**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

***Food Bank of Iowa Starts New Mobile Pantry in Calhoun County***

**Des Moines, IA, March 15, 2016 –** The Food Bank of Iowa is coordinating a new Mobile Pantry in Calhoun County, in partnership with New Opportunities Calhoun County Family Development Center and the Rockwell City United Methodist Church. The distributions will begin on Thursday, March 31 in Rockwell City.

A Mobile Pantry is a farmers market style food distribution program, targeted toward counties with a need for additional pantry service. The Food Bank of Iowa delivers a truck with a variety of grocery products to a mobile pantry site, where volunteers unload, set up and distribute the food.

“Any time we’re able to provide more food to Iowans in need, that’s a victory,” said Trish O’Brien-Edwards, programs coordinator at the Food Bank of Iowa. “I’m excited to work with one of our existing partners, New Opportunities, to better serve the needs of the community in Calhoun County.”

All 99 counties in Iowa have some level of food insecurity, which means that an individual or family does not have reliable access to enough nutritious food. The Food Bank of Iowa estimates that there are more than 180,000 food insecure people within its service area of 55 counties, including Calhoun. According to Feeding America’s Map the Meal Gap survey, the number of food insecure people in Calhoun County is 1,220, and the food insecurity rate is 12.3 percent.

“Hunger is a very real problem for hundreds of thousands of Iowans,” said Matt Unger, program manager at the Food Bank of Iowa. “Statewide, there are nearly 400,000 Iowans struggling with food insecurity, living in every community in Iowa.”

The Mobile Pantry is free and open to the public, and geared toward individuals in need of food assistance. Mobile Pantry attendees are encouraged to bring bags, laundry baskets or boxes to carry their food.

**Calhoun County Mobile Pantry Information**

Dates: March 31, April 28, May 26, June 30

Time: 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
Location: 333 Brower St., Rockwell City, IA 50579

For media inquiries, contact Danny Akright, communications manager, Food Bank of Iowa, dakright@foodbankiowa.org or 515-564-0330.

To learn how you can help fight hunger in your community, visit [www.foodbankiowa.org](http://www.foodbankiowa.org)

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**About Food Bank of Iowa**

The Food Bank of Iowa is a private, not-for-profit organization committed to its mission of alleviating hunger through food distribution, partnership and education. The Food Bank of Iowa distributes donated food and grocery products through Iowa’s largest network of emergency food providers consisting of 390 partner agencies in 55 counties, 42 of these counties are served through their distribution center in Des Moines with the remaining 13 counties being served through their redistribution organization, The Food Bank of Southern Iowa. Besides traditional food banking, the Food Bank of Iowa operates five direct service outreach programs: *BackPack Program™, Mobile Pantry, School Pantry, Fresh Produce* and *Help Us Stop Hunger (HUSH).* Additionally, the Food Bank of Iowa conducts two outreach and community engagement programs: *Food For Thought* and *Hunger 101*.In FY 2015, the Food Bank of Iowa distributed 11,059,360 lbs. of food. To learn more, visit www.foodbankiowa.org or find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/foodbankiowa](http://www.facebook.com/foodbankiowa).

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