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COMMUNITYDISH

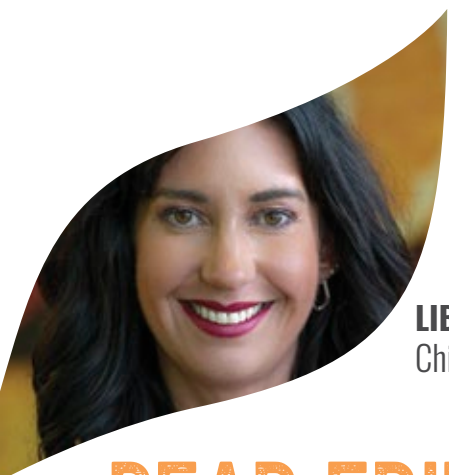
Feeding **More** Than *Hunger.*

Summer 2023



**YOU FILL LOCAL TABLES
THIS SUMMER!**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY CAMPBELL
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

This summer, I want to take a moment and share my gratitude for you. Your generosity is changing lives throughout the Permian Basin. Without you, the West Texas Food Bank would not be able to make such a huge impact.

Each summer, many families face uncertainty and hunger as school meal programs become unavailable. This year, families face the added stress of bridging the summer meal gap during a time of record high living prices. For many of us, there's just not room in the budget for the extra expense.

That's why I am so thankful for your partnership. Because of you, we can support over 100 partner agencies in 19 counties and assure our neighbors that nutritious food WILL be on the table this summer.

I invite you to read through our most recent edition of Community Dish to see some of the children, families and individuals who have received plenty of healthy food from West Texas Food Bank this year — thanks to donors like you.

For our neighbors like Selestia, page 4, your help is a true lifeline. I am so grateful for friends like you who help show our community members that the West Texas Food Bank can always be relied on!

Your support is a continued inspiration to me and countless folks across our service area. Thank you for helping us create a West Texas without hunger!

Gratefully,

Libby Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

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YOU HELP LOEIDA'S CHILDREN THRIVE

Loeida is so proud of her four children. Allison, 11, Dalle, 13, Jesska, 18 and Ashely, 17, are all go-getters, participating in sports as well as making good grades at school. Each has found a special interest, from computers to animals.

In order to continue succeeding at school and in extracurricular activities, Loeida's children need good, healthy food to fuel their minds and bodies.

But with a household of six, affording food can sometimes be a challenge. Loeida works as a cook in town, but her income isn't always enough to make ends meet.

That's why, for three years, Loeida has come to the Marfa Food Pantry. And for three years, she's been so thankful to partners like you who help keep the pantry stocked full with nourishing foods.

Thanks to your generosity, Loeida can pick up foods to last her whole household about two weeks. With the help,

she can ensure the children can look forward to a full table and thrive when school starts up again in the fall.

"It helps a lot," Loeida says gratefully to donors like you.

Thank you for your sustaining support this summer and all year long! Folks like you make our community a healthier, happier place to call home.



Loeida smiles as she receives food from the Marfa Food Pantry.

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT: MARIBEL

Maribel is a loving grandmother of twin 1-year-olds, and a dedicated member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Church. Nine years ago, the church put out a call for volunteers to aid in the Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Pantry, and Maribel answered.



Maribel smiles while on a volunteer shift at Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Pantry.

Her decision to support her community started a journey of compassion and care that has lasted nearly a decade. Every day she volunteers, Maribel fills boxes, stocks shelves and greets the friends that come through.

"It is the right thing to do," Maribel shares. Because Ft. Stockton is a small town, Maribel often knows the people who come through to pick up food. She enjoys helping her neighbors and making a difference in the community.

"I plan to keep volunteering as long as I can," Maribel shares, because she knows how important accessible food can be. At distributions, Maribel sometimes takes food home herself because the cost of groceries and other necessities has become so high.

Maribel loves to spend time with her husband and grandchildren when she has spare time. She truly embodies the spirit of neighbors helping neighbors, and we are so thankful that she has chosen to help create a West Texas without hunger.



Selestia and family smiles and waves from the Distribution pick-up line.

WEST TEXAS FAMILIES ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Selestia recently moved from New Mexico to Pecos with her husband and four children, Dante, 11, Jose, 7, Jesshia, 2, and Aitana, 3 months. While the move changed some things about their life, it didn't change the amount of love and care the family shares every day.

Selestia's husband, Jose, works in construction. In New Mexico, Jose found that work wasn't steady enough to support a family of six. The Permian Basin already seems more promising.

While Selestia's husband, Jose, goes to work in Pecos, she stays home to take care of the children.

Selestia heard about the food distribution in Pecos from a friend. The family came by to pick up

a few necessities to help get through between paychecks while still adjusting to the move.

Thankfully, the distribution has food the children love, like bananas and carrots, along with a variety of healthy foods to help fuel the children this summer and all year long.

Dante, who loves math, says his parents are encouraging him to learn lots and become an engineer one day. Thanks to friends like you, he'll be more prepared to absorb all he can in school in the fall.

To donors like you, Selestia says, "Thank you so much! God bless you!"



Farmer's Market Truck

We are excited to announce we received our long-awaited Farmer's Market Truck. The goal of this new truck is to provide fresh produce and education resources to the community. The truck will be at food distributions and community events. In addition, organizations and schools can request the truck to attend outreach events and education opportunities.

The Farmer's Market Truck holds 1,200 pounds of fresh produce and the

side opens to display bins full of fruits and vegetables. We are so excited to see how the truck will impact the children, families, and seniors in our community.

The project was made possible thanks to a generous gift from Oxy. With continued support from friends like you, we will be able to provide fresh produce and educational opportunities throughout West Texas.