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**Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas Receives $3,000 Donation from the Darden Foundation**

**Jonesboro, July 23, 2018:** The Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas announced today a $3,000 grant from The Darden Foundation to assist in their efforts of providing help to people facing hunger. The generous unrestricted grant will allow the Food Bank to allocate funds in areas the community needs the most, such as backpack, senior citizen, and fresh produce programs.

“One in five people struggles with hunger in Northeast Arkansasincluding 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 Food Bank works every day to provide healthy food for the people of Northeast Arkansas. Through the Food Pantry Network, the Food Bank partners with more than 100 charitable agencies and programs to provide the equivalent of 113,000 meals each week to individuals at risk of hunger.

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. The grant to the Food Bank was on behalf of local Darden Restaurants including Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse, and Cheddar’s Scratch Kitchen.

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

To learn more about Feeding America or to find your local food bank, visit [www.feedingamerica.org](http://www.feedingamerica.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 113,000 meals each week to individuals at risk of hunger in twelve counties. The Food Bank is a member of Feeding America and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, and because we work in collaboration, we can provide 4 meals for every $1 donated. For additional information on the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, please visit [www.foodbankofnea.org](http://www.foodbankofnea.org). You can also find the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

**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. Our people equal our success, and we are proud to employ 180,000 team members in more than 1,700 restaurants. Together, we create memorable experiences for 380 million guests each year in communities across North America. 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).