



# News Release

**For Immediate Release**

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## **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Donate Nearly 28,000 Pounds of Food to Southeast Missouri Food Bank**

Sikeston, MO (May 2, 2024) – The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints recently donated nearly 28,000 pounds of food to Southeast Missouri Food Bank.

The donation was made on behalf of Missouri First Lady Teresa Parson and included nutritious foods such as peanut butter, shelf-stable milk, pears, pinto beans, rice, apple sauce, and pasta and sauce.

"The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is grateful for the opportunity to make this donation on behalf of First Lady Teresa Parson to the Southeast Missouri Food Bank," said Sister Karen Rouse, Second Counselor Stake Relief Society Presidency. "The Church of Jesus Christ humanitarian work is focused to relieve suffering, foster self-reliance, and provide opportunities for service. The semi-truck donation is just shy of 28,000 pounds, and will provide nutritious food to thousands of neighbors facing hunger across southeast Missouri."

Southeast Missouri Food Bank serves 80,000 individuals each month across its 16-county service area, which includes some of the highest rates of hunger in the state. As food costs have risen over the few years, the food bank has spent more money purchasing the food it distributes.

"The truckload of food will be such a blessing to so many of our neighbors facing hunger," said Joey Keys, chief executive officer of SEMO Food Bank. "We appreciate the church's support and thoughtful donation. These are the types of foods that often are requested by the people we serve."

The products donated by the Latter-day Saints will be distributed through the food bank's network of partner agencies. To find a pantry in your county, please visit [www.semofoodbank.org](http://www.semofoodbank.org).

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**About Southeast Missouri Food Bank**

The mission of Southeast Missouri Food Bank is to end hunger and leverage the power of food to build healthy communities. The food bank provides food to 140 charitable and disaster relief programs in Southeast Missouri. These member agencies include food pantries, soup kitchens, domestic violence and homeless shelters. Southeast Missouri Food Bank also holds regular mobile food distributions and provides monthly boxes of food to 5,575 senior citizens and weekend backpacks of food during the school year to 1,200 students in area school districts. The food bank's 16-county coverage area includes Bollinger, Butler, Cape Girardeau, Carter, Dunklin, Madison, Mississippi, New Madrid, Pemiscot, Perry, Reynolds, Ripley, Scott, Ste. Genevieve, Stoddard and Wayne counties. Those interested in helping can do so by making a tax-deductible contribution, donating food, or scheduling a time to volunteer. Visit [semofoodbank.org](http://semofoodbank.org) for more information.