



wtxfoodbank.org

COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding More Than *Hunger.*

Fall 2024



**YOU FUEL FOOD
AND HOPE!**





LIBBY STEPHENS
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

I sincerely thank you for your commitment to ending hunger here in West Texas. Your compassion and generosity are making a difference for families with growing children, seniors whose limited incomes are unable to keep pace with the high cost of groceries, and any neighbor who is having a hard time affording enough food right now.

This Fall Issue of Community Dish shares stories of West Texans who received needed help thanks to friends like you, including Erika and her two children, and college student Jashon.

You'll also see an announcement for the grand opening of our Odessa Expansion. This facility is critical to our strategic planning to ensure urgent needs are met within our communities while building a foundation for the future where hunger is a thing of the past.

I hope you are inspired to see your impact . . . and moved to give again today because needs remain high and far too many of our neighbors are unable to put food on the table.

Thank you again for your past support and for standing with us throughout the fall days ahead. Together we can deliver healthy food into communities where families and individuals are living with the anxiety of food insecurity.

All my best,

Libby Stephens,
Chief Executive Officer

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A RESOURCE FOR UTPB STUDENTS FACING HUNGER

Jashon has a lot on his plate these days. His goal of graduating from the University of Texas Permian Basin (UTPB) with a degree in Marketing is within reach.

But his father is unwell which weighs heavily on Jashon who is a seven-hour drive away from home.

“I’ve been having a hard semester because my dad has been battling through cancer,” he says. “So, I don’t really have that extra support that I used to.”

Trying to find a balance between work and scholarships so he can do well in his studies sometimes leaves Jashon with little money left for groceries. Thankfully a resource exists for students who are experiencing food insecurity and it’s right there on the UTPB campus...

The UTPB Student Pantry provides groceries and snacks for Jashon during lean times and the food lasts him up to three weeks. “College is hard, so it is nice to have that extra support with food insecurity.”

Thank you for your partnership with the West Texas Food Bank that stocks the shelves of pantries like the UTPB Student Pantry, reaching youth like Jashon.

The on-campus food pantry is a wonderful resource for UTPB students like Jashon..



WTFB GRAND OPENING OF THE ODESSA EXPANSION

The West Texas Food Bank recently marked an important milestone in its mission to fight hunger in our communities with the grand opening of the Odessa Expansion.

Over 250 community members gathered to celebrate the occasion. Special guest speaker Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America, gave an impassioned address highlighting the importance of community-driven initiatives like the West Texas Food Bank to ensure that no

one goes hungry. Attendees were also treated to a special video message from Senator John Cornyn, acknowledging the vital role of the Food Bank in West Texas.

This important expansion includes additional warehouse space and a volunteer center, a dedicated place for people to contribute their time and efforts towards sorting, packing, and distributing food for our West Texas neighbors.

In addition to the warehouse and volunteer center, the Odessa Food Bank campus now has extended green space that features a butterfly and bee pollinator garden. This innovative space enhances the Food Bank but also serves a practical purpose in promoting educational opportunities for the community to learn more about where food comes from.

With this expansion, and with support from caring friends and donors, the Food Bank is better equipped to meet the evolving needs of the community.



The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the grand opening of the Odessa Expansion of the Food Bank drew a huge crowd.

BRIDGING THE HUNGER GAP FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Erika delights in her children's accomplishments. Her 14-year-old son, Alejandro, is a budding artist who is passionate about honing his painting skills. Her daughter, Lucia, is just 6 but is already excelling in reading and writing.

The joy her children bring her is a source of encouragement as the family navigates a difficult season. A nurse by profession, Erika is unable to work due to health challenges that include arthritis and fibromyalgia.

"It's painful, when you've got kids and you don't have any help," Erika says. "You've just got to make it work."

The financial strain has made it a challenge to put food on the table. But thanks to our Food 2 Kids program, Erika's children have access to essential kid-friendly meals and snacks — including mac and cheese, their favorite.

Erika is thankful for the donors and volunteers who make the Food 2 Kids program possible through mobile outreaches like the one at Crockett Middle School.

"I appreciate the help," she says. "And not just me, I know there are people in worse conditions than I am."



The Crockett Middle School Mobile food distribution is an important resource for Erika and her children.

Shout Out to ChampionX!



Employees at ChampionX recently demonstrated their commitment to building a better community by volunteering at the West Texas Food Bank. The team spent time at the Midland Food Bank Campus packing food boxes for our drive-thru pantry.

But the volunteers were so eager to help again, that they joined forces at the Casa de Amigos mobile distribution and passed out boxes to 250 families.

Ana Maria Salas, Talent Development Manager says, "At ChampionX, our unified purpose is **Improving Lives** for our employees, customers, shareholders, and communities through our commitment to safely deliver globally sustainable operations. Living our purpose is a key aspect of our culture and takes many

forms around the world. As we grow and thrive as a company, we want the communities in which we live and operate to also grow and thrive. Our employee volunteer efforts create opportunities for individuals and teams to contribute their time, talents and resources to improve life in the communities we call home."

Thank you to ChampionX and everyone who volunteers to ensure the West Texas Food Bank can continue to help families, seniors, and anyone who is facing hunger.