



wtxfoodbank.org

COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding **More** Than *Hunger.*

Summer 2024



**THANK YOU FOR TAKING
HUNGER OFF THE TABLE
THIS SUMMER!**





LIBBY STEPHENS
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

The summer days ahead could be hungry days for families and individuals throughout the 19 counties served by the West Texas Food Bank.

Parents in the cities and towns we reach are already having a hard time affording the nutritious food their growing children need. And once free and reduced-price meals are no longer available during summer break, the challenges will be even greater.

And it's not only families of school-aged children who are facing hunger. Older adults trying to make ends meet on a limited income, neighbors who are looking for work . . . and plenty of folks who work full-time but don't bring in enough to buy groceries and pay bills.

We all know the challenges of the last few years. And now, while grocery costs remain high, our food pantries and mobile food distributions are filling in the gaps in many of our neighbors' grocery budgets.

Your partnership is deeply appreciated, equipping our 100+ partners to provide fresh fruit and vegetables, pantry staples and other wholesome foods that make the difference between an empty plate or dinner on the table.

On behalf of the children, families, and seniors who are getting much-needed help, thank you for your compassion and generosity. I am truly thankful to count you as a partner in everything the Food Bank does each day.

All my best,

Libby Stephens
Chief Executive Officer

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A GRANDMOTHER'S WORDS OF THANKS

Christina's grandchildren fill her with joy. The four range in age from 14 to just 4 years old. She has been their primary caregiver since she lost her daughter in a car accident.

An active family, they enjoy going to the park, camping, hiking, and spending every moment outdoors – when the weather permits. But putting enough healthy food on the table for four growing children is a challenge for Christina who is disabled and has to make ends meet on a limited fixed income.

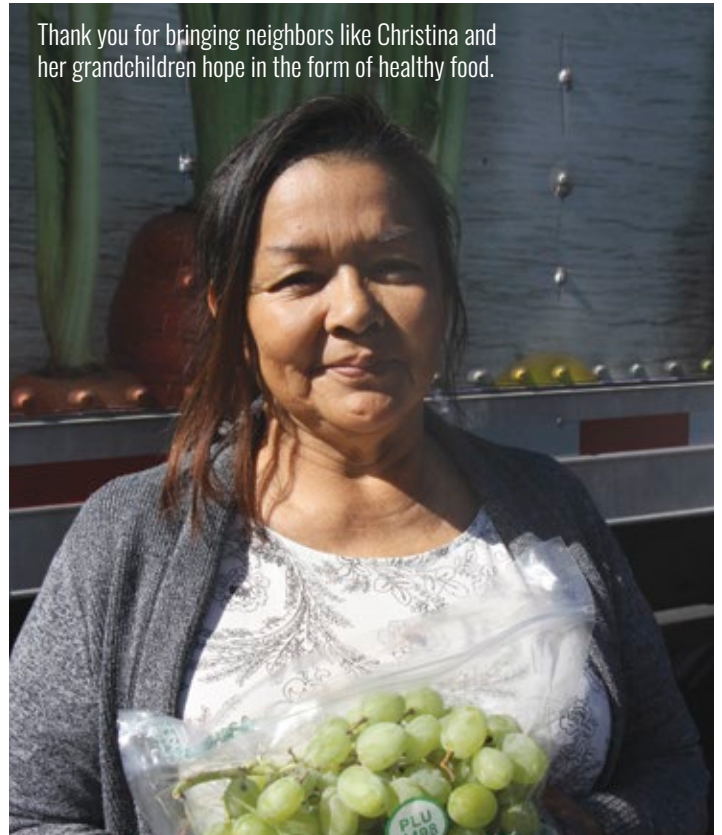
During the school year, she knows the children will receive good, nutritious meals at school, and the two youngest receive West Texas Food Bank Food 2 Kids bags that they take home on the weekends. But during summer break, Christina's limited budget can only stretch so far.

Our local food pantry partner, Hope for the Homeless, helps fill the gap for this family and makes it possible for Christina to make the chicken, enchiladas, tacos, beans, and rice that are the children's favorites.

On behalf of families who are facing many difficulties but are receiving the help they need now, Christina thanks

you. "I am very grateful," she says. "If it was not for you, I would not be able to put food on the table."

Thank you for bringing neighbors like Christina and her grandchildren hope in the form of healthy food.



UTPB FOOTBALL TEAM UNITE TO HELP NEIGHBORS FACING HUNGER



Student-athletes from UTPB football team up every Monday to sort, pack, or tackle any task at hand.

Every Monday, rain or shine, the University of Texas Permian Basin Football team arrives at the West Texas Food Bank determined to help neighbors who are facing hunger.

Their unwavering commitment to community service transcends their roles as athletes, embodying the essence

of teamwork and selflessness. With sleeves rolled up and hearts open, they dive into the task at hand.

Some days they are boxing pantry essentials, other days they are assembling nutritious senior boxes. And sometimes they sort meticulously through donations to ensure no resource goes to waste.

The team knows what it means to work hard so they naturally lighten the workload for Food Bank staff, but they also bring a sense of camaraderie and purpose to every task they tackle.

Heartfelt thanks to UTPB student athletes' dedication to service through volunteer work and the joy they share with staff and other volunteers at the West Texas Food Bank.

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The Odessa Mobile food distribution is a big help for Veronica and her children.



VERONICA'S FAMILY THANKS YOU!

Veronica first learned about the Odessa Mobile food distribution on Facebook and knew it would be a huge help for her and her children.

She is very proud of her two young adult daughters, Diana and Cynthia, and her teenage son Edwin. She says it's a blessing that her daughters live at home because complications from diabetes make it impossible for her to work and difficult to get to her medical appointments.

Finances are a challenge these days, too. Prices remain high and Veronica's disability benefits don't last long. But her loving family stands together to take care of one another.

Her oldest daughter, Diana, works full-time. Her middle child, Cynthia attends Odessa College and works in the Bilingual Office on campus. Edwin is a senior in high school and plays in the band.

Veronica loves to cook for her family and says the fruit, vegetables, protein, and other food they receive at the mobile food distribution lasts the family about three weeks.

"We appreciate what we receive and use it all," Veronica says. "It would be hard to make it through the month without this food distribution."

Veronica has heartfelt words of thanks for her neighbors who support the West Texas Food Bank. "God Bless...it helps us all."

11th Annual Walmart and Sam's Club Fight Hunger. Spark Change.

Our friends at Walmart and Sam's Club held their annual campaign **Fight Hunger. Spark Change** to help end food insecurity and provide nourishment to families and individuals across the country from April 1 - April 29, 2024.

Each year, the retailers unite their local customers, members, and suppliers to help end hunger in West Texas. In addition to food donations, Walmart supports the West Texas Food Bank through its Volunteerism Always Pays (VAP) program.

For each volunteer hour served, Walmart makes a monetary donation to the Food Bank. **Thank you, Walmart and Sam's Club!**

