



MEDIA RELEASE

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GOVERNOR PRAISES WORK OF HUNGER RELIEF ADVOCATES

LITTLE ROCK, AR (September, 20, 2016) - As part of Hunger Action Month, Governor Asa Hutchinson joined more than 230 hunger relief supporters and advocates for breakfast to recognize the outstanding work of individuals and organizations from around the state.

The governor praised the work of the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, and six Feeding America food banks and, most especially, the 2016 Acting Out Against Hunger awardees for the efforts in helping reduce hunger in the state. In a recent report from the Food Research & Action Center, Arkansas went from a ranking of 7th in the nation in food hardship to 9th. "When you're not hungry, you're free to achieve great things," said the Governor.



The 2016 Hunger Action Breakfast was held at the Junior League of Arkansas building in downtown Little Rock



From left: Kathryn Searcy, Raising Arkansas; Governor Asa Hutchinson; Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb; Paul Kroger and Emily DeYmaz, Mosaic Church.

In remarks, Kathy Webb, Alliance, executive director, reminded the group, "We certainly aren't where we want to be, but we have made some progress. Feeding America reported earlier this year our household food insecurity rate is 19.1 percent, down from 19.7 percent and our childhood food insecurity rate is 26.3, down from 28.4 percent. Significant, but still unacceptable. The Governor's Healthy Active Arkansas Plan, which includes many of our programs, is going to mean further progress for reducing hunger in Arkansas."

Governor Hutchinson also toured the Fresh2You mobile farmers market that was on-site for the event. Four of this year's awardees are partners in the mobile farmers market project that was funded by grants from the Blue & You Foundation and Union Pacific: The City of Little Rock, Rock Regional Metro, Raising Arkansas and Mosaic Church.

The Acting Out Against Hunger awards go to those hunger relief individuals, organizations that are deemed to have gone above and beyond the call of duty to relieve hunger in their communities.

2016 Acting Out Against Hunger Award Winners

Individuals:

Chris Allen
Linda Barnes
Margaret Douglas
Eugene Wing

Business/Corporation:

ARVEST Bank of North Central Arkansas (member FDIC)
Mitchell Williams Law
Employees of Domtar-Ashdown Mill

Philanthropic/Non-Profit:

Arkansas Conference of the United Methodist Church

Greenwood First Baptist Church

Mosaic Church

Raising Arkansas

Local Community:

Rogers School District Child Nutrition Department

Government/Elected Officials:

City of Little Rock

Rock Region Metro

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About The Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance

Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, lead partner in Arkansas for the No Kid Hungry campaign, is a non-profit collaborative network of more than 480 hunger relief organizations across Arkansas. Our founding members include the Arkansas Foodbank in Little Rock, the Food Bank of Northeast Arkansas in Jonesboro, Harvest Regional Food Bank in Texarkana, Food Bank of North Central Arkansas in Norfork, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance is dedicated to reducing hunger through direct relief, education and advocacy. We invite you to visit www.ARhungeralliance.org for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.
