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Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives Grant from Arkansas Community Foundation

Jonesboro, June 23, 2020: The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced today that it received a \$25,000 grant from Arkansas Community Foundation's COVID-19 Relief Fund. The grant will support the Food Bank's efforts to distribute emergency food boxes in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

According to Christie Jordan, CEO for the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, their food pantry network anticipates an increased need for their services for months to come as families endure economic hardships. The Food Bank's distribution has increased by 24% compared to the previous month. With the current COVID-19 crisis, the number of food insecure families has increased as the rate of unemployment has risen.

"Because of the generosity of Arkansas Community Foundation, we can continue to fill pantry shelves to provide relief from the stress of not knowing if there will be enough food for the week," Jordan said. "Nothing can measure what it means to help people take control of their lives during these times of uncertainty. For people facing hunger—hope is a hot meal, a bag of groceries, a well-nourished child."

"The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas is doing important work right now in response to the pandemic. Their mission to feed families in Northeast Arkansas and their use of this funding is exactly why we established the COVID-19 Relief Fund," shares Heather Larkin, President and CEO of Arkansas Community Foundation. "This is why the Foundation exists. To support nonprofits statewide and to give them the tools and resources they need to improve their communities."

About Arkansas Community Foundation

Arkansas Community Foundation offers tools to help Arkansans protect, grow and direct their charitable dollars as they learn more about community needs. The Foundation typically issues about 2,500 grants totaling \$20 million dollars each year to Arkansas nonprofits. By making grants and sharing knowledge, the Community Foundation supports charitable programs that work for Arkansas and partners to create new initiatives that address the gaps. Since 1976, the Community Foundation has provided more than \$250 million in grants and partnered with thousands of Arkansans to help them improve our neighborhoods, our towns and our entire state. Contributions to the Community Foundation, its funds and any of its 29 affiliates are fully tax deductible.

About Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas

The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas provides hunger relief to people in need by raising awareness, securing resources, and distributing food through a network of non-profit agencies and programs. The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas provides the equivalent of 119,000 meals each week to people facing hunger. The Food Bank works in partnership with 140 non-profit partner agencies and programs in 12 counties in Northeast Arkansas. These counties include: Clay, Craighead, Crittenden, Cross, Greene, Jackson, Lawrence, Mississippi, Poinsett, Randolph, St. Francis, and Woodruff. Additionally, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas is a member of Feeding America, a national network of food banks. Through our many partnerships, every \$1 donated can help provide 4 meals. For additional information, please visit our website www.foodbankofnea.org. You can also find the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas on Facebook @FoodBankofNEA, Twitter @foodbankofnea, and Instagram @foodbankofnea.

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