



wtxfoodbank.org

COMMUNITY DISH

Feeding More Than *Hunger*.

Spring 2022

HEARTWARMING STORIES OF HOPE



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY CAMPBELL
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Thank you for making this past holiday season such an incredible success. Because of you, countless West Texans who would have otherwise gone hungry had plenty of nourishing food to eat and share with loved ones.

However, a new year brings new challenges. As even more COVID-19 variants emerge, we have to be ready for anything.

Right now, our focus is on seniors. Seniors living on a fixed income are the most vulnerable at this time of year –the higher cost of heating and electricity in the wintertime means older adults risk missing meals just to pay utility bills. And with other costs of living increasing so dramatically right now, many don't know how to keep up.

In the face of historic inflation, the [West Texas Food Bank](#) remains as critical as ever. I know I can rely on partnerships from friends like you to ensure the health and well-being of our community today and long into the future.

Thank you for fighting hunger with the West Texas Food Bank. I look forward to seeing what we accomplish together this year.

Warmly,

Libby Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

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THANK YOU FOR HELPING SENIORS ON TIGHT BUDGETS

Dolly has always been extremely resourceful. Before retiring in Odessa, she worked tons of odd jobs, including cleaning houses and working in the oil field. But most recently, this resourcefulness has been used to figure out where and how she can save money whenever possible.

She lost her husband, Jesus, in 2019. Now, Dolly is left paying off medical expenses (knee and hip replacements), her car, and whatever emergency bills pop up month to month on her limited fixed income.

Thankfully, your support provides food for neighbors on extremely tight budgets. Dolly gets help specifically from [Catholic Charities](#), a partner agency of the West Texas Food Bank. There, Dolly picks up nourishing food that lasts a good while, and she cooks everything herself to make each meal stretch as far as possible.

"I enjoy everything," she says about the food she receives. "Nothing goes to waste."



The West Texas Food Bank is sincerely grateful for your incredible generosity that is helping our neighbors during these difficult times. Thank you for truly caring about the health of our community.

Dolly expresses her gratitude, saying, "Thank you for helping ... Without this help, people would go hungry."

KENNY'S PARTNERSHIP REMAINS AS STRONG AS EVER

Kenny Copeland is originally from Wichita Falls, Texas, but he moved to Odessa with his wife, children, and grandchildren as a grocery store manager many years ago. Kenny believes that his mission in life is to serve people and build others up. Volunteering at the West Texas Food Bank is a way for him to do that.

As many as 20 team members from the United and Market Street family volunteer with the [West Texas Food Bank](#) on a weekly basis, which enhances the strong ties between Kenny's store, Market Street in Odessa, and the Food Bank.

"We look forward to it each week," he shares. "We turn on music while filling boxes and there's a lot of laughing and learning."

Kenny is proud to be part of the Food Bank's huge impact in people's lives. His greatest takeaway from volunteering –

"You see the faces when you volunteer... You knew the statistics before, but now you see a mother with five children in the car and you know they're looking forward to this food."

Thank you for being a real cornerstone of our West Texas community, Kenny! And thank you to everyone who's as eager to make a difference for our neighbors facing hunger as he is.



Kenny makes a big difference in our West Texas community.

YOU MAKE FRESH FOOD AVAILABLE

For many years, Deborah served her community as a nurse. Now, she has retired, but as a senior living on a fixed income, she faces the tough choice each month between paying bills and buying groceries.

Beyond this difficulty, Deborah has trouble getting to the grocery store. She has a bad knee and had a back fusion in the past. She's confined to a wheelchair, and grocery store delivery fees are too high for her to afford.

This is why Deborah is so grateful to have the help she receives from the West Texas Food Bank's mobile distribution. Because of supporters like you, Deborah receives a delivery of healthy food for no cost, and the money she saves can go towards medical bills and the cost of housing.

"I love the fresh veggies, milk and eggs," Deborah says. "This food goes a long way."

Deborah even helps her neighbors and friends who are in need of food, too, saying, "I love to cook and help others with their meals."

Thank you for your support that makes fresh food available for our community members who need it most. You are a real source of strength for West Texas.

Deborah is so grateful for the help you give her.



Empty Bowls 2022

We are excited to bring back Empty Bowls as the family friendly event you remember! The Empty Bowls event will take place on Sunday, March 6th from 11am – 2pm at the UT Permian Basin Mesa Courtyard. UT Permian Basin is excited to host the event this year, and we will be bringing back everyone's favorites soups, a wonderful silent auction filled with art from local artists, and we'll have plenty of live entertainment, starting with the UT Permian Basin Drum Line. Entry to this event is \$15, which includes your choice of hand-made ceramic bowl and all you can eat soup. Thanks to a generous sponsorship from H-E-B one hundred percent of the proceeds will be donated to the West Texas Food Bank.

Third Saturdays in the Gardens

Join us at the West Texas Food Bank Midland Facility in the XTO Energy Innovative Gardens for the on the third Saturday of the month to learn tips and tricks about growing a garden in West Texas. Every third Saturday we will have a different speaker or activity meant to teach you how to grow your own food right in your own backyard!