

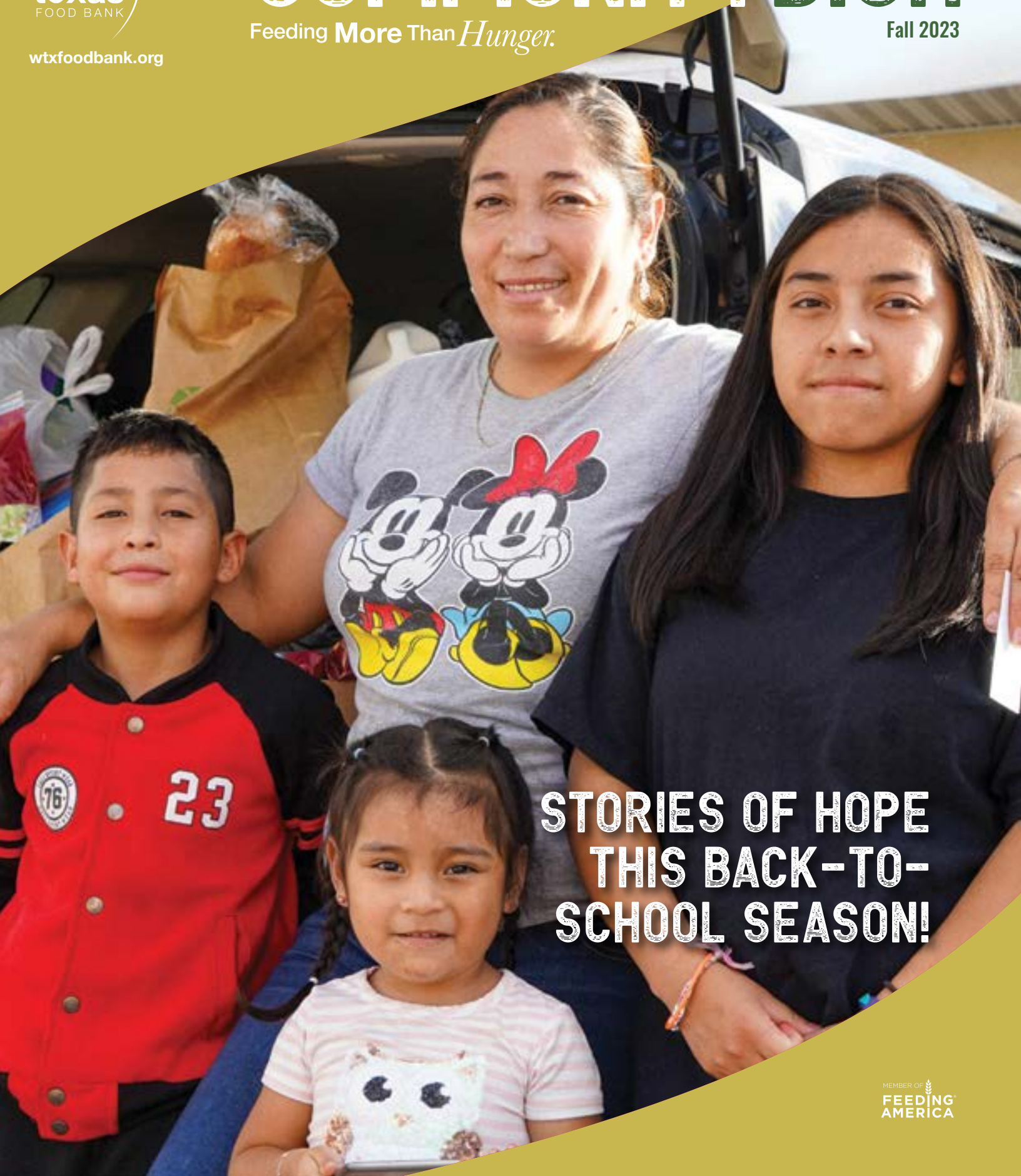


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COMMUNITY DISH

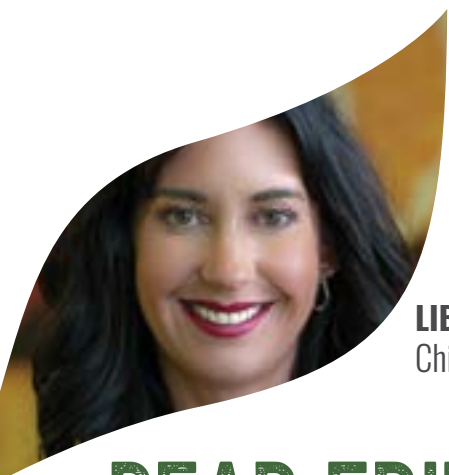
Feeding More Than *Hunger*.

Fall 2023



**STORIES OF HOPE
THIS BACK-TO-
SCHOOL SEASON!**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY CAMPBELL
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Now that class is back in session, parents zip up backpacks and send children off to school, hoping that today will be a day they'll focus, learn, and grow.

But for families experiencing hunger, these simple successes can be out of reach. Food is the fuel children need to work hard in the classroom, but the high cost of groceries means that many parents are running out of ways to feed growing kids and still pay every bill.

While the back-to-school season can bring new stress and uncertainty to parents who are trying to stay afloat, there is hope. And that's because of you...

Your partnership has brought meals to children, families, and older adults experiencing food insecurity through agency partners, mobile food distributions, the Kids Cafe program, and more. You have filled tables with nourishing meals and helped to make West Texas a healthier, stronger place.

Flip to the back cover to read about Michael and the Taylor Park Boys & Girls Club — just one example of how your generosity has made an impact in countless young lives. Then enjoy the rest of this issue of Community Dish, knowing that our neighbors are so thankful for you and your partnership in our cause.

Thank you for helping end hunger this back-to-school season. We couldn't do this work without you.

Gratefully,

Libby Campbell
Chief Executive Officer

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THANK YOU FOR BRINGING HOPE AND HEALTH TO EISHA'S FAMILY!



Eisha and Winter arrive at the mobile distribution with grateful smiles.

“I will go hungry before I let my babies not have what they need.”

Eisha’s wellspring of inner strength and compassion comes from her children — Brea, 13, Robert, 11, Winter, 10, and Ari, 5. Even after a devastating year, Eisha has tried her best to remain positive, provide stability, and be a role model for her kids.

After the unimaginable loss of both her husband and mother in 2022, Eisha dug deep into her faith and says

she prayed to receive the help she and her family needed. Just getting through two tragedies was painful enough — but on top of it all, rent and bills began to pile up.

Currently between jobs, Eisha has put in many job applications and is now beginning to rebuild with her eyes on her family’s future. And thanks to the incredible generosity of partners like you, Eisha can trust the West Texas Food Bank to provide the healthy food needed to fuel her family’s healing.

When we met Eisha at the mobile distribution at Rooney Park, she was at a loss for words. The amount of nourishing food to be found had special meaning for her as a mother, because the help means her children will be able to eat and stay healthy this fall.

“Thank you,” Eisha says gratefully to donors like you. “It is such a blessing.”

VOLUNTEER ADAM HELPS TO END HUNGER IN WEST TEXAS

Last year, Food Bank volunteer and President of ProPetro Services, Inc. Adam Munoz was named a member of our executive board because of his dedication to the well-being of our community.

“It’s been a humbling experience,” Adam shares.

Adam has volunteered his time through ProPetro’s employee-driven group, The Pump Committee. The West Texas Food Bank is honored to be one of several non-profits who have benefitted from Adam’s passion to help our community this year.

From volunteering at the drive-through pantry to organizing golf tournament fundraisers, Adam has found a way to help further the mission of the West Texas Food Bank. We are so grateful for the time and energy Adam has donated to our cause.

Adam says he believes in the power of volunteering and the difference that can truly be made. “If you can devote one hour to go to one event and just experience the atmosphere,” he says, “just go for one hour.”

We want to share a heartfelt thank-you to Adam and all the ProPetro employees that have given time through The Pump Committee. Your support is helping to create a West Texas without hunger!



YOU HELP PROVIDE MEALS TO KIDS AT THE BOYS & GIRLS CLUB

At the Taylor Park Boys & Girls Club, children stop by after school — and all day in the summertime — to work on homework, learn new skills, and participate in arts and crafts.

The Club also offers children something that might be rare otherwise: a nourishing meal and an afternoon snack.

Club director Michael Jasso explains, “If [the children] are full and not thinking about being hungry, they do better at homework or the activities.”

Michael remembers attending the Club himself as a child. Before partnering with the West Texas Food Bank, the Club could only offer packaged, less nutritious food.

Now, the West Texas Food Bank makes sure that each meal is complete with a protein, a veggie, and a fruit. A balanced meal and snack make a big difference for children facing hunger. Kids can also learn about healthy food and cooking by visiting the West Texas



Food Bank commercial kitchen for cooking lessons.

For parents who may not be able to afford to keep enough food at home over the summer or the evenings after school, the Taylor Park Boys & Girls Club is a real lifeline.

Michael is so thankful for donors like you who help to ensure children experiencing hunger can rely on the [West Texas Food Bank](#). “[I’m] forever grateful!” he says.

West Texas Food Bank Is Growing!

West Texas Food Bank is overjoyed to reveal an exciting building expansion at our Odessa campus. We are adding an additional 15,000 square feet to our warehouse storage area and constructing a separate 12,000 square foot volunteer center east of the current building.

This will allow for an additional 5.3 million pounds of food in our facility, giving us enough space for 24 million pounds of shelf stable food to distribute to the 19 counties we serve.

This new build will also include a covered drive-through pantry to make distributing food to the community more efficient. New green space and an update to our existing gardens will be sponsored by



1PointFive and an additional 150 parking spots will complete the project. This will give the Food Bank more than 25,000 square feet of operation!

We are so grateful to the foundations, corporations, and individuals that donated time and money to make this expansion possible. The expected completion date is March 2024.