



MERIT HEALTH KICKS OFF JARS OF LOVE PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE TO SUPPORT MISSISSIPPI FOOD NETWORK

FLOWOOD, MS, February 24, 2025 – Today, Merit Health kicked off its annual Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive benefitting Mississippi Food Network, and is inviting community members to participate in this effort to fight hunger in Central Mississippi. Peanut butter is a sought after item for food banks because of its high nutritional value and long shelf life. Yet, it is one of the least donated items. The **Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive** kicks off on February 24th and will run through March 21st.

“Merit Health not only supports the patients who come through our doors, but we are also committed to supporting better health throughout our community,” said Dr. Greg Oden, Chief Medical Officer.” An estimated 16% of people in Mississippi are facing food insecurity, which has a profound impact on overall health and well-being. With the *Jars of Love Peanut Butter Drive* we can help a vital community organization reduce hunger in our area.”

Donations may be made online at www.justgiving.com/campaign/jarsoflove25. A gift of \$20 can supply 10 jars of peanut butter, or approximately 100 sandwiches.

Peanut butter can also be dropped off at any of the following collection sites:

- Merit Health Central in Jackson
- Merit Health Madison in Canton
- Merit Health Rankin in Brandon
- Merit Health River Oaks in Flowood
- Merit Health Woman’s Hospital in Flowood
- Any of our Merit Health Clinics
- Clinton Chamber of Commerce
- Flowood Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Jackson Chamber Partnership
- Pearl Chamber of Commerce
- Rankin County Chamber of Commerce

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About Merit Health’s Jackson Area Hospitals

Merit Health’s Jackson area hospitals serve the healthcare needs of residents of Mississippi through its affiliated hospitals in central Mississippi. The healthcare system offers a wide array of services including cardiology, orthopedics, women’s health, emergency departments and broad diagnostic medical and surgical services. The network has more than 750 licensed beds, more than 2,000 employees, more than 14,000 admissions and more than 89,000 emergency department visits each year.

