IN THIS ISSUE:

New Building
New President & CEO
Flat Rock Pantry
Op Feed 2019
Hitting the Ground Trotting

You hear about people coming into a new situation and needing to “hit the ground running” to immediately take over and get things moving. To be the new President & CEO of Mid-South Food Bank, I am comfortable with a more circumspect approach. The new warehouse and office facility is so impressive, that I fell in love with it at first sight. Having been here about a month now, I can see so much potential, but I don’t want to rush it. I believe in doing things right, even if it takes a little longer. And, just as I am finding my way around Memphis, I want to find my way around our partner agencies, our supporters, staff and board. All that takes time and patience.

I know the goals that have been set for Mid-South Food Bank by the board and by Feeding America. The 25 million pounds of food distributed by 2025 is completely attainable, particularly with the new facility. I have some additional goals in mind, so I will listen and learn, focus on the mission and work hard for this wonderful organization and the people who depend on it.

Cathy Pope
President & CEO

Change is in the Air

When Estella Mayhue-Greer announced her plans to retire after more than 20 years at Mid-South Food Bank, just as I was about to take over as board chair, it was difficult to imagine a time post Ms. Greer. She was a powerful voice for hungry people in our community, and we are forever grateful for her service. We knew we needed to find a strong leader to take the next step toward reaching our goals. We have found that leader in Cathy Pope. She has been involved in food-related charities for many years and is passionate about the problem of food insecurity and hunger, particularly among the most vulnerable — children and seniors. It was also a plus that, as President & CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast, she served a multi-state area, just as we do here. I know you will all welcome her.

In addition to a new era of leadership for the Mid-South Food Bank, we have just successfully completed a capital campaign that allowed us to relocate the Food Bank operations into a new state of the art facility. Change is in the air and it is an exciting time for the Food Bank!
A New Home, A New Beginning

Mid-South Food Bank moved into its new facility at 3865 South Perkins in July 2019, following a fundraising and construction effort that began five years ago. The retrofitted facility is a result of a $12.5 million capital campaign, that actually raised nearly $12.8 million. The expansion includes a large cooler and freezer, more than 20 docks, including a cold dock to keep fresh and frozen food cold from truck to cooler or freezer, a newly designed volunteer area, revamped Agency Mart, a teaching kitchen and significantly larger dry storage space. The facility also has meeting space, which is available to other nonprofit organizations. The new Mid-South Food Bank is equipped to enable the organization to increase its distribution from 16.2 million pounds of food in FY 2018-2019 to at least 25 million pounds by 2025.

**Mid-South Food Bank’s new home, by the numbers:**

- Overall size: 148,000 square feet (vs 84,000 combined sf at former locations)
- Dry Storage: 59,912 square feet
- Cooler: 7,088 square feet + 4,744 square feet on cool dock
- Freezer: 11,665 square feet
- Agency Mart: 8,090 square feet
Agency Spotlight
Flat Rock Food Pantry, Benton County, MS
By Brenda Smith, Matthew 25/Flat Rock Food Pantry Ministry Director

Matthew 25/Flat Rock Food Pantry Ministry is a critical touchstone for hundreds of households in Benton County. A program of Flat Rock Baptist Church, we have been a Mid-South Food Bank Partner Agency for nine years; currently providing food to over 260 families a month. Benton is one of the least populated counties in the Magnolia State but 18.6 percent of adults and 21 percent of children are food insecure.

Flat Rock Food Pantry receives about 5,000 pounds of food from Mid-South Food Bank every month and we are very grateful for that partnership. Our clients appreciate the cans of vegetables and fruit, dried beans, cereal and especially the frozen meats. Every month we have a reliable group of a dozen volunteers, often joined by others from local churches or neighboring communities.

The pantry deliberately distributes on Saturday morning to ensure working folks have access. We respond to our many senior clients by ordering the Food Bank’s Senior Grocery Boxes. A county-run transportation agency delivers about 40 boxes to homebound seniors. We see families, disabled veterans and many grandparents seeking assistance for themselves and their grandchildren. Seeing neighbors struggle with hunger opens a lot of people’s eyes, and so does the unity in working to prevent it, as noted by Flat Rock Baptist Church’s Pastor Jason Howell. “Coming to this church from outside the area, I was overwhelmed to see how many people need help and how that help has brought people together,” he said.

Retired Couple Helps the Pantry that Helps Them

Flat Rock Food Pantry helps a lot of people Barbara and Randy Lollar know in Benton County, Mississippi. “The food really helps us and other people on fixed incomes,” Randy said.

The couple – he’s 70 and she’s 69 – are retired. They moved to Flat Rock three years ago and learned about the Matthew 25/Flat Rock Food Pantry Ministry, which really helped when their daughter and her four children moved in for several months.

“The Pantry helped tremendously because she was not working for a while so Barb and I were taking care of everybody by ourselves,” Randy said. The grandchildren will be coming to live with them again soon. They know it will be a strain but manageable thanks to the Pantry’s help.

Sometimes the couple gets the Mid-South Food Bank’s Senior Grocery Box, which contains food that is appropriate for senior diets. They also like the frozen chicken, among other items. “I like chicken because I can cook it in so many different recipes,” she said.

The Lollars appreciate the food and hospitality of the volunteers, so they became volunteers themselves. While Barb helps fill bags with food, Randy helps move and arrange bulk items.

“Barbara and Randy Lollar are clients and volunteers at Flat Rock Food Pantry.

“At our age we’re not always able to volunteer at some things, but we can help here,” Barb said. The pantry is a blessing to them and many others. “It feels good to help people and see their faces when they get their food. This is like family; it’s a part of our lives.”
New Mid-South Food Bank President and CEO

Cathy Pope, Former President and CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast

In August, the Mid-South Food Bank Board of Directors announced Cathy T. Pope as the organization’s new President & Chief Executive Officer. Pope has a strong record of building and leading high performing, cohesive teams across multiple geographies. Most recently, she was President & CEO of Feeding the Gulf Coast, the food bank based in Theodore, Alabama, near Mobile. Prior to that, she served as Executive Director of Meals on Wheels of Middle Georgia. She has also worked for the Susan G. Komen Foundation and as a math instructor. She began her career as a network engineer for AT&T.

Pope has a Master of Business Administration from Texas Christian University, a Master of Arts in Political Science from Georgia State University and a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics from Georgia Southwestern State University. She serves on Feeding America’s Policy Engagement and Advocacy Committee, BancorpSouth’s Corporate Community Advisory Council, and on the board of Southeast Regional Cooperative, a 501(c)3 organization focused on providing fresh produce to Feeding America food banks in that region.

Pope succeeds Estella Mayhue-Greer, who retired after 23 years with Mid-South Food Bank, serving as President & CEO since 2011.

School Pantries Help Students and Families

For the thousands of children in the Mid-South who rely on free and reduced-price school meals every day, Mid-South Food Bank’s Healthy School Pantry program means they’ll be getting the nutrition they need at home, too.

“Schools are a natural fit for food pantries,” says Lakeisha Edwards, Director of Agency Partnerships and Programs at Mid-South Food Bank. “They provide a location where parents and students feel comfortable. Our school pantries distribute food at the end of the day when parents are already at the school to pick up their children."

Together with Mid-South Food Bank, the program helps set up food pantries conveniently located on-site at schools for families of students in need. School administrators, Food Bank staff and parents work together to set up the pantries, which generally distribute nonperishable canned and packaged food, as well as fresh fruit and vegetables, once a month.

UnitedHealthcare Sponsors Healthy School Pantries in Shelby County

As part of their commitment to fighting hunger in the Mid-South, UnitedHealthcare is making it possible for three schools to have Healthy School Pantries to serve students and their families by providing refrigerator/freezers to each school so they can distribute fresh produce and dairy foods plus frozen meat and other frozen products.

“Locating food pantries in schools connects kids and their families with the healthy food they need,” said Keith Payet, President & CEO of UnitedHealthcare Community Care. “It is another part of our mission to help people live healthier lives.”
Volunteer Spotlight: Mitsubishi Electric
Dependable Mitsubishi Employees Volunteer

Mitsubishi Electric’s employee outreach is called M.E.M.P.H.I.S.- Mitsubishi Enriching Memphis Providing Hope, Improvements, Support. While volunteering at a school, they learned many students rely on school lunches as their main meal, said Ty Harris, Mitsubishi Contract Manager. That is how the group became regular, dependable volunteers at Mid-South Food Bank. The company’s financial contributions are over $3,500, mostly matching funds for volunteer hours.

“Mitsubishi volunteers are scheduled monthly, usually for our Thursday evenings. They can handle a workload double or triple another group’s amount,” said Mid-South Food Bank Volunteer Director Clifton Rockett.

The number of volunteers varies from 5 to 15, representing every department - Production, Engineering, HR, Administration and Management. Harris noted Mitsubishi volunteers help Mid-South Food Bank impact the lives of those in need. But something else, too - bonding. “We’ll get together for dinner before or after we sort. It’s often the only time spent outside of work.”

Make Your List for 2019 Holiday Cards and Cookie Letters!

Feed hungry people this holiday season by sending holiday cards from Mid-South Food Bank. For a minimum of $10 each, you can send your family, friends and colleagues our unique holiday card. You send us your list and payment and we send your personalized cards for you.

You can also send the Mid-South Food Bank Cookie Letter. For a minimum $50 donation for each letter, your friends, family and business associates will receive a box of gourmet cookies enclosed with a letter from Food Bank President & CEO Cathy Pope. The letter explains that, knowing the recipient has a full pantry already, food items such as turkeys, hams and vegetables have been given to Mid-South Food Bank partner agencies to feed those in need during the holiday. All except the cookies, which your friends keep, along with holiday good wishes from you and Mid-South Food Bank.

As with every year, graphic designer and artist Eddie Tucker donates the holiday card design.

For more information or to place an order, contact Britney McGhee, 901-373-0412, bmcghee@midsouthfoodbank.org or go to our website. Order by December 5 to ensure timely holiday delivery!
Thanks to All for OPERATION FEED

Operation Feed 2019 is in the books with more than 40,000 pounds of food and $85,000 raised by 75 participating companies. That is the equivalent of 288,000 meals. At this year’s finale, held at Mid-South Food Bank’s new facility, the awards made by children at Kids Cafes, are always a unique way to thank the participating organizations for their efforts collecting food and funds.

Once again, the City of Memphis employees claimed the Mayor’s Trophy with an outstanding showing of commitment to fighting hunger.

2019 Operation Feed Award Winners

1-24 Employees
1st Place
Memphis Title Company
2nd Place
Law offices of Craig Lazarov

25-99 Employees
1st Place
Yuletide Office Solutions
2nd Place
Bass, Berry & Sims

100-299 Employees
1st Place
Stratas Foods
2nd Place
Creative Co-Op

300-999 Employees
1st Place
Waller Law
2nd Place
Swift Transportation

1,000-4,999 Employees
1st Place
Memphis Light, Gas & Water
2nd Place
Flex

5,000+ Employees
1st Place
City of Memphis Government

Best New Campaign: Offices of Craig J. Lazarov

Most Creative Campaign: Bass, Berry & Sims

Object to Hunger – 4th Annual Competition among the legal community: Bass, Berry & Sims

Mayor’s Trophy - Competition between City of Memphis and Shelby County government employees: City of Memphis

Op Feed award winners at the OpFeed Finale included (left to right): Ryan Baker, Bass, Berry & Sims law office; Cliff DeBerry and Liz Williams, MLGW; Craig Lazarov, Law offices of Craig Lazarov; Suzann Acuff, Memphis Title Co.; Robert Phillips, Yuletide Office Solutions; Ora Hopson, Flex; and Al Lamar and Joyce Crutcher with City of Memphis.

Operation Feed Participants
Adams and Reese, LLP
American Cancer Society
American Snuff Company
ARS / Rescue Rooter
Bartlett Electronics
Bass Berry + Sims
Blue Cross Blue Shield
Brannon Professionals
Butler Snow Law Firm
Cardiff
Chickasaw Council, Boy Scouts of America
City of Memphis
Clay & Land Insurance
Cothren Firm - Mid-South
Collier Insurance
Colliers International/Memphis Depot TIC, LLC
Color and Read
Concorde Career College-Southaven Campus
Conway Services
Conduit
Creative Co-Op
Crew Training International
Dixon Hughes Goodman, LLP
Ducks Unlimited
Executive Speakers Bureau
EyeWear Gallery
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis - Memphis Branch
Financial Federal Bank
First South Financial Credit Union
FLEX
Fountain of Love Hair Salon
Fouts and Morgan
Gaston Park Library
GreyStone Servicing Corporate
Harris Shelton Hanover Walsh
Department of Homeland Security
International Paper
IRS
Kroger Delta Division
Lady Bug Bakery
KNIDesigns
Latino Memphis
Law Offices of Craig J. Lazarov
LFD Consulting
Lipscomb & Pitts
LYE Academy
Memphis Association of Realtors
Magnolia Homes
Magnolia Property Services, LLC
Master IT
Memphis Title Company
MLGW
Morgan Stanley
Orion Federal Credit Union
Philip Bowen, M.D. Office
Pickering Firm
Playhouse of the Square
ReTrans
Rich Products
ServiceMaster
Shelby County Government
Sherwin Williams
Social Security Administration
Skipper Screen Printing & Promotional Products
Sprico
State Systems Inc.
Stratas Foods
Summerfield Associates, Inc.
Swift Transportation
The Hershey Company
Travel Leaders
Travelennium Inc.
Verizon
Waller Law
West TN Home Builders Association
WM Barr, Inc.
Yuletide Office Solutions
Funding for the Perishable Food Program is made possible by the City of Memphis Division of Housing and Community Development.

In September Cigna employees Sherita Anderson, Candice Anderson and Shely Pate volunteered to distribute food at a Mobile Pantry, sponsored by Cigna, to 345 households in the Orange Mound neighborhood of Memphis.

University of Tennessee Clinical Health employees delivered a $750 donation and tons of food from an employee donation drive to the Zero Hunger/Zero Waste collection at the Kroger at Poplar Plaza.

Upcoming Events

- Nov. 28 (Thanksgiving Day) – Hungry Turkey 5k
  Information at [https://tennesseeruns.com/memphishungryturkey5k](https://tennesseeruns.com/memphishungryturkey5k)

- Nov. 29-Dec. 22 – Arts Against Hunger

- Dec. 4 – Action News 5 Holiday Food Drive