a restaurant company featuring a portfolio of differentiated brands that include Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, Yard House, The Capital Grille, Seasons 52, Bahama Breeze and Eddie V's. The Darden Foundation works to bring to life our spirit of service through its philanthropic support of charitable organizations across the country. Since 1995, The Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$90 million in grants to non-profit organizations such as Feeding America, National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and American Red Cross. For more information, please visit [www.darden.com](http://www.darden.com).