



June News and Updates

State of the Region Address

CREATE Foundation's Commission on the Future of Northeast Mississippi hosted its 22nd annual State of the Region meeting last week at the BancorpSouth Conference Center.

The State of the Region meeting featured two speakers, Mayor Sheldon Day and Jim McHale. Day is in his 21st year of service as Mayor of Thomasville, Alabama. In that capacity, he has achieved an enviable record of accomplishments for a small town in a remote section of southwest Alabama. During his service as mayor, Thomasville and the surrounding rural area has seen over \$700 million in capital investment and over 1,000 new jobs. In addition, he spearheaded a four-year effort to bring a new \$40 million dollar hospital to the town. Also, Thomasville has experienced downtown revitalization, built a new Civic and Cultural Arts Center, and has seen the birth of several new cultural and arts organizations.

Jim McHale is the President and CEO of the Woodward Hines Education Foundation and the Mississippi Higher Education Assistance Corporation, which are based in Jackson, Mississippi. Since 2015, McHale has led the organization's efforts to provide support to specific education initiatives in Mississippi by identifying, providing, and obtaining funds for proven programs focused on helping students succeed in education.

Read coverage of the event at [Daily Journal](#), [WCBI](#), and [WTVA](#).



Thomasville, Alabama, Mayor Sheldon Day discusses how he used some of the ideas he learned from Tupelo more than 20 years ago to help transform his town in southwest Alabama. Photo Credit: Thomas Wells/The Daily Journal



Crowd at the annual State of the Region meeting. Photo Credit: Thomas Wells/The Daily Journal



COMMISSION

ON THE FUTURE OF NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI
CREATE FOUNDATION



Jim McHale addresses the crowd. Photo Credit: Thomas Wells/The Daily Journal



Mike Staten receives this year's Jack Reed, Sr. Community Leadership Award from Bo Collins, CREATE Chair. Photo credit: Thomas Wells/The Daily Journal

CELEBRATING LEADERSHIP

CHARITABLE GIVING
SUPPORT

CREATE FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT 2017

CELEBRATING 45 YEARS
1972-2017



[Click on the report above to view the entire report.](#)

Hunger Coalition announces summer feeding initiatives, makes major donation

The Hunger Coalition announced a new partnership and awarded a significant donation at a recent press conference.

Coalition director Jason Martin announced a partnership with state-supported nonprofit Families First for Mississippi and presented a check of \$25,000 to Mid-South Food Bank to support its Summer Backpack Program.

TUPELO/LEE COUNTY

HUNGER COALITION



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:



CREATE
NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI
COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



United Way
of Northeast Mississippi



Families First
FOR MISSISSIPPI
Impacting the **WHOLE** Family

The Coalition announced its three

“Together we are pledging to raise awareness about food insecurity in Lee County and beyond. This summer we will start the work by providing food for eligible children in grades kindergarten through rising seventh-graders in Tupelo, Lee and Baldwin,” Martin said.

major partners at the meeting, which include Families First for Mississippi, United Way of Northeast Mississippi and the CREATE Foundation. Coalition leaders also introduced the organization’s 12-member board of directors, who are pledging together to feed 600 hungry children in Lee County this summer.

Read the entire story [here](#).



VOLUNTEER
NORTHEAST MISSISSIPPI
Connecting Volunteers & Non-Profits

volunteernems.org

Volunteer Northeast Mississippi is the new volunteer resource for Benton, Alcorn, Tippah, Prentiss, Tishomingo, Union, Lee, Itawamba, Pontotoc, Calhoun and Chickasaw Counties! Nonprofit organizations post their volunteer needs, and volunteers can find the opportunities to give back when and how they want.

For more information, contact:

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Why do you serve?

I contribute to the CREATE Foundation to further the great work and support that CREATE provides to the families and organizations in Northeast Mississippi.

- Cathy Robertson

OUR MISSION

CREATE Foundation is committed to improving the quality of life for the people of Northeast Mississippi through:

- Building permanent community endowment assets
- Encouraging philanthropy and managing charitable funds contributed by individuals, families, organizations and corporations
- Strengthening the regional community development capacity
- Taking a leadership role on key community issues and impacting the region through gifts and targeted grant-making

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