



News Release

**For Immediate Release
With photo**

Media Contacts:

Jen Wood, 573-471-1818, jwood@semofoodbank.org
Derek Burleson, 479-290-6466, derek.burleson@tyson.com

TYSON FOODS AWARDS GRANT TO SEMO FOOD BANK

Funds to Provide Food Assistance in Stoddard, Scott & Dunklin Counties

Sikeston, MO (February 28, 2020) – Southeast Missouri Food Bank announced it has received a \$50,000 grant from Tyson Foods to fund Mobile Food Pantries in Stoddard, Scott and Dunklin Counties. The grant will allow the food bank to provide 24 mobile food pantries in these counties from June 2020 through May 2021.

“We are grateful to Tyson Foods for this funding,” said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of SEMO Food Bank. “One in six families in Southeast Missouri struggles to put healthy food on the table. Tyson’s grant will have a significant impact on hungry families in these counties.”

The investment from Tyson Foods will provide extra protein and fresh produce at each distribution. Part of the protein will consist of Tyson chicken.

“Two of the top items the people we serve request are protein and fresh produce,” Keys said. “Tyson is instrumental for fulfilling this request.”

“We’re proud to support the Southeast Missouri Food Bank and its efforts to fight hunger insecurity,” said Debra Vernon, senior director of corporate social responsibility for Tyson Foods. “We have a history of investing in the food bank’s mobile pantries and know that it takes creative solutions to reach our most vulnerable neighbors in need and make nutrition food and produce as accessible as possible.”

Dates and locations for the mobiles will be announced and publicized later this year. Details for all mobile food distributions can be found on the food bank’s website at semofoodbank.org/programs/mobile-food-pantry or on the SEMO Food Bank Facebook page.

###



Tyson Foods recently awarded a \$50,000 grant to Southeast Missouri Food Bank. Tyson team members participating in the presentation included Tim Gardner, Tyson chaplain; Joey Keys, food bank chief executive officer of SEMO Food Bank; David Patterson, Brian Crowe, Kristi Sanders, Cathy Smart, Bryan Cato, Mark Avery, John Dixon, all of Tyson; Lisa Church, SEMO Food Bank; Dan Bess and Rhonda Arnold, both of Tyson.

###

About Southeast Missouri Food Bank

Southeast Missouri Food Bank provides food to more than 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. Visit SemoFoodBank.org for more information.