

Monarch Dental Kicks Off Share a Smile Food Drive in Little Rock Three Monarch Dental locations in Little Rock join Arkansas Foodbank in the fight against hunger in Pulaski County

Three Monarch Dental® locations across Little Rock, Arkansas are joining forces with Arkansas Foodbank, the largest hunger relief organization in the state, to collect food items to be distributed to people in need across Pulaski County. The Share a Smile Food Drive is already underway!

Currently, one in six Arkansans struggles to provide enough food for their family. And 23 percent of the children in this state have limited access to adequate food. Monarch Dental aims to make it easier for people to get the support they need, whether that means affordable dental and orthodontic care or necessary staples to stock their pantry. By turning the Little Rock offices into Share a Smile Food Drive drop-off points, Monarch Dental is making it easier than ever for area residents to make a positive impact on the lives of their neighbors across Pulaski County. The three drop-off locations include:

- Monarch Dental Little Rock 10101 Mabelvale Plaza, Ste. 11B
- Monarch Dental Little Rock 301 N. Shackleford Road, Ste. B1
- Monarch Dental North Little Rock 4909 Warden Road

In an effort to encourage even more people to participate in the food drive, Monarch Dental will be offer anyone who donates five or more non-perishable food items a choice of one of three different discount opportunities.

- Free exam and X-rays (available to new patients)
- \$100 off dental services
- \$500 off braces

"All of us at Monarch Dental have strong connections to the communities we serve," notes Dr. Richard Smith. "We believe that no one should be left hungry any time of the year, and we're proud to stand together with Arkansas Foodbank to gather much-needed food for our neighbors in need."

Last year, the Monarch Dental office in Fort Smith hosted a food drive that resulted in 8,000 pounds of food donations. The Fort Smith office has challenged the Little Rock locations, as well as several other offices across the state, to beat this number this year.

"Thanks to the generous donations from great local partners like Monarch Dental, we're continuing the fight against hunger in Pulaski County and getting nutritious food into the hands of those who don't have enough to eat," said Nick Bradford from Arkansas Food Bank.

To make a person smile this season and earn valuable discounts of dental and orthodontic treatments, bring five or more non-perishable food items to the three Monarch locations in Little Rock. For more information on the discounts offered and a complete list of the most needed food items, visit our <u>blog post</u> for more info on the items needed.

About Monarch Dental

Monarch Dental provides general dentistry, children's dentistry and specialty care services such as orthodontics, oral surgery, periodontics and endodontics at 89 locations throughout Texas, Arkansas and Utah. Monarch Dental affiliated practices make it easy and affordable for individuals and families to get the dental care they need with convenient locations, extended hours and same-day appointments. The Monarch Dental mission is to create healthier smiles by making dental visits easy and enjoyable. Learn more at www.monarchdental.com.

About Arkansas Food Bank

Arkansas Foodbank, the largest food bank in Arkansas, is a member of Feeding America and the Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance. Its recent merger with the Arkansas Rice Depot creates new and innovative programming focused on serving hungry Arkansans with more healthy and nutritious food. Programs like Food For Kids, Food For Families, and Food For Seniors provide food and other resources for more than 450 food pantries, soup kitchens, schools, colleges, shelters, senior centers, summer feeding sites, and other agencies that provide aid directly to hungry Arkansans. The Foodbank primarily serves 33 counties in Central and Southern Arkansas but also assists other Feeding America food banks in the state and region. For information on how you can fight hunger, visit www.arkansasfoodbank.org.

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