



COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding **More** Than *Hunger.*

FALL 2021



YOU'RE MAKING THIS
BACK-TO-SCHOOL
SEASON GREAT!

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY CAMPBELL
Executive Director

DEAR FRIEND,

Our mission at the [West Texas Food Bank](#) is to collect, purchase, and distribute food to our neighbors facing hunger, and in the face of the long-lasting effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, there are thousands more in need of food this year.

The pandemic's shockwaves will be felt for years to come. For some families, it will take even longer to recover from the financial hardships they face today.

We cannot let the increased need for healthy food throughout West Texas become the "new normal."

Your past, present, and future generosity, provides the food our community needs to thrive. You are a real lifeline for those who are struggling to get back on their feet after more than a year of hardship.

Thank you for everything you have done to meet our shared goal — to alleviate widespread hunger across West Texas. Our goal will not be met until every single one of our neighbors has regular access to three healthy meals a day.

We are so happy to have you helping complete this ambitious task. With your help, families like Stella's on page three or Vanessa's on page four will have enough food for this back-to-school season.

Thank you for taking the time to catch up with the West Texas Food Bank to see your gifts in action this fall. I am so grateful for your kind support throughout such a trying year. You are paving the way for our community's bright future.

Gratefully,

Libby

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YOU PROVIDE VITAL RESOURCES FOR STELLA'S FAMILY

Stella's family is very tightly knit. Her mother, brother, and nephew live with Stella and her 11-year-old son, Gage. On top of being the household's sole provider, Stella also cares for her elderly mother.

Gage receives free meals at school, which helps offset the cost of food for their family. But even when school is in session, Gage regularly struggles with hunger because there isn't enough food at home to go around.

A house of six is almost impossible to feed on only one income.

But thanks to generous donors like you, Stella has found help at the Mobile Pantry at the Odessa facility. There, your gifts reach Stella in the form of her favorite pantry items such as meat, vegetables, and small snack items for her boys.

Her son Gage also benefits from [West Texas Food](#)

[Bank's Food 2 Kids](#) programs. These programs provide nutritious food to food insecure children throughout the school year and summer. *Food 2 Kids* is another way healthy food is made more accessible for families in need — and it's only available because of kindness from you.

"I can't give enough gratitude to the Food Bank," Stella says. "When we get back on our feet, we want to volunteer and help others in the community."



Even though Stella's mask is on, you can still see her big smile as she waits in her car at the Odessa Mobile Pantry.

A PARTNERSHIP TO BUILD A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Located in Midland, Endeavor Energy Resources, LP is a company truly making a difference here in West Texas.

In March, Endeavor contributed 322 total hours of volunteer service at the [West Texas Food Bank](#) to give back to our community. Some of the things employees accomplished include sorting 23,486 pounds of food into 1,413 boxes and bags, personally delivering pantry food to hundreds of our neighbors in need of groceries, and prepping the recently expanded gardens for planting.

"Most importantly," adds Jessie Clark, Endeavor Energy Resources Communications Coordinator, "we provided 155,034 meals to West Texans who are experiencing food insecurity."

As a company, Endeavor strongly believes integration, integrity, and sustainable growth are the bedrock for continued success — which is why they joined teams with the West Texas Food Bank.

"We were honored to partner with the West Texas Food

Bank to help relieve hunger," says Jessie. "We know that West Texas is hungrier than ever, and our local Food Bank continues operating at historic levels. Together, we can make sure that no one goes without food in West Texas."

Volunteers like Endeavor's are rebuilding our community from the ground up. Thank you for laying a solid foundation for our bright future.



www.wtxfoodbank.org

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Connect with us online:



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YOU MAKE MOBILE PANTRIES POSSIBLE!

A highly accomplished 17-year-old, Vanessa is very independent for having been born without arms and legs.

Vanessa is a junior at Midland High School. There, she's part of Future Farmers of America (FFA), an intracurricular student organization for those interested in agriculture and leadership. She's also the manager of her basketball team, a writer of motivational speeches, in all AP classes at school, and even works a part-time job.

Several weeks ago, Vanessa came to the gym at First Presbyterian Church to practice with her team. The players discovered there was a food pantry, which intrigued them, but Vanessa realized just how much it could help her mom and younger sister.

"We've needed help," Vanessa says. "My mom doesn't want us to worry about it."

For the past two weeks, Vanessa has come back to get food to feed her loved ones.

"It's nice to help the family," she says.

Her favorite items from First Presbyterian Church Pantry are the cheese, meat, and fruit. She is incredibly grateful to have access to healthy food now.



Vanessa shows off a bag of fresh oranges.

"Many of us would go hungry without this resource. We are very thankful for this help."

Thank you so much for your generosity that keeps food on the table for families like Vanessa's. Your support is especially cherished this fall as we prepare students across [West Texas](#) for a successful new school year. Thank you for everything you do!

Feeding Student Success This Hunger Action Month

Whataburger is partnering with the West Texas Food Bank to support student health and wellbeing — just in time for September, which is Hunger Action Month. Hunger Action Month is a time to spread awareness about food insecurity and celebrate the difference we can make when we work together. This partnership helps our community invest in schools, programs, tools, resources, and people who help students from pre-K to college achieve their goals. Whataburger will also bring support and resources to the *Food 2 Kids* Backpack Programs, School Pantries, and Kids Café. We are so excited to kick off Feed Student Success this back-to-school season! Thank you, Whataburger, for your outstanding generosity and engagement within our community!

