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TVA and Chattanooga Area Food Bank Team Up to Solve Hunger in Rural Tennessee

Chattanooga, TN – The Chattanooga Area Food Bank (Food Bank) announced today a strategic partnership with the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) in support of rural Tennessee hunger relief efforts. The partnership with the Food Bank is part of TVA’s valley-wide efforts with regional Feeding America food banks who serve the Tennessee valley’s most vulnerable rural counties. TVA volunteers and donated funds will be used to underwrite Food Bank mobile pantry distributions throughout the summer and fall.

This partnership is important because both organizations share a commitment of service to make life better for the people in our region.

“Year after year, TVA generously supports the Chattanooga Area Food Bank. We’re incredibly grateful for their partnership and their support of hunger relief efforts throughout the Southeast Tennessee region,” said Chattanooga Area Food Bank President & CEO Gina Crumbliss. “Through this year’s commitments, the Food Bank will reach hundreds of food insecure families throughout Tennessee’s rural communities.”

“TVA was founded on a mission of service,” said Gail Rymer, TVA Director of Public Relations and Public Information. “Our partnership with the Chattanooga Area Food Bank continues that mission by allowing our employees to directly help the people in the communities where they live and work.”

TVA staff will volunteer to distribute food during a Food Bank mobile pantry distribution on Tuesday, June 14, and Tuesday, July 12, at Meigs Middle School from 8:30AM until 11:00AM.

Many people in the Food Bank’s rural service area lack reliable access to transportation as well as healthy food—which means they don’t have a way to reach a food pantry, feeding programs or the Food Bank itself. Mobile Pantries are an easy way to take food to thousands of people in the Food Bank’s 20-county service area. Mobile pantries are packed full of fresh produce, meat and bread to ensure the Food Bank is not only feeding, but nourishing, those who need it. Each delivery is tailored to the group being served: students, families or seniors. Approximately 250 families are reached at each mobile pantry distribution.

Collectively, the regional Feeding America food banks estimate more than 10,000 children—and their families—will ultimately benefit through this year’s partnership with TVA. Each food bank identified the most vulnerable counties in their service area (as defined by Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap) and will implement half-day mobile pantries distributing food directly to community members.

Currently, 17.1% of the Tennessee population is considered food insecure. The food insecurity rates in the Food Bank's service area range from 15% to 18%, with some of the greatest needs in the most isolated rural Tennessee counties including: Bledsoe, Grundy, Marion, Meigs, Rhea, and Van Buren. Even more alarming, child poverty rates in all of the Tennessee counties served by the Food Bank far exceed the national average of 22%, with Grundy County topping the list at a 40% child poverty rate.

About Tennessee Valley Authority

The Tennessee Valley Authority is a corporate agency of the United States that provides electricity for business customers and local power distributors serving more than 9 million people in parts of seven southeastern states. TVA receives no taxpayer funding, deriving virtually all of its revenues from sales of electricity. In addition to operating and investing its revenues in its electric system, TVA provides flood control, navigation and land management for the Tennessee River system and assists local power companies and state and local governments with economic development and job creation.

About Chattanooga Area Food Bank

Founded in 1982, the Chattanooga Area Food Bank (CAFB) is committed to leading a network of partners in eliminating hunger and promoting better nutrition in our region. The CAFB acquires and distributes healthy food across a 20-county service region including Tennessee and Northwest Georgia with help from its network of over 300 partner agencies. Last year alone, the CAFB distributed over 13.4 million pounds and served over 25,000 people each week. In addition to food provision, the CAFB works to engage the public in the fight to end hunger and empower people to take responsibility for their health and their lives. For more information or to find out how you can get involved, visit our [website](#), like us on [Facebook](#), or follow us on [Twitter](#).

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