

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

**Media Contact:**

Vicki Pillow  
Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas  
870-243-0272  
vpillow@foodbankofnea.org

**Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives Donation from  
The Darden Foundation to Help End Hunger**

Jonesboro, July 29, 2020: The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced today a \$3,000 grant from The Darden Foundation to help provide hunger-relief to Northeast Arkansas families. The funds will be used to distribute nutritious food to individuals at risk of hunger in the Food Bank's twelve-county service area. Because we work in conjunction with Feeding America, every dollar donated to the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas can help provide 4 meals.

"One in five people struggles with hunger in Northeast Arkansas including vulnerable children and seniors," said Christie Jordan, CEO of the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas. "Hunger does not discriminate and there are many children, families, and seniors who turn to our food bank for help. The Darden Foundation's donation will go a long way for the people in our community. The grant to the Food Bank was on behalf of local Darden Restaurants including Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, and Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen."

The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, a member of the Feeding America network, is one of 192 food banks to receive this funding from The Darden Foundation. It is projected that this grant will enable the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas to provide the equivalent of 12,000 meals to struggling families in Northeast Arkansas.

The Darden Foundation is committed to supporting families facing food insecurity in communities across the United States. Their commitment to help is demonstrated through their partnership with Feeding America and their network of 200 food banks across the nation.

Feeding America has worked alongside The Darden Foundation for eight years in the fight to end hunger. Thanks to their ongoing support, the Feeding America network has been able to help provide even more meals to families in need.

To learn more about the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, visit [www.foodbankofnea.org](http://www.foodbankofnea.org).

###

**About the 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](http://www.foodbankofnea.org). You can also find the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas on Facebook @FoodBankofNEA, Twitter @foodbankofnea, and Instagram @foodbankofnea.

### **About Darden Restaurants and The Darden Foundation**

Darden is a restaurant company featuring a portfolio of differentiated brands that include Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen, Yard House, The Capital Grille, Seasons 52, Bahama Breeze and Eddie V's. The Darden Foundation works to bring to life our spirit of service through its philanthropic support of charitable organizations across the country. Since 1995, The Darden Foundation has awarded more than \$90 million in grants to non-profit organizations such as Feeding America, National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation (NRAEF) and American Red Cross. For more information, please visit [www.darden.com](http://www.darden.com).