



# COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding **More** Than *Hunger*.

SUMMER 2021



YOU HELP FIGHT  
SUMMER HUNGER FOR  
LOCAL CHILDREN!

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



**LIBBY CAMPBELL**  
Executive Director

## DEAR FRIEND,

I can hardly believe that we're entering the second summer since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Your support has been absolutely critical in making sure our [West Texas](#) neighbors have enough nutritious food throughout this crisis.

And it's making a difference, every day.

In this summer edition of Community Dish, I hope you will enjoy reading just a couple of examples of how your gifts are providing a lifeline for children and families facing hunger this summer.

Thousands of local children rely on free and reduced-price meals at school, but when school is out for any reason — whether remote learning, weekends, holidays or summer break — families are left to make up the difference on budgets that are often already stretched to their limit.

This summer, as schools let out, your gifts will help parents and caregivers keep nutritious food on the table through programs like our Summer Food Service Program and Mobile Pantries.

That means children like Jorge and Mauricio (page 4) can enjoy more of their favorite pastimes this summer without the worry of where their next meal will come from.

Thank you again for your generous support throughout the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, and the everyday crisis of hunger in the Permian Basin. Your partnership is paving the way for our community's brighter future!

Gratefully,

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# NEIGHBORS OF ALL AGES ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Food and fellowship. These two essentials are what the children at the 87th Street Apartments summer feeding program are receiving this summer, thanks to your generosity.

Ashleigh Amonett is Property Manager for the apartments, where, each year, a summer feeding program and Mobile Pantry are hosted in partnership with the [West Texas Food Bank](#).

"The most important thing is that this is open to the community," Ashleigh says. "You don't have to [live] on the property."

In addition to prepared meals for kids through the summer feeding program, the Mobile Pantry also helps make sure food is available for the whole family, as well as seniors in the community. One senior shares, "if it wasn't for the Mobile [Pantry], I would have to do without."

Seniors, children and families living at the 87th Street Apartments and in the surrounding area are all so grateful for your support.

"It's nice to have these resources available for our residents," Ashleigh says. "Without you this would not be possible."



## VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: THE UNITED FAMILY

"We can sit on the bench or we can get in the game."

As for Kenney Copeland and the United Family team, their choice has been to get in the game by serving with the West Texas Food Bank.

Kenny is the Market Street Store Director and previously worked for another United Family partner store, Albertsons. He also served on the Board of Directors for the [Food Bank](#).

Kenny and other workers from the local United Family store network began supporting the West Texas Food Bank by helping in various ways from volunteering to donating food from their stores each day.

"We wanted to make a difference and to do that we started bringing boxes of food and [offering to] help the Food Bank in any way," Kenny says.

That readiness to help is part of The United Family's core

beliefs: treat others the way you want to be treated; start with service and lift up your community.

"At the end of the day we are all players and whatever we can do to give back to the community benefits all of us," Kenny says.

Thank you, Kenny and the entire United Family team for the gift of your time and passion to help serve our neighbors.



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# YOU'RE FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE

"Without the Food Bank, I wouldn't have known how to get help."

Jessica is the proud mother of sons, Jorge, 8 and Mauricio, 12. We met up with the trio on a visit to the [West Texas Food Bank's](#) Mobile Pantry in Midland.

Jessica tells us her husband, Alfredo, worked in construction in the oil fields, but was laid off during the COVID-19 pandemic like so many people in his industry. He recently began part-time work as a contractor and hopes the job will eventually become full-time.

Jessica started a job working 20 hours a week at Dollar Tree to help out with bills, but the family is still struggling to make ends meet. Though they formerly received SNAP benefits, the certification lapsed, so the family is waiting for re-approval.



Jessica picks up groceries from the Mobile Pantry with her sons, Jorge, 8 and Mauricio, 12.

Thankfully, Jessica found out about the West Texas Food Bank Mobile Pantry through a Google search, and this is her second time receiving food for her family. She says they especially loved the fresh fruits and vegetables they received on their last visit, and the food lasted the family for two weeks.

"It's reassuring as a mom to have food for my kids, even when we are struggling," Jessica says.

This summer, your generosity will help make sure kids like Jorge and Mauricio have good, healthy food all summer long. With good nutrition, they'll have bodies and minds ready for a new year of learning.

Thank you for feeding our community's future!



## WTFB Salutes the National Guard

After months of West Texas Food Bank staff working tirelessly to build enough food boxes to meet the increased demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the West Texas Food Bank was fortunate to have National Guard members assigned to our facility in the summer of 2020. They not only built boxes full of pantry staples — around 1,000 per day — but also assisted at drive-thru food distributions in our service area. Their dedication to helping the food insecure was heartwarming, and their presence provided relief to weary Food Bank staff. Once again, in early 2021, the Guard came to our rescue to help replenish the supply of food boxes depleted through the busy holiday season. Across the country the National Guard has been called on to help with the crisis caused by the pandemic. We will be forever grateful for their service to West Texans!