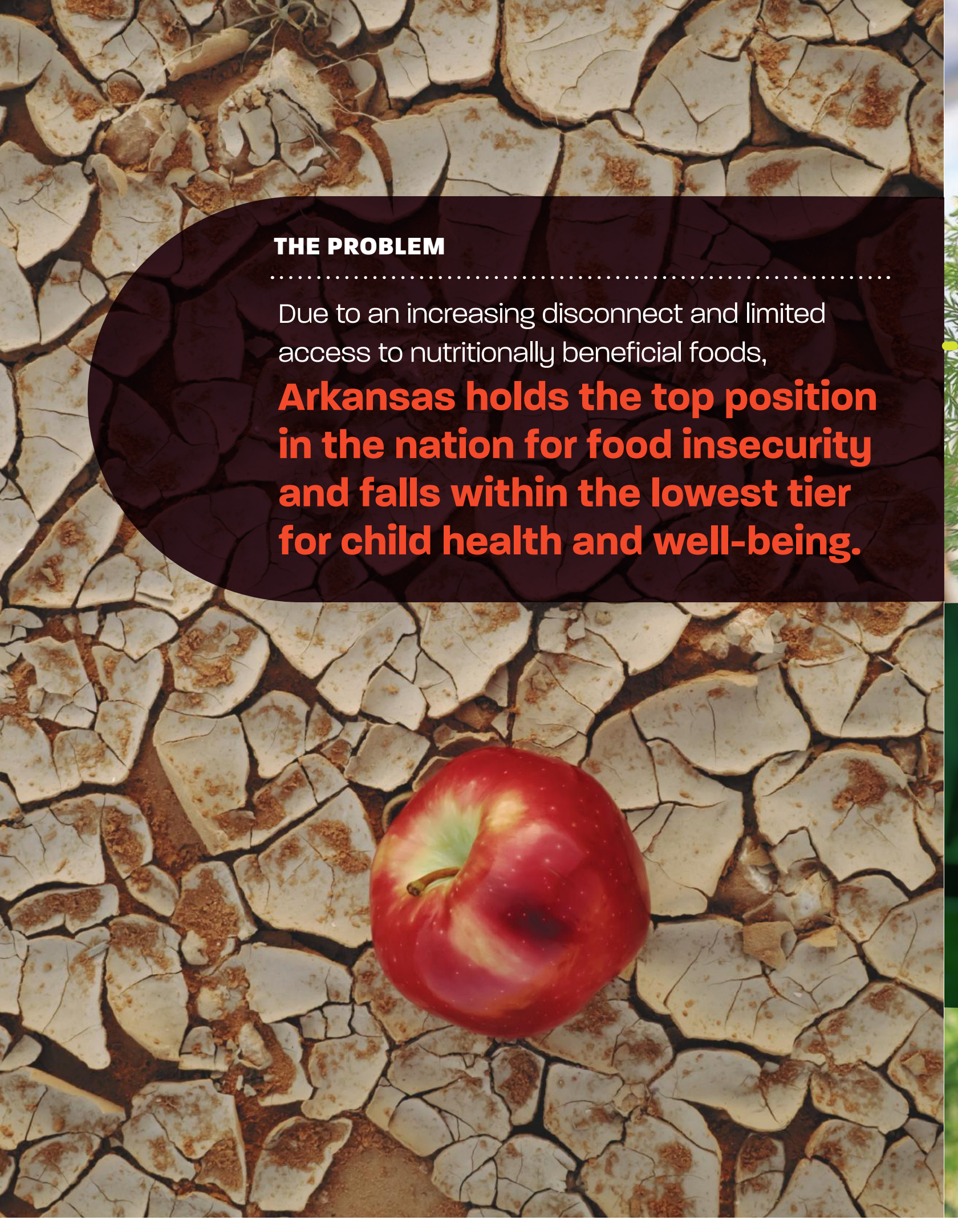




AppleSeeds
TEACHING FARM

The background of the entire image is a close-up photograph of parched, cracked soil. The cracks are deep and irregular, creating a mosaic of light brown and tan fragments. In the lower center, a single, vibrant red apple with a small green leaf at its stem sits on the cracked earth, providing a stark contrast between the natural food source and the barren environment.

THE PROBLEM

Due to an increasing disconnect and limited access to nutritionally beneficial foods,

Arkansas holds the top position in the nation for food insecurity and falls within the lowest tier for child health and well-being.



THE SOLUTION

.....

Apple Seeds is proactively establishing ties to fresh produce and fostering the development of **healthy eating habits in young individuals, contributing to a future characterized by health, abundance, and overall well-being.**



“Arkansas Children’s is committed to championing the well-being of children by ensuring they become healthier individuals today and in the future. We recognize the importance of initiatives promoting nutrition education and access to fresh, locally sourced produce, especially among low-income students in underserved urban areas. Apple Seeds has been a valued partner in advancing these goals, and their dedication to empowering young minds aligns seamlessly with our mission.”

MARISHA DICARLO,
PHD, MPH
VICE PRESIDENT
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT,
ADVOCACY, AND HEALTH //
ARKANSAS CHILDREN'S

BIG MOMENTS

Expansion to Central Arkansas Empowering Futures

In collaboration with Arkansas Children’s and Oak Forest Community Garden, Apple Seeds proudly launched its inaugural farm-to-school program in elementary schools in Central Arkansas during the fall of 2023. This groundbreaking initiative established partnerships with four elementary schools, seamlessly integrating Apple Seeds’ farm-to-school curriculum and fostering a meaningful connection between young minds and the bounty of locally sourced produce.

Looking Ahead

Apple Seeds aims to build on this success by solidifying school partnerships to reach an additional 4,500 students in 2024. This strategic expansion will enable the organization to continue nurturing the minds and bodies of Arkansas’s youth, cultivating a generation of healthier and more informed individuals.



4 partner schools

75% of students repeated the Apple Seeds’ recipe at home

within a week of attending the program



BIG MOMENTS

Whole School Model Nurturing Healthy Habits

In the academic year 2023-2024, Apple Seeds proudly introduced the Whole School Model, wherein schools wholeheartedly commit to integrating Apple Seeds' programming for **EVERY STUDENT** in **EVERY GRADE**.

Building on our success in designing and implementing impactful programs for each grade level (K-5), Apple Seeds is now weaving these programs into a seamless, linear track for elementary students. This innovative approach ensures that students progress through each grade, acquiring new culinary skills, deepening their nutritional knowledge, and cultivating familiarity with an expanding variety of vegetables impacting not only students but the entire school community.



Washington Elementary
3rd Graders Showcasing
their Quick Pickles

In 2023-2024,
7 schools piloted
our Whole School
Model

By 2025, Apple
Seeds anticipates
having 20 new
Whole School
partnerships.

"What an incredible partnership! Integrating food donations and educational programs into the science curriculum, provided by Apple Seeds, has had a profound impact on all students. It not only teaches students about science but also fosters a sense of community involvement and social responsibility. Incorporating Washington Elementary into the partnership is highly beneficial."

CLAIRE GARRETT, PRINCIPAL, WASHINGTON ELEMENTARY, FAYETTEVILLE

Apple Seeds and Fayetteville Public Schools Partnership

Cultivating Young Minds

In a collaborative effort to sow the seeds of nutritional education and cultivate healthy habits, Fayetteville Public School District and Apple Seeds have joined forces. This dynamic partnership is dedicated to ensuring that every 1st grader and every 4th grader within the District will actively participate in engaging farm-to-table programming each academic year. Together, we are cultivating a brighter and healthier future for our students and our community.

"I never liked
vegetables before
this recipe, and
now I do!"

4th Grade
Student

Every 1st and
4th Grader in
the District will
participate in
Apple Seeds'
programming



"We have now developed a partnership that ensures all of the 1st and 4th grade students in the district will participate in highly impactful farm to table programming at the Apple Seeds Teaching Farm. We are in support of expanding Apple Seeds programming to benefit the health of the community"

**LESLEY A. MERRITT, M.ED.,
NBCT // DIRECTOR OF SCIENCE
AND AVID // FAYETTEVILLE
PUBLIC SCHOOL DISTRICT**

IN THE SCHOOL

Serves: K-5

Reach: 7,167 individuals

Apple Seeds inspires healthy living and builds the desire to consume nutritious food through farm to school programming.



76% of students willing to eat leafy greens

98% of students eating the veggie snack



20

**29,967 hours of
nutrition education**

IN THE COMMUNITY

Serves: All ages

Reach: 771 individuals

Apple Seeds excites youth about fresh produce in the community with summer day camps, teen workshops, and farm-to-table cooking classes, and after school programs.



"My student really enjoyed herself and I think many of the dishes she learned will get incorporated into our regular rotation."



23

**43,477 total
individuals served**



**The number of
students willing to
eat okra doubled
after the program in
central Arkansas,
going from
30% to 60%**

FOR THE FAMILY

**Serves: Youth + Families
Reach: 27,761 servings of
fresh produce donated**

Apple Seeds supports the nutritional well-being of children and families facing limited access to healthy produce in Northwest Arkansas. Through partnerships with schools, school pantries, and partner organizations, we provide fresh produce complemented by relevant child approved recipes.



92% of families report that receiving this produce will increase the amount of fruits and vegetables their family would normally eat

BEYOND NWA

**Serves: K-12
Reach: 7,778 individuals**

Apple Seeds' impact extends beyond Northwest Arkansas. Our team facilitates programming in Central Arkansas, we have trained educators leading our Growing My Plate program in classrooms across the state, and teachers across the country access our virtual field trip opportunities.



67% of students in the Growing My Plate program shared cooking skills, gardening tips, and nutrition information with friends and family after the course.



A Community Effort

In the face of Arkansas leading the nation in food security challenges, Apple Seeds is committed to broadening our impact. Collaborating with fellow community organizations, we strive to extend our reach and uplift more individuals in our community, addressing the critical need for enhanced food accessibility and security.



Comprising a dedicated team with diverse backgrounds, the Apple Seeds staff collaborates with a unified vision, working towards ensuring equitable access to nutrient-dense foods and providing educational inspiration that guides students toward improved health.

FRONT ROW:

JORDAN LANNING | Development Director
 RACHAEL REAGAN | Program Manager
 ALLISON REAVIS | Communications Manager
 JOSIE TILLEY | Americorps VISTA -
 Volunteer & Food Donations Coordinator
 DOMINIQUE ROSARIO | Program Assistant

BACK ROW:

CAROL WEAVER | Events Manager
 RYAN PATTERSON | Program Director
 PAUL DEER | Farm Manager
 PHINEAS CHAPMAN | Americorps VISTA -
 Nutrition Education Program Coordinator
 MARY THOMPSON | Executive Director
 SHANLEIGH POWELL | Program Manager (Not Pictured)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

AMY SORRELL | Retired

DENNETTA BRADFORD |
 Walmart, Inc.

TRACY CORNWELL
 SIMPSON | Clinicpass

LAURA FERNER |
 Crouch, Harwell, Fryar
 & Ferner

SEVIN GALLO | Northwest
 Arkansas Community
 College & Sevin Travels

JESSICA GRAY |
 Signature Bank



BETH HALL | Beth Hall Photography
 SHELLEY SENLIKCI | IT Consulting Professional
 LESLEY STEWART | Arvest Bank
 DON WALSH | Food Product Design
 Consultant
 GRANT WILSON | Good Life Farms

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

- Arkansas Children's
- Arkansas Department of Education: Family and Consumer Sciences
- Donald W. Reynolds Boys & Girls Club
- Center for Arkansas Farms and Food
- FoodCorps Arkansas
- LifeSource International
- Oak Forest Community Garden
- Outback Pantry
- SOAR Afterschool Program
- Treehouse Pantry
- Yvonne Richardson Community Center
- UAMS Community Health & Research
- University of Arkansas
- Department of Agricultural Economics and Agribusiness
- Department of Health, Human Performance, and Recreation
- University Development District Corporation - Little Rock

Heartfelt Volunteers

Harvesting Smiles

Volunteers play a crucial role in the Apple Seeds mission, enabling us to operate at our current scale, and we are fortunate to have a robust and supportive network consisting of individuals and groups from the community.

TEEN SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM

Engaging teenage students in impactful volunteer service within their community, Apple Seeds' teen service learning program empowers selected participants to actively address food insecurity in Northwest Arkansas. Through this transformative experience, students contribute to our food donation program, supplying fresh, nutritious produce cultivated on our teaching farm to support students and families in need.

3,584 volunteer hours in 2023

555 individuals volunteered at Apple Seeds in 2023



"Participating in the teen service learning program gave me a good experience learning about the work and effort that goes into food donation and preparation that is needed for the teaching farm."

MELIKE SENLIKCI, TEEN SERVICE LEARNING PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Hosting private events supports educational programs

Apple Seeds had a successful year hosting a variety of private events on the Teaching Farm, including family celebrations, cheese-making classes, faculty gatherings, and wedding ceremonies. Choosing our venue not only offers a unique setting for diverse events but also contributes to supporting educational programs for students across Northwest Arkansas.

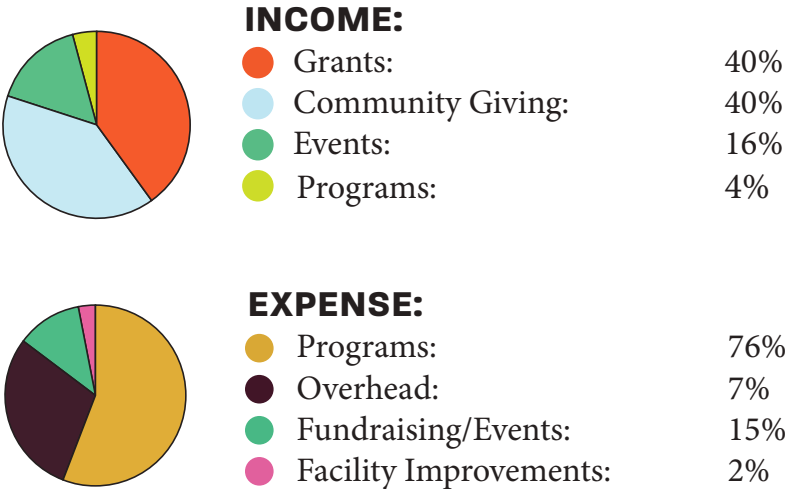
"I cannot thank you enough for all of your help in creating a perfect rehearsal dinner "in the park" for Ezra and Alyssa. We were SO HAPPY WITH EVERYTHING at Apple Seeds – it was pure magic!"

CHRISTY COMSTOCK



Financials & Diversifying Income

2023 annual budget of \$735K



GROW SOCIETY

In 2023, Apple Seeds inaugurated The Grow Society, uniting funders committed to supporting the organization with annual commitments of \$1,000 or more for three years. This collective effort builds a crucial safety net for sustained funding, significantly enhancing our organization’s sustainability.

- SHERI & WAYNE BROOKS
- JENNIFER & SLADE CAMPBELL
- JUDY & JIM COLE
- LISA & ALLEN CROUCH
- CHRISTENA & BILL DEVLIN
- THE ESTY FAMILY
- MARTHA & DREW FRITS
- SUSAN & ORVILLE HALL
- OZARK PEDIATRICS
- SUSAN & TIMOTHY O'BRIEN
- BARBARA & DOUG PRICHARD
- SUSAN & PAUL ROUNTREE
- SHELLEY & SONER SENLIKCI
- NICOLE & JEREMEY SUDDUTH
- MARTI & KELLY SUDDUTH
- ANN TERNES ROSSO



DONOR SPOTLIGHT

Apple Seeds formed an impactful partnership with Chobani, whose employees contributed time on our Farm and supported our programming through product donations, grants, and sponsorships. We’re grateful for this well-rounded collaboration, enriching our organization holistically and allowing our mission to shine.



“The task of ending childhood hunger is an audacious endeavor but having the right people in the fight makes us believe that an end to child hunger is possible. Apple Seeds shares Chobani’s passion and commitment to show-up for the community, especially our most vulnerable, children. Both Chobani and Apple Seeds are in the good food fight together.”

REBECCA DITTRICH
VP OF IMPACT AND PARTNERSHIPS
CHOBANI



Endless gratitude to our community and beyond for their generosity. Your support empowers Apple Seeds to invest in the health and future of Arkansas' children.

LEADERS (\$15,000 & ABOVE)



Marti and Kelly Sudduth



The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)



Walmart.org

Chobani.



BUILDERS (\$5,000-\$14,999)



The Black and Keazer Families • Fryar Family Foundation • The Esty Family • The Lehr Family • Barley, Hops, and Water • Amber and Ben Pinter

PROVIDERS (\$1000-\$4,999)

Lisa and Mike Barber
Bayer
Bentoville
Sheri and Wayne Brooks
Miles Chism
Judy and Jim Cole
Vernon Collins
Lisa and Allen Crouch
Jamie Dye
Jana and Jim Ecrette
Edgewell Personal Care
Lance and Kelly Foster
Karan Freeman and Bill Elder
Martha and Drew Frits
Sevin and Damian Gallo

Generations Health and Wellness
Susan and Orville Hall
Harps Food Store
Ellen and Malcolm Hayward
HoganTaylor Foundation
Ivonne and Jeremy Hudson
Janet Jones Company
Emily and Jay Kell
Jackie and Winston King
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Lindsay and Mark Mast

Erika and Joel McCourt
Bowman McMahon
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Susan and Timothy O'Brien
Deborah and Tim Ogg
Ozark Pediatrics
Ozarks Electric Cooperative
Perry Roofing
Barbara and Doug Prichard
Liz Rainwater and Chris Tompkins
The Robert C & Anne Hickman Foundation

Ann Ternes Rosso
Cathy and Gary Roth
Susan and Paul Rountree
Rebecca Sandoval
Michele and Soner Senlikci
Heather and Ian Shell
Signature Bank of Arkansas
Jamey and Mike Sims
Mike Sims, Realtor - Bassett Mix
Tammy and Tom Smith
Snacks Family Fund
Amy and Rick Sorrell
Starr Foundation
Curt Stamp

The Scout Guide Northwest Arkansas
Nicole and Jeremy Sudduth
Shana and Jerry Suskind
Roxanne and Hank Theiss
Thomas J. McDonald Family Foundation
Tyson Foods
United Bank
VMLY&R Foundation
Don Walsh
Winifred Watkins
Sara and James Widmer
Harrigan Wortsmith

AMBASSADORS (\$500 TO \$999)

Liz and Ken Allen
Anheuser-Busch
Mary and George Benjamin
John and Sharon Blackwood
Jennifer and Slade Campbell
Heather Chilson

Lynda and Jim Deer
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Sue and David Mosley
Ozark Beer Company
Christi Parks
Aubrey and Jeremy Pate
Perennial Garden Club

Rebecca and Larry Purcell
Tracy Simpson
Jennifer Banks Sosebee
Jennifer and Robert Stark
Walmart Corporation
Mandy and Denny Warren
Grant Wilson

FRIENDS (\$1-\$499)

Christine Apple
Yury Arriaga
Rebecca and Christopher Arthur
Melanie Austin
Grace and R.E. Babcock
Mallory Bacon
Alicia Baldwin
Jose A Balli
Chris Baribeau
Ann and Ed Bartell
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Sage Billig
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Dennetta Bradford
Mollie Branch
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Amanda Earhart
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Winifred and Chris Ernst
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Tai Estopy
Coy Evans
Iona Farmer
Fayetteville Rotary Club
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Kelsey Ferguson
Elizabeth Fiscus
Summer and Jason Fleer
Lisa Fogel
Christine Folger
Kyndal Frizzell
Alicia Funza
Jordan Garner
Elizabeth Gibbons

Libby Gibson
Jordan and Kolby Lanning
Tracy Lee
Jessica Lewallen
Laurie Lewis
Jill Lewis
Nacrisha Litton
Richard Lopez
Gina Maddox
Katie Maner
Larry Marion
Maggie Martin
Nancy Martin and Allen Lewis
Beth McCandless
Tim McFarland
Jennifer and Clancy McMahon
Janice Mears
Allison and Steve Meehan
Mitzi Miller
Jason Minton
Lynn Moore
Nathan Morton
Angie and James Muldoon
Kennedy Murphy
Martha Ellen and Jeff Myers
Anna and Chris Nelson
Melonie Osborne
Ellen Otis
Athena Overman
Sierra Owen
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Kitty Patterson

Bill Patterson
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Pavan Thanuj Pelluru
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Ashley Pilot
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Heidi Potts
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Mary Russell
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Jenifer Tucker
Vault
Gloria Vazquez
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Kerstin Walker
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Logan Webster
Suzanne West
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Ellen and Lawren Wilcox
Kay Ellen and Tom Wilkerson
Susan Williams
Amber Willingham
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Jane Yates
Sedigheh Zaifi
Maria Zazycki and Karl Shibayama



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