



wtxfoodbank.org

# COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding More Than *Hunger.*

HOLIDAY 2023



**YOU SHARE  
HOPE FOR  
THE HOLIDAYS**

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



**LIBBY CAMPBELL**  
Chief Executive Officer

# DEAR FRIEND,

It's difficult to imagine a holiday gathering without a table full of comforting food.

We all have our unique traditions around the holiday season, but special recipes and meals are almost always a part of our celebrations.

Thanks to your generous partnership, more of our neighbors will have access to nutritious food to fill holiday tables — despite how deeply the high cost of living continues to affect us all.

Your willingness to share and reach out in support of our West Texas community is what this season is all about — and it's making a significant difference.

In this edition of *Community Dish*, I've chosen a few stories to share about the incredible people you've partnered with and impacted in our community — just like Christianna (page 3) who is so grateful to receive — and share — nourishing food for her family and neighbors.

I hope you'll be as inspired as I am by these stories and the difference you make here in West Texas not only at this special time of year, but throughout every season.

Thank you for choosing to partner with the West Texas Food Bank to make sure that healthy food is available for every neighbor. Happy holidays to you and yours.

With gratitude,

Libby Campbell  
Chief Executive Officer

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# YOU HELP CHRISTIANNA PAY IT FORWARD

Christianna hopes to own her own bakery and restaurant one day, but her first priority is making sure her family and neighbors have enough healthy food on the table — she’s so grateful to have help from friends like you to make it possible.

For the past couple of years, Christianna has visited Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Food Pantry to pick up groceries for her family and a few older neighbors who aren’t able to get to the pantry on their own.

“They don’t have anyone else checking on them,” she says of her neighbors, who she sometimes makes meals for.

Christianna also enjoys preparing food for her boyfriend, Arthur, and her daughter, Tiffany, 14, who’s an honor student with big college plans.

“Food is love,” Christianna says.

Beans and rice are a household favorite, she says, but she adds that “we love everything that we receive.”

Christianna formerly worked as a waitress, but had a major health setback with a dual cancer diagnosis. Around



Christianna and Arthur pause to share a word of gratitude on a visit to Our Lady of Guadalupe Church Food Pantry.

the same time all of her personal information was stolen and she had to start over in more ways that she could count.

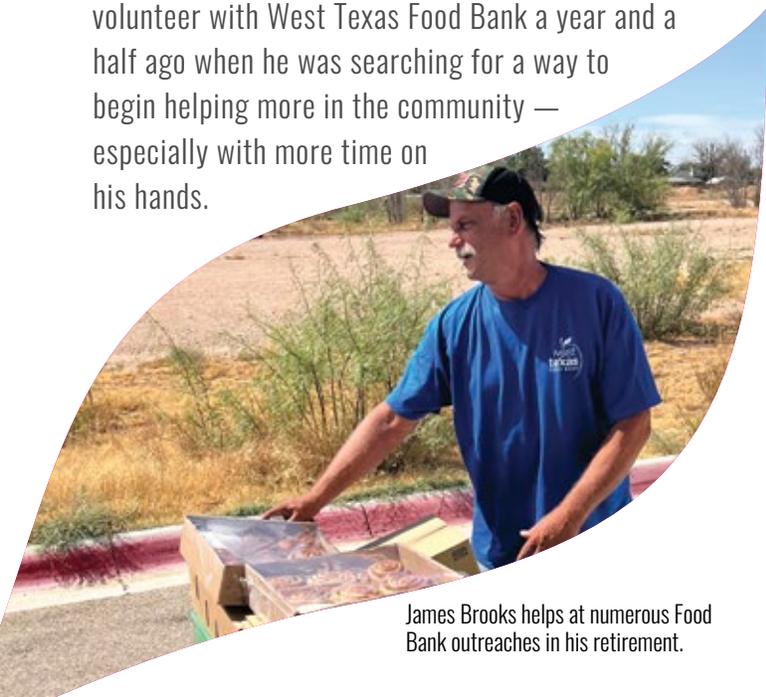
Thanks to your generosity, Christianna, her family, and her neighbors all have access to nourishing food even when life is unpredictable.

“This means a whole lot to us,” she says, thanking friends like you.

## JAMES GIVES BACK

James Brooks has lived in Midland for more than 50 years, and he’s spending a big part of his retirement giving back to the community he loves.

A retired welder, James says he began serving as a volunteer with West Texas Food Bank a year and a half ago when he was searching for a way to begin helping more in the community — especially with more time on his hands.



James Brooks helps at numerous Food Bank outreaches in his retirement.

Since then, James has helped at numerous Food Bank outreaches in Midland and Odessa as well as Senior Box Days. He says he plans to keep showing up to help wherever he is needed.

“I love being a part of a group of like-minded individuals who are all working towards the same cause,” James says.

He recalled an especially memorable and fun volunteer shift when he and several volunteers worked together to fit multiple households’ worth of food into just one small compact car.

“This really has been a great thing for me after retirement, a true outlet,” he says of volunteering.

We are so grateful for James’ cheerful and positive presence as he works together with our team of volunteers to help create a West Texas without hunger.

**Feeding More Than Hunger.**

# THANK YOU FOR SHARING HOPE IN WEST TEXAS

One look at adorable 2-year-old Adian's smile and it's clear to see why his mother is so grateful for friends like you who help her make sure he continues to grow up healthy and thriving.

"It means a lot," says Martha, Adian's mom, of the help she has received through the Food Bank.

We had the joy of meeting both Martha and Adian at the West Texas Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry in Odessa. Martha says she first heard about the pantry on Facebook and has visited a few times since.

She has a degree in geology from UT-Permian Basin and had planned to have a career. But the high cost of childcare outweighs her earning potential, at least until Adian is old enough to start school. So Martha cares for him full-time while her husband, Eloy, works in the oil fields.

Martha says she and Eloy can pay their bills with his income alone, but little is left for food and additional necessities. He also lost out on work during the pandemic, and Martha says they're still trying to catch up financially.

That's why she is so grateful she found out about the Mobile Food Pantry. Martha enjoys cooking for her family and really loves the pasta and fruit she often finds on her visits.



Martha and her son Adian share smiles while picking up food at the West Texas Mobile Food Pantry in Odessa.

"We really appreciate it," she says, with gratitude for generous supporters like you.

We echo Martha's thanks to you for joining neighbors all over West Texas to put nutritious food on every table. You are truly sharing hope this holiday season!

## Kids Farmers Market



This past September at the Midland Innovative Gardens, we hosted the Kid's Farmers Market. This bi-annual event is one of our favorite

events at the West Texas Food Bank, and children from around our area joined us to fill their very own bags full of fresh fruits and vegetables.

Children also learned about the importance of eating healthy and staying active. There were games, arts and craft activities, and learning booths all focused on produce. Organizations like the Beekeepers, Texas Master Gardeners, Midland County Environmental Enforcement, and others

were available to teach children about their community and environment. There was even an area filled with foam where kids could run and play in the mounds of bubbles.

We are so excited and grateful to H-E-B for sponsoring this amazing event in the community. If you missed the September Kid's Farmers Event in Midland, be on the lookout for the upcoming one in June 2024 in Odessa!