



wtxfoodbank.org

# COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding **More** Than *Hunger.*

Summer 2022

**CHILDREN AND FAMILIES  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
HELP THIS SUMMER**



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**





**LIBBY CAMPBELL**  
Chief Executive Officer

## DEAR FRIEND,

The cost of living is higher than ever. Families and individuals who are working hard to make ends meet are suddenly finding it difficult to get by.

And when kids who usually rely on free school meals are suddenly home for summer, parents and caregivers have to come up with 10 extra meals each week per child to fill the gap. Budgets stretched thin will have to stretch even thinner to make up for this lost nutritional resource.

Some families will reach a breaking point.

Thankfully, your partnership is a huge source of support for our community. With your support, children facing hunger have enough food to eat to stay happy and healthy while cafeterias are closed.

Even a short break from a consistent source of nutritious meals could mean danger for young kids. Without regular access to healthy food, children risk developing behavioral issues, chronic illnesses, and even mental health problems.

In our newest summer issue of Community Dish, please enjoy reading about West Texans you help with your generous gifts. Parents like Caleb and Cristina are so grateful for the support you provide.

Thank you for being a source of strength for West Texas. I am happy to have you on our team fighting summer hunger with us.

Gratefully,

Libby Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer

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## CJ AND AJ HAVE A FUN SUMMER AHEAD THANKS TO YOU!

CJ, 10, and AJ, 6, are super happy for summer vacation. The boys are excited to spend as much time with their dad as possible doing their favorite summer activities, but they need fuel in the form of healthy food to run around and play all summer long.

The boys' dad, Caleb, works hard to provide for them. He had a good job as a forklift operator, but he was let go during the pandemic. He took another job as soon as he could, but it pays less.

With the prices of everything going up so sharply, getting through the month has been much harder. Now, he says, every once in awhile, he runs out of food for him and the boys.

That's why Caleb is grateful for the West Texas Food Bank's Mobile Pantry in Odessa, which distributes fresh produce, whole foods, and nutritious snacks.



Caleb thanks you for making free help available to neighbors facing hunger.

There, he can get the good food his boys need to keep growing strong and healthy this summer.

"I'm thankful the help is free," Caleb says. To our donors and volunteers he adds, "I appreciate the time and effort. [You] really do help people out."

## BUILDING SCULPTURES TO BUILD COMMUNITY

RJ Lopez's long journey with the [West Texas Food Bank](#) began in 2012 when his architecture firm, Parkhill, held an event called "Canned Tribute" where employees used canned goods to build a sculpture. The cans were then donated to the Food Bank.

The firm was invited to participate in other capacities with the Food Bank, and a personal invitation was extended to RJ to join the board of directors. He has served in that role since 2013.

"Our company mission is building community," RJ says. "With every box that we help stuff or bags for the kids, it all feels very personal and relatable, since its people in our community that we might see at the grocery market."

Throughout the pandemic and with the need continuing to rise in the face of inflation, RJ is proud of the Food Bank and the work that's been accomplished. "Instead of leaving because of the stress, everybody bonded together and stepped up and said we'd fight this together."

We are lucky to have neighbors as dedicated to the West Texas Food Bank as you are, RJ! A big thanks to everyone involved behind the scenes – we couldn't do it without you!



RJ enjoys partnering with the West Texas Food Bank to ensure a bright future for our neighbors.

# NEIGHBORS OF ALL AGES ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Cristina is a loving mother to two children, Glenda, 17, and Daniel, 12. Her growing kids eat a lot and need a consistent source of nutritious meals to stay fit – physically and mentally.

Her daughter has a nutrition-related illness which requires extra vitamins and minerals in her diet. The best way to ensure she gets the nutrients to thrive is to provide fresh, nourishing meals.

Cristina's husband, Arturo, works as a carpenter, but lately his income has not been enough to provide the healthy food his kids need. The family does not receive any government assistance and there are no relatives in the area that could lend a hand.

Thankfully, because you choose to give, Cristina, Arturo, Glenda, and Daniel have access to the ingredients for a healthy life at Midland's First Presbyterian Church High School Pantry, a [West Texas Food Bank](#) partner agency. The family loves the fruit, pecans, tuna, and beans the most.

Your generosity makes it so Cristina and Arturo don't have to choose between paying bills and buying food.

"We're so thankful for the donors," Cristina says gratefully. "We like that the food and snacks we get are nutritious!"



Thanks to you, while away from the school meals, Glenda and Daniel will have the food needed to stay happy and healthy all summer long.

## Launch of the Oxy Bio-Domes!



We are proud to announce that the Oxy Bio-Domes opened at our Midland facility on Earth Day, April 23, 2022. The goal of this project is to educate the community, especially children, about food sources and

how to eat healthy. Community members will participate in maintaining and developing plants and gardens to see the food-growing process from start to finish.

The first bio-dome is tropical and contains two large banana trees and a koi pond. The second is a desert dome for more native plant species. In between the space of the two domes are 10 vegetable beds for additional outdoor growing space.

We're so excited to see the impact this resource will have on children, families, and seniors in our community!

This project is largely possible thanks to a generous donation from Oxy, along with support from friends like you. Thank you for helping provide incredible educational opportunities in West Texas.