



Contact: Angie Gaines Doss, Director of Marketing
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
405.604.7109(W) or 619.347.4057(C)
adoss@regionalfoodbank.org

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Download photos from Congressman Lankford's visit to the Moore Food Resource Center.
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Congressman Lankford Joins the Fight Against Childhood Hunger *Help Fight Hunger This Holiday Season*

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Dec. 17, 2014 – On Monday, U.S. Congressman and Senator-elect James Lankford volunteered at the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma's Food Resource Center in Moore, to learn more about fighting childhood hunger in Oklahoma.

"I had the opportunity to walk around with several families and see the operation of the Food Resource Center, and how the organization helps families meet that initial hunger need," said Senator-elect Lankford. "It's a big deal in our community to take care of our neighbors. This is how it is supposed to be; neighbors taking care of neighbors and watching out for each other. It's a pleasure to be able to walk alongside families and the Regional Food Bank."

One out of every four children in Oklahoma struggles with hunger. While the Regional Food Bank fights hunger year-round, support from Congress is vital to ensure that children do not go to bed hungry. The nonprofit is asking for Congressman Lankford to support the Child Nutrition Reauthorization (CNR).

CNR supports various programs that are instrumental in fighting childhood hunger, especially when school is out, which includes the following programs: Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC); National School Lunch Program (NSLP); School Breakfast Program (SBP); WIC Farmers Market Nutrition Program; Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP); Summer Food Service Program (SFSP); Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program (FFVP) and Special Milk Program.

Studies show that children who have inconsistent access to food are tardy or absent from school more frequently, and often have difficulty paying attention and lower test scores. After a weekend without enough food, children come to school on Monday morning ill-equipped to focus and learn.

"If you have seen one hungry child you never want to see another," said Rodney Bivens, executive director of the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma. "In Oklahoma, 62 percent of low-income children receive meal assistance at school, but when school is not in session, many children are left wondering where their next meal will come from. We are asking Congress to close that gap to ensure that children have enough to eat over weekends, holidays and summers by passing the Child Nutrition Reauthorization bill."

The Regional Food Bank is the state's largest private hunger-relief organization, providing enough food to feed more than 110,000 hungry Oklahomans every week through a network of more than 1,200 charitable feeding programs and schools in 53 central and western Oklahoma counties.

Together, we can solve hunger. For more information visit regionalfoodbank.org or call 405.600.3136.

About the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma

The Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma is the state's largest private hunger relief organization. The nonprofit provides enough food to feed more than 110,000 hungry Oklahomans each week through a network of more than 1,200 schools and charitable feeding programs in 53 central and western Oklahoma counties. Since its inception in 1980, the Regional Food Bank has distributed more than 550 million pounds of food to feed Oklahoma's hungry. For more information, visit <http://www.regionalfoodbank.org>; find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/regionalfoodbank or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/rfbo.

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