



Press Release

From the Campaign Office of U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln

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Lincoln: Timely Contribution from Target Allows Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to Provide Fresh Fruits and Vegetables to Arkansans

Nearly 500,000 Arkansans live in poverty

15.9 percent of Arkansas households experience hunger, third highest rate in nation

Little Rock – U.S. Senator Blanche Lincoln joined Target team members today as they presented a \$7,500 donation to the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance.

The Alliance will utilize the charitable donation, given at Lincoln’s recommendation, to provide fresh fruits and vegetables to Arkansans in need.

“Arkansas has the third highest rate of hunger in the nation, with nearly 500,000 Arkansans living in poverty,” **Senator Lincoln said**. “These hungry Arkansans are our neighbors, our relatives, our co-workers, and our friends. Fortunately, organizations like the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance are helping our neighbors in need. Their efforts are more important than ever, as Arkansans struggle through one of the worst economic recessions in our nation’s history.”

“We are grateful to Target and to Senator Lincoln, who has been a strong voice in the fight against hunger in our state,” **said Rhonda Sanders, Executive Director of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance**. “The Alliance will use the donation to support our ongoing gleaning efforts. We gleaned and distributed 300,000 pounds of fresh fruits and vegetables last year and we plan to double that amount next year with the help of Target’s contribution.”

Al Collins, district team leader for Target, said, “Since opening our first stores in 1962, Target has partnered with non-profit organizations, guests and team members to help meet

community needs. Target is proud to partner with the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance to provide food to families who need it most across the state.”

The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance was established in 2005 to unify hunger relief organizations and coordinate statewide solutions to eliminating hunger in Arkansas. Through its members, the Alliance regularly distributes over 18 million pounds of food each year to nearly 300,000 Arkansans in all 75 counties in the state. Member food banks of the Alliance are Arkansas Foodbank Network, Little Rock; Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas, Jonesboro; Food Bank of North Central Arkansas, Norfolk; Harvest Texarkana, Texarkana; Northwest Arkansas Food Bank, Bethel Heights; River Valley Regional Food Bank, Fort Smith; and Project Hope, Hot Springs.

Senator Lincoln has been a champion in the fight against hunger and is a long-time supporter of the Alliance. As Chairman of the Senate Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry Committee, Lincoln plays a critical role in the fight against hunger in Arkansas and across the nation through food assistance programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and our school breakfast and lunch programs. Lincoln founded the bipartisan Senate Hunger Caucus in 2004 to help focus the Senate’s attention to the hunger that exists in this country.

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