



wtxfoodbank.org

COMMUNITY DISH

Feeding More Than *Hunger.*

FALL 2022

**YOU'RE FEEDING
WEST TEXAS
THIS BACK-TO-
SCHOOL SEASON!**



MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY CAMPBELL
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Outrageous gas and housing prices coupled with supply chain shortages are creating difficult choices for people in our community. Bills are going unpaid and meals are missed on a regular basis . . .

Neighbors experiencing hunger are running out of options.

And now that the back-to-school season is upon us, households with school-aged children will have to find a way to afford uniforms, backpacks, and school supplies on top of figuring out how to keep food on the table. Just one more worry to deal with.

Thankfully, this fall, your generosity is preventing countless community members from going hungry. Your gifts to the West Texas Food Bank of time, money, and food are a true lifesaver for the children, families, and seniors we are proud to serve.

Because you truly care, children’s bright futures are protected, families can send kids back to school with the tools needed for success, and seniors will not have to face hunger to pay an electricity bill.

In our latest issue of Community Dish, please enjoy stories from just a few neighbors who are endlessly grateful for the healthy food and critical resources you make possible. Know your support was absolutely necessary every step of the way.

Thank you for fighting hunger alongside the West Texas Food Bank.

Gratefully,

Libby Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

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YOU PROVIDE HEALTHY FOOD TO NEIGHBORS WHO NEED IT MOST

Angelica and Franklin moved to Midland from Venezuela to give their two children, Monserrat, 2, and Mathias, 7, a better life. Mathias has autism and will have so many more opportunities for therapy and specialized learning here. But right now, the family is facing extreme difficulties, even though they know it will pay off in the long run.

Angelica and Franklin are figuring out how to obtain work visas while they seek asylum. Both parents have petroleum engineering degrees but are planning to take any job they are offered once their work permits come in - just to put food on the table.

Families like Angelica's often worry about experiencing hunger – and, for many, that fear can turn into a reality all too quickly, especially now that the cost of living is beyond many people's means.

For these reasons and so many more, Angelica, Franklin, and thousands more community members are so grateful for donors like you. Because of your outstanding support, our

neighbors can pick up fresh, healthy food like fresh fruit, veggies, dairy, and protein from Casa de Amigos Pantry in Midland, a [West Texas Food Bank](#) partner agency.

In thanks, Angelica and her husband say, “Continue . . . the help that you are giving to the right people translates to love that they receive.”



Angelica, Franklin, and Monserrat say thank you.

VOLUNTEER RON BREWER THANKS YOU!

Ron Brewer is a man of many talents and sensibilities, one of which includes being a polyglot. Ron jokes that he knows five languages – English, Spanish, Hebrew, Denay, and Texan.

Ron is also interested in volunteering to give back to his community. He believes in the power of hard work, and isn't afraid to put in some elbow grease to make this world a better place.

For the last two years, Ron has volunteered at the Midland branch of the Food Bank. He's even gotten his father-in-law, Maurice, involved. They're happy to be spending time together doing something that will benefit so many of their neighbors.

Ron not only serves the Food Bank as a volunteer, he also receives food. With the cost of living rising so quickly recently, he and his wife have needed help paying

bills. In fact, Maurice moved in with them to help offset rising prices of gasoline, food, medicine, and more.

Ron loves giving back, but he also loves donors like you who make the West Texas Food Bank possible in the first place.

“I find [you] inspiring,” he says gratefully. “[You are] incredible people.”



Ron gives a big smile in thanks to donors like you who make the Food Bank possible.

KIDS LOOK FORWARD TO BACK-TO-SCHOOL SEASON BECAUSE OF YOU

As a person who has spent 62 years as an educator, Barbara Yarbrough knows all about her students, families, and the needs that can crop up – hunger being one of the most pervasive issues, especially today as the cost of living only continues to rise.

At Barbara's school, South Midland Elementary, every student receives free lunches. This statistic means all students' families are unable to afford school meals, pointing to a drastic need for help within the community.

To combat the number of students at risk of experiencing hunger at home, South Midland Elementary School joined forces with the West Texas Food Bank to distribute food twice a month, including items like potatoes, milk, cheese, and non-perishables.

Alejandra is just one of many students who is so grateful for the school pantry. She loves the food her family receives here. She loves to eat healthy because she knows how good it makes her feel, so she's really happy that the pantry provides her family with the ingredients for full, balanced meals.



South Midland Elementary is more than just a school . . . it's a community resource thanks to donors like you!

"Thank you so much for giving us food," she says, "because some people do not have money to eat."

Barbara emphasizes that the school pantry is only possible thanks to donors like you.

"This has truly helped my families," Barbara shares. "Thank you."



Was it Even a Party if You Didn't Volunteer?

It's always exciting to celebrate an anniversary, and we had so much fun with the team from Betenbough Homes when they chose to celebrate their 30th Anniversary at the [West Texas Food Bank](#). A group of eager volunteers descended on the warehouse and spent the morning building pantry boxes for our drive-thru lines and also assembling Senior Boxes, which are distributed to seniors who need a little extra to get through the month. By the end of their volunteer shift, they had completed an astounding 30 pallets of Pantry and Senior boxes! Not only did they show up to work, they also presented the Food Bank with a check and bought lunch for the staff!