



Contact: Angie Gaines Doss, Director of Marketing
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
405.604.7109(W) or 405.816.5210(C)
adoss@regionalfoodbank.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Help Fight Hunger and Feed Hope in Oklahoma
Make a Tax Deductible Gift Today

(OKLAHOMA CITY) – Dec. 29, 2014 – Join the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma in fighting hunger in Oklahoma by making an end of the year tax deductible gift. Through January 15, Chesapeake Energy Corporation and the Cresap Family Foundation have teamed up to match every dollar donated to the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma to fight childhood hunger – up to \$1 million.

“As the holiday season comes to life in our community, many Oklahomans are giving thanks for what they have, and looking forward to sharing meals and stories with loved ones,” said Rodney Bivens, executive director of the Regional Food Bank. “But for many families in Oklahoma it means there may not be enough food to go around. Your year-end gift helps ensure everyone has access to food this winter.”

Donations raised through the match will provide food for chronically hungry children in 53 central and western Oklahoma counties. One in four children in Oklahoma has inconsistent access to food. The Regional Food Bank provides enough food to feed 110,000 Oklahomans every week, 37 percent of whom are children.

Last school year, the Regional Food Bank provided the equivalent of 2.7 million meals to chronically hungry children through Food for Kids childhood hunger programs: the Backpack Program, Kids Cafe, Summer Feeding, and School Pantries.

- Through the Backpack Program, children receive a backpack full of kid-friendly, non-perishable and nutritious food on Friday to sustain them over weekends and school holidays. Last school year, more than 18,500 students in 501 schools participated in the Backpack Program.

- The **School Pantry Program** provides chronically hungry middle and high school students with food to sustain them after school and over the weekends. The School Pantry Program ended last school year serving nearly 4,800 students in 124 middle and high schools.
- **Kids Cafe and Snack Sites**, an afterschool and summer program provides food, mentoring, tutoring, and a variety of other activities to more than 2,600 at-risk children at 25 sites in central and western Oklahoma.

“One student lives with her grandfather and is his caretaker,” said a School Pantry coordinator. “Their food stamps just don’t go far enough. She has tried to find a job, but has been unable to find one. With tears in her eyes, she thanks me every time she comes to the pantry. She is a great kid, and I am so happy to be able to help her.”

It’s not too late to make a difference this holiday season. The Regional Food Bank typically provides five meals for every dollar donated; however, through this match, a \$1 donation will now provide 10 meals for hungry Oklahoma children. Consider a gift to the Regional Food Bank in honor or in memory of a loved one. For more information visit regionalfoodbank.org or call 405.600.3136.

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. The nonprofit is an Accredited Business by BBB and is ranked as a four star nonprofit by Charity Navigator.

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.

###