



News Release

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Southeast Missouri Food Bank Awarded \$10,000 from The Arby's Foundation

SIKESTON, Mo. (June 6, 2023) – Southeast Missouri Food Bank has received a \$10,000 grant from The Arby's Foundation to support efforts around childhood hunger.

With these funds, the food bank will be able to host A Better Childhood (ABC) mobile food pantries, which are designed to serve children and their families, across southeast Missouri.

"Unfortunately, southeast Missouri has some of the highest rates of childhood hunger in the state," said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of SEMO Food Bank. "Many of these children rely on school lunch and breakfast programs, so summer is an especially hard time for them. Support like what we've received from The Arby's Foundation allows us to hold more ABC mobile pantries to provide children and their families access to healthy food when other resources aren't available."

According to Feeding America's most recent Map the Meal Gap, based on data from 2021, one in six children in southeast Missouri are food insecure; Pemiscot County has the highest childhood hunger rate in the state at 29.5%.

Families needing food assistance can find pantries and mobile distributions for their county at semofoodbank.org.

The Arby's Foundation has committed \$500,000 to support every community where Arby's has a restaurant. In total, the foundation anticipates giving out nearly 200 local grants across the U.S.

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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 140 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 5,500 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.