

# Meeting the Needs of Hungry People

The Mission of Mid-South Food Bank is to fight hunger through the efficient collection and distribution of wholesome food. We rely on our member agencies to be on the front line of that fight in order to accomplish our mission. A recent analysis of the pounds distributed to Mid-South Food Bank agencies showed that we are significantly below the target number of 28 pounds of food for every person living in poverty in each county. The formula used in the 2008 chart below indicates the Pound Per Person in Poverty (PPPIP), developed by Feeding America. Mid-South Food Bank's average distribution is now 22.5 pounds per person.

We are working toward the goal of bringing all counties to 28 PPPIP by identifying new food sources, raising funds for additional food purchase and making use of every resource at hand to hold down costs. For Tennessee agencies, we are offering more USDA products. In

Mississippi, we have reduced or eliminated the shared maintenance fees on a number of products that were purchased with grant funds designated for Mississippi. Check the shopping list carefully for these items and take advantage of them to increase the amount of wholesome food available for your clients.

COUNTY	STATE	PERSONS	POUNDS	PPPIP
		IN POVERTY	DISTRIBUTED	
Crittenden	AR	13,223	66,388	5.02
Alcorn	MS	6,188	4,279	0.69
Benton	MS	1,716	-	0.00
Coahoma	MS	8,677	22,430	2.58
De Soto	MS	11,678	34,725	2.97
Itawamba	MS	3,207	99,309	30.97
Lafayette	MS	7,280	60,271	8.28
Lee	MS	12,179	237,838	19.53
Marshall	MS	7,824	10,098	1.29
Monroe	MS	6,724	83,071	12.35
Panola	MS	9,976	41,042	4.11
Pontotoc	MS	4,637	38,121	8.22
Prentiss	MS	4,414	17,472	3.96
Quitman	MS	3,173	13,359	4.21
Tate	MS	4,071	8,820	2.17
Tippah	MS	4,028	105,281	26.14
Tishomingo	MS	3,327	106,608	32.04
Tunica	MS	2,615	39,874	15.25
Union	MS	3,837	59,357	15.47
Crockett	TN	2,504	-	0.00
Dyer	TN	6,207	11,236	1.81
Fayette	TN	4,982	16,290	3.27
Hardeman	TN	5,196	7,596	1.46
Haywood	TN	4,216	1,821	0.43
Lake	TN	1,940	-	0.00
Lauderdale	TN	6,391	13,297	2.08
Madison	TN	17,459	50,918	2.92
McNairy	TN	4,795	5,265	1.10
Obion	TN	4,946	14,806	2.99

## Mississippi Regional Meeting

Mid-South Food Bank has announced its first regional agency meeting with Mississippi agency representatives and potential new agencies on Wednesday, July 22 at the Ripley Prebyterian Church in Ripley, Mississippi. The meeting is to identify and discuss current and anticipated agency needs and specific ways Mid-South Food Bank can work with agencies to meet these needs. Mississippi Board Member Art Gaines, Mid-South Food Bank Senior Vice President & Chief Operating Officer Estella Mayhue-Greer, Vice President of Operations Robert Hall, Agency Relations Manager Christina Anaman, Vice President of Communications Marcia Wells will attend the meeting to listen to your concerns and ideas. No registration is required, but please let Christina know by phone or email if you plan to attend and how many people you are bringing.

### Mississippi Regional Meeting

Wednesday, July 22

8:00 a.m. -- 10:00 p.m.

Ripley Presbyterian Church

302 W. Cooper Street

Details, including map, at

[www.midsouthfoodbank.org/](http://www.midsouthfoodbank.org/)

Agency Relations

or contact Christina or Marcia

901-527-0841

[canaman@midsouthfoodbank.org](mailto:canaman@midsouthfoodbank.org)

[mwells@midsouthfoodban.org](mailto:mwells@midsouthfoodban.org)

Summer 2009

A greater variety of food is available at the Food Bank Pantry, thanks to pick-ups at local Wal-Mart and Kroger stores.

## New USDA Income Scale

Federal household income guidelines that determine eligibility to receive USDA food and other items have been revised. The revised income scales for Tennessee and Mississippi are effective until June 30, 2010.

Households with gross incomes at or below the level shown or that can prove eligibility for SNAP (food stamps), Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are eligible to receive USDA foods and other Food Bank items. In Tennessee, residents in public housing and households that qualify for low income home energy assistance programs are eligible.

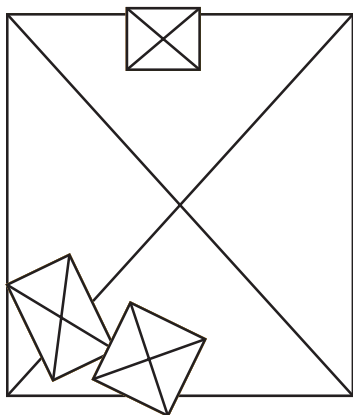
Food pantry clients must never be shown the Income Eligibility Scale. Misrepresentation of need or sale or exchange of USDA commodities is prohibited by federal law and could result in a fine, imprisonment or both.

A copy of the guidelines is on the Food Bank web site, [www.midsouthfoodbank.org](http://www.midsouthfoodbank.org) using the same agency password for the shopping list.

Tennessee Household Income Eligibility Scale						Mississippi Household Income Eligibility Scale			
HOUSEHOLD	PER YEAR	MONTHLY	TWICE/MONTH	TWO WEEKS	PER WEEK	HOUSEHOLD SIZE	PER YEAR	PER MONTH	PER WEEK
1	\$16,245	\$1,354	\$ 677	\$ 625	\$ 312	1	\$14,079	\$1,174	\$271
2	21,855	1,821	911	841	420	2	18,941	1,579	365
3	27,465	2,289	1,144	1,056	528	3	23,803	1,984	458
4	33,075	2,756	1,378	1,272	636	4	28,665	2,389	552
5	38,685	3,224	1,612	1,488	744	5	33,527	2,794	645
6	44,295	3,691	1,846	1,704	852	6	38,349	3,200	739
7	49,905	4,159	2,079	1,919	960	7	43,251	3,605	832
8	55,515	4,626	2,313	2,135	1,068	8	48,113	4,010	926
EACH ADDITIONAL						EACH ADDITIONAL			
FAMILY MEMBER +5,61						FAMILY MEMBER +			
		468	234	216	108		4,862	406	94

## Frantic Friday is Coming!

*Friday, July 31 8 - 11:30 a.m.*



Get in on the fun and great deals with Mid-South Food Bank's Frantic Friday -- the day our agencies can take advantage of overstocks, odds and ends and a variety of food and non-food items that are often not available any other time. For those of you who have never experienced Frantic Friday, here are the rules.

All agencies in good standing are eligible to participate. No appointment is necessary -- it's first-come, first-served. (That's the Frantic part!). Agencies may bring up to two representatives and are given 15 minutes to shop in the Pantry and an additional 15 minutes to shop in a designated area of the warehouse. Shared maintenance fees range from three cents a pound to zero.

## Join Ample Harvest Now!

Your pantry needs more produce. Backyard gardeners would love to share their bounty. Now, the AmpleHarvest.org campaign has been established with the goal of enabling America's backyard gardeners to find local food pantries in need of fresh produce. Simply go online to [www.AmpleHarvest.org](http://www.AmpleHarvest.org) and click on the "Register A Food Pantry" button to enter the name, address, phone and other optional information about your pantry.

Once registered, backyard gardeners wishing to donate fresh produce will be able to quickly find your pantry, contact information and the days and hours donations are accepted. It also displays a map and optional driving directions. Even if you do not have refrigerated storage, simply list the day(s) of the week and hours gardeners should deliver so that the produce can be ready for clients that same day.

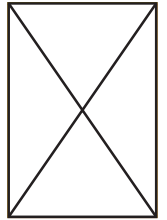
If you don't have Internet access, call Marcia at Mid-South Food Bank and she will register your pantry.

## Make Plans to Attend the 2009 Agency Conference

The 2009 Mid-South Food Bank Agency Conference will recognize the reality of our economic times and the increased need we are all coping with as more and more people face hunger and food insecurity. The conference will feature a workshop we want everyone to take that will include hands-on, practical ways to raise funds in your community. There will be plenty of examples and handouts of fundraising letters, sample mailers, scripts for phone-a-thons and more.

We will also have our favorite nutrition workshop presenter, Donna Downen from the University of Tennessee Extension Service, and a lively panel discussion of Best Practices featuring representatives from several agencies sharing their successful methods.

We start the day with continental breakfast, then workshops and a delicious lunch, followed by our keynote speaker. This year we are delighted to present Commercial Appeal columnist Wendi Thomas. Ms. Thomas wrote a series of columns and blog entries earlier this year when she and her brother went on the "food stamp" diet -- eating only what you can buy with the equivalent money an average person gets for food stamps. That led her to a long conversation with Food Bank President Susan Sanford, who invited her to take part in the Hunger Survey. Ms. Thomas interviewed clients at a local food pantry and wrote another column about that experience.

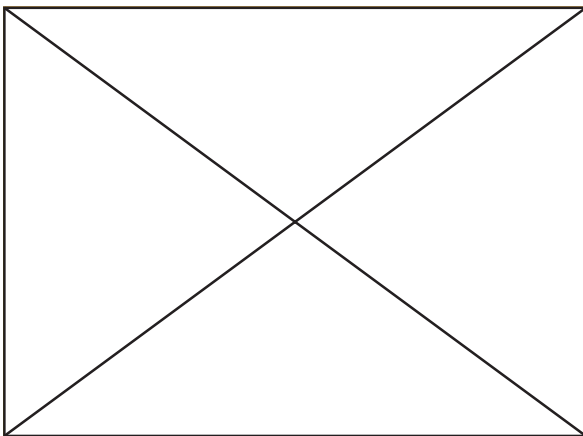


Wendi Thomas

**2009 Agency Conference**  
**Thursday August 20**  
**8:00 a.m. -- 2:00 p.m.**  
**St. Luke's United**  
**Methodist Church**  
**480 S. Highland, Memphis**

Please see the enclosed letter from Susan Sanford and nominate your agency to win the Feed the Need Award for Agency of the Year. The registration form for the conference is on the back page of this newsletter. You can also get it from our web site, [www.midsouthfoodbank.org](http://www.midsouthfoodbank.org) or call and we'll fax you a copy. We hope to see you there!

## Thanks to All Who Helped With the Hunger in America Survey



*Estella Mayhue-Greer interviews a soup kitchen client for the hunger survey.*

The Hunger in America 2009 survey information has all been sent to Mathematica, the research company, and we will receive the results in early 2010. Mid-South Food Bank would like to thank the 40 agencies that allowed our staff and volunteers to interview more than 420 clients about their lives and experiences facing hunger and food insecurity. The clients who took the time to answer questions that were, at times, very personal, provide the statistical information we use in educating the community, fundraising and advocacy. Almost all member agencies returned their agency surveys, which also provide extremely useful information for us and for Feeding America, the national network of food banks. Thanks to Methodist Healthcare in Memphis for its financial contribution for the survey.

## 2009 Agency Conference

August 20, 2008

8:00 am - 2:00 pm

St. Luke's United Methodist Church

480 South Highland

Memphis, TN 38111

One person may fill out the registration form for others, but we must have everyone's name and agency.

Use a separate sheet of paper, if needed. Registration Deadline: Thursday, August 13

FAX to 901-528-1172

or mail to Mid-South Food Bank, 239 S. Dudley, Memphis, TN 38104, or email Marcia Wells, mwells@midsouthfoodbank.org. Be sure to include all the information below!

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Agency \_\_\_\_\_

Address, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Contact Email \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate the number of people attending each workshop.

\_\_\_\_\_ Fundraising (Everyone must attend a session of this workshop)

\_\_\_\_\_ Nutrition Update

\_\_\_\_\_ Best Practices Discussion Group

