



MEDIA RELEASE

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HUNGER ALLIANCE RECEIVES \$100,000 WALMART STATE GIVING GRANT

LITTLE ROCK, AR (August 18, 2016) – The Walmart Foundation awarded more than \$1 million to Arkansas non-profit hunger relief organizations yesterday. Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance Executive Director Kathy Webb and Food Sourcing and Logistics Director Michelle Shope accepted a \$100,000 check from the Walmart Foundation during the annual Day of Giving event.

Director of Public Affairs & Government Relations Michael Lindsey with Tony Rouse, Searcy Distribution Center supervisor and Rhonda Johnson, Bowman Road Walmart department manager, also presented checks to Alliance member agencies, the Arkansas Foodbank, Our House and Delta Region Community Services. At a separate ceremony in Fort Smith, Alliance member River Valley Regional Food Bank also received a grant as part of the Day of Giving event.



From left: Tony Rouse, Rhonda Johnson, Kathy Webb, Michael Lindsey, Michelle Shope

The State Giving grant will help support the work of the Arkansas Gleaning Project, Cooking Matters and Cooking Matters at the Store programs as well as SNAP education and outreach programs. The Alliance is grateful to the Walmart Foundation for their continued support of hunger relief in Arkansas.

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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 Norfolk, Northwest Arkansas Food Bank in Bethel Heights and River Valley Regional Food Bank in Fort Smith. The Alliance mission is to reduce hunger and improve access to nutritious food by providing tools and resources, empowerment, advocacy, education and research. We invite you to visit www.ARhungeralliance.org for details on hunger relief programs, donor and volunteer opportunities.

The Arkansas Gleaning Project

The Arkansas Gleaning Project is a partnership between Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance, Society of St. Andrew and the growers of Arkansas who donate their unharvested crops to feed Arkansas's hungry. Volunteers and others go into the fields and gather produce that is left after harvest. The cost of operating the Arkansas Gleaning Project is less than 3 cents per pound. Since the project began in 2008 more than 8 million pounds of fresh produce has been distributed to food banks, pantries, soup kitchens and shelters throughout Arkansas.

Cooking Matters and Cooking Matters at the Store

These unique nutrition education programs, developed by Share Our Strength, a national non-profit dedicated to ending childhood hunger, teach low income individuals and families the skills they need to plan, shop for and prepare economical, healthy meals on a budget. Participation in a Cooking Matters course decreases an individual's chance of remaining food insecure by 50 percent.

SNAP Outreach

SNAP Outreach staff and volunteers assist low income Arkansans who qualify for nutrition assistance to complete their applications for SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) benefits. These food assistance benefits help Arkansas seniors, veterans, children and families who are struggling to afford food. SNAP benefits provide economic stimulus to local communities. Each dollar in SNAP benefits is the equivalent of \$1.79 in economic input.
