



www.wtxfoodbank.org

# COMMUNITY DISH

Feeding More Than *Hunger*.

HOLIDAY 2021

YOU SHARE FOOD  
AND HOPE



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



**LIBBY CAMPBELL**  
Chief Executive Officer

## DEAR FRIEND,

The holidays are the perfect time to remember and reflect on the things we are grateful for in our lives – a special season for enjoying the company of loved ones and reveling in our blessings.

But for many children, families, and seniors this year, there will be far less for which to feel grateful. The last year and a half has been a constant struggle with loss, sickness, and deep-rooted financial hardship for so many. Some neighbors will see the holiday season as another painful reminder of the hunger they face on a regular basis.

This is why I am so thankful for all your help in the ongoing fight against hunger, especially at this time of year. Because of you, the [West Texas Food Bank](#) is able to serve 19 counties, including Brewster and Pecos counties, the two largest in the state. Your ongoing commitment to the fight against hunger is preventing countless neighbors from missing meals over the holidays.

As we begin thinking about the new year, I hope you will share my goal of ensuring our hunger-relief efforts remain as focused and as steadfast as ever. Please let the stories in this special holiday issue of Community Dish inspire you and reinvigorate your passion for helping our community's most vulnerable neighbors.

I am so grateful for your selfless generosity that has shared so much with so many West Texans.

Happy holidays,

  
Libby Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

#### OFFICERS:

##### President

Courtney Wardlaw, XTO Energy Inc.

##### Vice President

Eric Whitaker, Complex Community Credit Union

##### Secretary

Marc Kondrup, Shared Spaces

##### Treasurer

Maryann Martin, Frost Bank

##### Chief Executive Officer

Libby Campbell, West Texas Food Bank

##### Past President

Alex Hester, SM Energy

#### DIRECTORS:

Lewis Busbee, Private Counseling

Judge Eleazar Cano, Brewster County Judge

Gary Carlisle, Occidental

Arturo Carrasco, Chevron Corporation

Jefferson Cox, Southwest Commercial

Capital

Tatum Guinn, NewsWest 9

Krysta Hadlock, Frost Bank

Randy Ham, Odessa Arts

Ricky Holman, Market Street

Melanie Hollmann, Atkins, Hollmann, Jones,

Peacock, Lewis & Lyon, Inc.

Elizabeth Jones, ConocoPhillips

Sally Kvasnicka, Fasken Oil and Ranch, Ltd.

Toby Latham, American Momentum Bank

RJ Lopez, Parkhill

Marshall Roberts, Alpha Permian LP

Bernie Spears, Odessa Housing Authority

Brian Whytlaw, Southwest Commercial

Capital

Dianne Williams, Community Advocate

Leah Williams, LC Public Relations

Ezra Yacob, EOG Resources, Inc.

## YOU'RE THERE WHEN DOMINIQUE NEEDS YOU

During COVID-19's initial shockwave, Dominique was one of many neighbors who suddenly needed help. When her son's school shut down, 5-year-old Hunter lost access to breakfasts and lunches from the school's free and reduced-price meal program. Dominique couldn't afford to come up with these extra meals on her own.

A friend told her about the food pantry at the Permian Basin Mission Center, a [West Texas Food Bank](#) partner agency. There, Dominique was amazed to be able to get fresh, healthy food without having to compromise on rent and bill payments.

For six months, the pantry helped Dominique with the healthy food she and Hunter needed. Soon, she was able to get back on her feet, and, for the next

six months, Dominique's job as a local truck stop manager was enough to keep their heads above water. But now, she finds herself once again facing the difficulties of keeping up with the cost of living.

She is so grateful to be able to depend on the food pantry to help her whenever she might need it. The holidays are often an especially painful reminder of hunger, but with your help Dominique and Hunter have food for their celebrations.

Dominique says, "We appreciate it. Thank you."



## RETIREMENT LEAVES MORE TIME FOR VOLUNTEERING

Wes Agnew grew up in West Texas. Throughout his life, Wes has given back to his community, but retirement has opened up time for him to pursue this passion more frequently.

He began volunteering with the [West Texas Food Bank](#) in May 2020, at the height of the pandemic's initial crisis. Modestly he says, "I just needed something to do."

And Wes is no stranger to helping during uncertain times. He was also an active volunteer during the 2008 recession – "Just because I needed something to do," he says again.

Wherever he goes, he is pragmatic about getting things done. When he first started volunteering at Mobile Pantries, Wes noticed the flow of traffic was not ideal and people were in a rush to get food.

"[People] were tense," he points out. "They were nervous and scared."

Wes helped manage the traffic so everyone

could get through as fast as possible. The distribution site was able to serve even more neighbors who were experiencing hunger.

We are so grateful to Wes for sharing his talent with the Food Bank, investing in our community's future, and being there when people need him most! Thank you!



# YOU MAKE THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHTER

Oscar's job as a furniture mover requires him to lift heavy things for long periods of time, but after a difficult bout with COVID, he runs out of breath so quickly now. He had to cut back his work hours while his body continues to recover.

Without his full income, Oscar's family quickly got behind on bills and it became difficult to keep food on the table. He, his wife, her mother, and their two daughters were at risk of missing meals.

Sughey, Oscar's wife, found the Midland Mobile Pantry online. She was amazed to have discovered a way to get the help her family needed at no cost.

Isabella and Marabella, their grandmother, Oscar, and Sughey are all so grateful to receive fresh and healthy food.

But even more than that, they are happy to be together.

"Seeing the need and other people who are struggling makes us more grateful to have a family unit and get the help we need," Oscar says.

He is hopeful his complete recovery from the virus will come soon, but until then Oscar is still having trouble breathing and is worried for his health. For now, he's just relieved to be able to come to the Midland Mobile Pantry and get food for his family, especially in light of the upcoming holidays.

Thank you for making resources like Mobile Pantries available for Oscar and his family. You make this time of year especially bright.



## United and Market Street Partnership

To kick off Hunger Action Month, the Food Bank partnered with 8 United Markets and Market Street stores. We asked the public to FILL THE TRUCK! We filled 3! The United Family sold over 27,000 lbs of peanut butter to be distributed. We are also grateful to CBS7 who promoted the event. And a big thank you to the University of Texas Permian Basin for inviting us to host the drive at their opening football game! We are blessed!

## Pioneer Natural Resources School Pantries

The Food Bank is happy to partner with Pioneer Natural Resources who sponsored 9 school pantries in 5 local school districts including Midland and Ector County ISDs. "Supporting food pantries ... is one of the most impactful ways to reach families in need and serve the communities," said Scott Sheffield, Pioneer Natural Resources CEO. "We are proud to partner with the West Texas Food Pantry and help grow the Food 2 Kids Program."