



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Food Aid Contract Creates More Jobs at TVS

Brevard, NC (July, 27 2020) – Transylvania Vocational Services (TVS) has been awarded another contract from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for packaging instant non-fat dry milk. This will more than double the packaged milk output from the facility.

The USDA is purchasing the dry milk to provide food aid to an expanded list of food banks across the country as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) and its impact on the United States and its territories, Guam and Puerto Rico.

“The USDA is working hard to carry out their mission of assisting American farmers and citizens in need. The rise in unemployment due to the pandemic has resulted in an increase of food insecure families and caused a major surge in domestic food aid programs,” said TVS COO, Becky Alderman.

To accommodate this production surge and meet the demand, TVS is hiring more employees on three shifts and increasing the number and speed capabilities of machines packaging the milk. The company is actively recruiting for an estimated 25 job openings, within nine different job categories, including production workers, inventory assistants, sanitation workers, production supervisors, and material handlers.

Between July and December 2020, TVS is expected to package over 11 million pounds of the dry milk for distribution across America. This is 200% more than what was shipped during the first six months of 2020.

“We are proud to be even a small part of this effort,” said Alderman. “We are happy to be in a position, in which we can serve to those in need across our country, all while providing employment for more members of our Transylvania County community”.

The incremental contract alone will result in 8.5 million household size bags of instant non-fat dry milk available for distribution to an expanded list of food banks nationwide that are receiving food aid assistance related to the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the U.S.

In April, at the early stage of the pandemic, the number of U.S. households that reported being food insecure had more than doubled from 2018 with an estimate between 22-38 percent according to the USDA. Currently, the U.S. is not able to meet the full demands of food aid need. However, the USDA and TVS are looking to assist in closing that gap.

TVS is no stranger to the production of dry milk for the USDA. They have been packaging their Mountain Maid brand Instant Non-Fat Dry Milk (INDM) since 2000. TVS is an AbilityOne supplier to the USDA and as such maintains a blended workforce highly inclusive of adults with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

TVS CEO Jamie Brandenburg said, “Our core mission is really about helping others and with this new contract, we are able to provide assistance to U.S. agricultural farmers, American families, and support our community by providing more Living Wage jobs.”

About TVS

TVS is a not-for-profit, social enterprise food manufacturer specializing in the blending and packaging of dry food and beverage products. Founded in 1967, its mission is to provide meaningful employment, person-centered job training & placement, and a variety of residential and community engagement services for individuals with disabilities and other barriers to employment. For more information visit <http://www.tvsinc.org>.