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## Southern Bank and Mt. Olive Pickle Company Announce Matching Grant Challenge to Benefit Local Food Pantry

Southern Bank and Mt. Olive Pickle Company have announced a commitment to provide matching grants from their respective charitable foundations for every dollar that is donated to the Make A Difference Food Pantry in Mount Olive through the end of June 2018. Both companies have committed to match up to \$6,000 each, which could add up to \$18,000 in total monies raised. The announcement was made by Chairmen J. Grey Morgan and William H. "Bill" Bryan, in a joint press release issued by both companies.

"The Southern Bank Foundation firmly believes in the mission of the Make A Difference Food Pantry," said Southern Bank Chairman and CEO Grey Morgan. "They are fighting the battle against hunger truly at ground level, right here in our own community, every day. Being just around the corner from our corporate headquarters, we are truly inspired by their efforts and think this is a great opportunity to provide a financial foundation that will allow them to manage their overhead expenses for a good while."

Bryan echoed Morgan's sentiments and added that he would like to see other corporate citizens and small businesses in the surrounding area to announce their own matching donations to benefit the pantry. "If the business community engages in this effort on even a small level, the potential impact of

our combined efforts would be significant,” he said. “We have the opportunity to make a difference here in our community for years to come.”

Anyone wanting to make a private donation to the Make A Difference Food Pantry can donate online at the organization’s website – [www.madpantry.org/donations](http://www.madpantry.org/donations). Credit cards are accepted and the organization is a registered 501(c)3 non-profit entity, thus making donations tax-deductible.

Founded in 1901, Southern Bank is a wholly owned subsidiary of Southern BancShares (N.C.), Inc. With its Corporate Headquarters located in Mount Olive, the bank has total assets of over \$2.6 billion and over 60 locations serving North Carolina and Virginia. More information about Southern Bank is available on the Internet at [www.southernbank.com](http://www.southernbank.com).

Founded in 1996, the Southern Bank Foundation makes charitable gifts and contributions in support of not-for-profit community groups and programs in areas served by Southern Bank and Trust Company.

Established in 1926, Mt. Olive Pickle Company manufactures the best-selling brand of pickles, peppers and relishes in the US. It created the Mt. Olive Pickle Company Foundation to support community organizations in 1994.

The Make A Difference Food Pantry is a non-profit organization based in downtown Mount Olive whose mission is stopping hunger, “one meal, one family at a time by providing nutritious food to those in need with compassion and love - because it's more than just food; it's about how you make people feel!" The pantry provides food to those in need through its community store, as well as prepared meals from its outdoor kitchen. More information about the organization is available on the web at [www.madpantry.org](http://www.madpantry.org).

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