



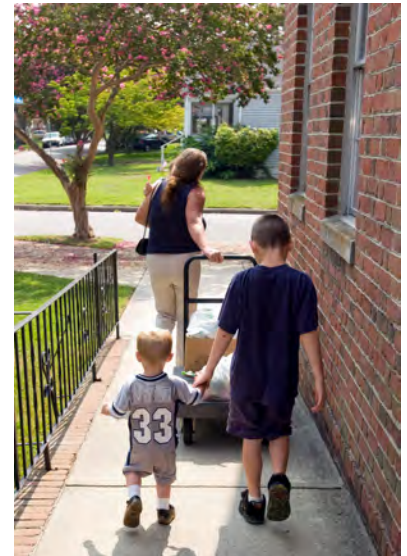
AGENCY NEWS

Spring 2011

Harvesting the Power of Community

Mid-South Food Bank and its partner agencies represent a unique community of sharing, participation in common activities and commitment. Through Mid-South Food Bank's membership in Feeding America, the national food bank network, you are part of not only the Mid-South community, but the national community as well. Feeding America made the commitment to help feed one million more people a year for the next five years. Recently, Mid-South Food Bank committed to double our distribution in five years. You, as a Food Bank partner, are an integral part of the food distribution system. The question is how can you help increase access and help more people?

- ♦ Do you understand YOUR role in the system?
- ♦ Can you commit to hunger relief as a critical part of your mission?
- ♦ Can you set specific objectives to increase the amount of food distributed per person?
- ♦ Can you expand outreach efforts to tell people about your programs and SNAP benefits?
- ♦ Can you expand distribution hours by an hour or two?
- ♦ Can you consider converting to a client's choice pantry?
- ♦ Can you shop more often at Mid-South Food Bank so you can distribute more food?
- ♦ Can you maximize resources made available by the Food Bank, government and local organizations?
- ♦ Can you recruit volunteers and raise money to expand access to food and nutrition programs?
- ♦ Can you help find sponsors to start more Food for Kids Backpack Programs?



If your answer is yes to these questions, Mid-South Food Bank is here to help. Contact Christina Anaman, 901-373-0420 or canaman@midsouthfoodbank.org.

High Food Prices Challenge All of Us



Recent government data shows that food prices are climbing on many grocery products including produce, meats and dairy. According to a U.S. Bureau of Labor statistic, prices for fruits and vegetables are up 3 percent, milk 10 percent and beef 13 percent. The rising cost of corn, wheat and other commodities causes increases in virtually everything we buy. Wheat goes into bread while corn feeds the cows, pigs and chickens. Mid-South Food Bank agencies know that a rise in food prices means more people will need food assistance when their food dollars no longer go as far.

"It has been several years since we have seen costs rise this sharply " said Mark Prestidge, president of Kroger Delta Marketing Area and a member of the Mid-South Food Bank board of directors. "Another major factor is the effect of rising fuel prices. As fuel prices increase, the cost of transporting food product from the farm or field to the grocery store results in higher retail prices. I know what it means to Kroger and, as a board member, what it means to the Food Bank."

New Agency Advisory Council Begins Work

The newly formed Mid-South Food Bank Agency Advisory Council is comprised of a diverse group of representatives of Food Bank member agencies from all over the service area. The Council will serve as a link between Mid-South Food Bank and its member agencies and will work to enhance the quality of services provided by Mid-South Food Bank to its member agencies. It will provide a forum for sharing ideas, successes and challenges. The Council will develop opportunities for networking and learning from other agencies.



The Agency Advisory Council deals with issues that affect all agencies.

“Our hope is that by meeting and working together, we will all gain a better understanding of how we can address hunger and food insecurity in our area,” said Felix Anderson, Food Bank vice president of programs.

Mark Oakes, chairman of the Salvation Army of Dyer County, has agreed to serve as the chairman of the Agency Advisory Council. The service area was divided into zones with representatives chosen from each zone. The members have committed to serve for one year, attend six meetings a year and participate in committee assignments as needed. They will also assist with the annual agency conference and become advocates on hunger-related issues.

Additional members will be added in the coming weeks. If you are interested in serving on the Agency Advisory Council, contact Mark Oakes, 731-589-2050 or mark@markoakes.com.

Mid-South Food Bank Needs Your Help

Help us recruit new agencies all over our service area



In our quest to significantly increase the amount of food we are distributing to hungry people throughout the Mid-South, the one key factor is identifying and qualifying new agencies, particularly food pantries, to join our agency network. Representatives of current agencies can be very helpful in this effort by using the relationships you already have in your community and in nearby communities to help us find potential organizations that can become member agencies. We all know people who attend different churches, are involved with different civic groups and who have the giving, caring spirit it takes to want to help people.

Mid-South Food Bank member agencies know better than anyone else what it takes to maintain a feeding program. And you know that the Food Bank is here to help you.

If you want help with recruiting possible agencies, Christina Anaman can give you guidance. She is in charge of agency recruitment and she has talked with many churches and other organizations about making their feeding program a part of Mid-South Food Bank. Contact Christina at 901-373-0420 or canaman@midsouthfoodbank.org.

2010 County Level Distribution

County	State	Persons in Poverty	Pounds Distributed	PPPIP
Crittenden	AR	13,223	172,774	13.07
Alcorn	MS	6,188	5174	0.84
Benton	MS	1,716	-	0.00
Coahoma	MS	8,677	148,506	17.11
De Soto	MS	11,678	77,423	6.63
Itawamba	MS	3,207	211,513	65.95
Lafayette	MS	7,280	147,370	20.04
Lee	MS	12,179	523,280	42.97
Marshall	MS	7,824	118,850	2.41
Monroe	MS	6,724	202,029	30.05
Panola	MS	9,976	104,662	10.49
Pontotoc	MS	4,637	91,823	19.80
Prentiss	MS	4,414	28,964	6.56
Quitman	MS	3,173	60,537	19.08
Tate	MS	4,071	32,731	8.04
Tippah	MS	4,028	224,327	55.69
Tishomingo	MS	3,327	196,249	58.99
Tunica	MS	2,615	88,787	33.95
Union	MS	3,837	135,648	35.35
Crockett	TN	2,504	-	0.00
Dyer	TN	6,207	150,775	35.89
Fayette	TN	4,982	41,505	12.31
Hardeman	TN	5,196	16,593	3.19
Haywood	TN	4,216	15,820	3.75
Lake	TN	1,940	-	0.00
Lauderdale	TN	6,391	13,297	2.08
Madison	TN	17,459	105,537	6.04
McNairy	TN	4,795	120,703	25.17
Obion	TN	4,946	130,459	30.05
Shelby	TN	179,222	6,779,401	37.83
Tipton	TN	7,893	156,290	16.74

Mid-South Food Bank ended 2010 with a total distribution of 12.5 million pounds of food and other grocery items. Looking at our distribution by county, we met Feeding America's Pounds Per Person in Poverty (PPPIP) guidelines for distribution in 14 counties.

In 2011, our overall goal is 13.6 million pounds. But we are working to make sure the food we distribute goes where it is needed most, using the guidelines of the county level distribution chart.



Retail Pick-Up Program Benefits Agencies Directly

Mid-South Food Bank has partnered with a number of retail stores to pick up food donations. Retail pick-up brought in nearly 205,000 pounds of food last year. But the Food Bank only picks up at the stores that are close to us. In other counties of our service area, the Food Bank acts as the liaison to connect local agencies to their local Walmart, Sam's Club, Kroger or other retail outlet to pick up donated food directly. The pounds picked up must be reported to the Food Bank. Currently, more than 30 agencies are involved in the program.

Starting in March, a series of ServSafe food handling classes will be held for those agencies who participate in the retail pick-up program. This training is different from the safe food handling class that all agencies are required to attend. It will be conducted by a representative from Kroger, who is generously donating his time to present these classes, which are required for all individuals who pick up food at retail stores. There is a \$30 per person fee for materials for the class, which must be paid before or at the class.

All agencies participating in the Retail Pick-Up Program will receive a letter informing you when the next class will be held.



Estella Mayhue-Greer took over as president & CEO of Mid-South Food Bank on January 1, 2011. She is in her 15th year at the Food Bank and she started in agency relations. She later became chief operating officer so she was the natural choice to become the president & CEO. Before she came to the Food Bank, Ms. Greer worked in public relations and marketing at Methodist Hospital, The Med and as head of her own PR firm. She also taught at the University of Memphis and Christian Brothers University. She is very involved in the community in various service organizations. Recently, she was elected to Feeding America's National Council, the advisory body made up of member food banks.

Welcome New Agencies!

Friendship Baptist Church, Memphis
 St. Paul Baptist Church, Memphis
 New Song Baptist Church, Memphis
 Anchor of Life Outreach, Booneville, MS
 Salvation Army, Jackson, TN
 Crenshaw Interested Community, Crenshaw, MS

Save the Date: October 1
Run to Fight Hunger
 Run/Walk to Benefit Mid-South Food Bank
 Grand Casino Resort
 8-mile Run, 4-mile Fun Run
 and 8-mile Relay
 Details to come!

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS!

In order to save paper and money, we are going to an e-newsletter, starting this summer. This is the last printed newsletter we will send. Please send a current email address for the agency director and anyone else who would like to receive the agency newsletter to Marcia Wells, mwells@midsouthfoodbank.org. Thank you!

239 S. Dudley
 Memphis, TN 38104



Non-Profit Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Permit No. 01360
 Memphis, TN