



Kim Buckman
Communication and
Advocacy Director
660.833.8939
kim@feedingmissouri.org

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Feeding Missouri names new executive director

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Columbia, MO – The Feeding Missouri Board of Directors has named Heather Hargrove the new executive director for the organization. Feeding Missouri is a coalition of the six Missouri Food Banks working to provide hunger relief to every county (and St. Louis City) in the state.

Hargrove joins Feeding Missouri from Liberty Family Medicine, where she has served as Business Development Manager and helped connect local business with direct primary care opportunities since 2020. Prior to her work at Liberty Family Medicine, Hargrove worked in the hospitality industry for 25 years.

Deeply engaged with the community, Hargrove has experience in the nonprofit sector as a member of many boards and service organizations. She most recently served as Chair of the Columbia Chamber of Commerce and Chair of the Board of Directors for The Food Bank for Central & Northeast Missouri.

“We are so excited to welcome Heather Hargrove as the new executive director for Feeding Missouri,” said Feeding Missouri Board President and President and CEO of St. Louis Area Food Bank Meredith Knopp. “Having someone of Heather’s strategic leadership in this important role will significantly benefit food security across our state. I look forward to working with her to find new and innovative ways to help our organizations leverage resources and opportunities when the interests of our regions overlap.”

In her new role, Hargrove will work closely with the CEOs of the six Missouri food banks to spearhead statewide advocacy and service efforts that provide a broad foundation on which Missouri food banks can build regional efforts.

“Collaborating with Feeding Missouri allows the state’s food banks to leverage more resources than we would have access to individually,” said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of Southeast Missouri Food Bank. “I look forward to working with Heather Hargrove as we continue to serve our neighbors facing food insecurity in southeast Missouri and across the state.”

In addition to advocacy work on the state level, Feeding Missouri has been instrumental in securing food donations that are distributed through Missouri’s food banks.

“Feeding Missouri collectively distributes 120 million pounds of food in our state each year. The scope and scale of that work is enormous, but helping parents, seniors, veterans and more put food on the table is a special and personal undertaking,” Hargrove said. “I am grateful for the opportunity to lead Feeding Missouri and collaborate with our partners at Missouri food banks to achieve our shared purpose of improving food security.”

Hargrove will begin her tenure as executive director of Feeding Missouri on October 17, 2022.

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About Feeding Missouri

Feeding Missouri is the largest charitable response to hunger in the state. Our network consists of six regional food banks and over 1,000 agencies working to provide hunger relief to every county (and the city of St. Louis) in the state of Missouri.

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 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.