



wtxfoodbank.org

COMMUNITY DISH

Feeding More Than *Hunger.*

SPRING 2025



**YOU SUPPORT
WEST TEXAS
SENIORS!**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY STEPHENS
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Thank you. Your support over the holiday season helped us begin 2025 more readily prepared to provide our West Texas neighbors with ongoing access to nutritious food.

And while a new year brings so much possibility, it also brings new challenges. As we navigate 2025, I am grateful to have amazing friends like you by our side.

Right now, we all feel the strain on our budgets as the cost of living remains high and we face growing uncertainty in the oil industry throughout our region.

But for folks living on fixed incomes, it can be especially difficult to make ends meet right now. Thankfully, your support helps provide nutritious food and hope for West Texas seniors — and neighbors of all ages.

You help ensure that no one has to choose between filling a new prescription, paying rent, or buying groceries.

In this issue of *Community Dish*, I hope you're inspired by some of the amazing neighbors who worked hard to make West Texas what it is today. Billy (page 4) is just one example of a West Texas senior who can access the nutritious food needed to fuel his retirement thanks to you.

Together, we are creating a West Texas without hunger. I look forward to partnering with you in 2025!

All my best,

Libby Stephens
Chief Executive Officer

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

President

Krysta Hadlock, Frost Bank

Vice President

Adam Munoz, ProPetro

Secretary

DaLacy Sleeper, Frost Bank

Treasurer

Jefferson Cox, Southwest Commercial Capital

Chief Executive Officer:

Libby Stephens, West Texas Food Bank

Past President

Amanda Day, ConocoPhillips

Members-At-Large

Jessicka Gonzales, H-E-B

RJ Lopez, Parkhill

DIRECTORS:

Ashley Akin, Chevron

Mariann Bagley, Sunset Well Service

Dr. Justin Brown, Permian Basin Foot & Ankle

Karmen Bryant, Community Advocate

Chloe Buckley, Community Advocate

Ahmed Casey, Priority Care Emergency

Maritza Foss, Valence Chemical

Trey Fournier, 1PointFive

Lauren Kulbeth, Fathom Realty

Stephanie Mead, Community Advocate

Kris Phillips, United Markets

Thaimar Ramirez, Oxy

Melanie Saiz, UTPB

Evan Thomas, Midland Chamber of Commerce

Melissa Wicker, Primewest Mortgage

YOU GIVE HOPE TO WEST TEXANS

Susie, 78, and Joe, 76, are high school sweethearts who recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary. Just as the couple has remained devoted to each other, they've also remained dedicated to hard work and contribution to their community.

We recently met Susie and Joe at the Jesus House, a Food Bank partner agency in Odessa where the two often enjoy a hot, homemade lunch.

"I come here because the people are so nice," Susie says. "They are so friendly, and that is what I believe in."

After 30 years of dedication to her job in women's health care, Susie retired. Joe continues his career in the mining industry.

Still, the ongoing high cost of living makes it difficult for many neighbors to afford healthy groceries right now. Thanks to partners like you, Susie and Joe enjoy a wide variety of warm meals at the Jesus House.

"I see all the positive in here and that is why I keep coming," Susie says.

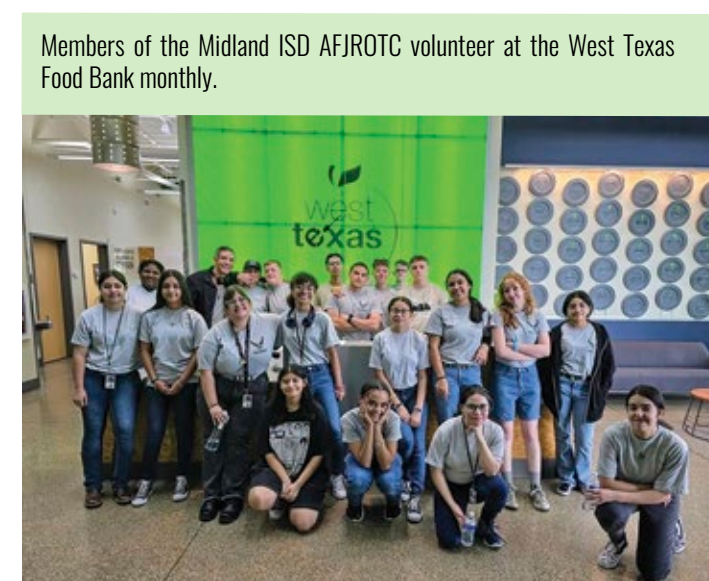
Thank you for giving our neighbors hope by filling empty plates with nutritious meals.



Susie and Joe share a sample of the groceries they take home from the Jesus House, a Food Bank partner agency.

CADETS INVESTING IN WEST TEXAS

Once a month, more than 20 students from the Midland ISD AFJROTC visit the West Texas Food Bank to help assemble *Food2Kids* weekend bags of food.



Members of the Midland ISD AFJROTC volunteer at the West Texas Food Bank monthly.

"Getting cadets involved in the community enables them to help those who need it most," shares Jeff Deynser, a JROTC Instructor. "It also reinforces our core value of service before self."

At the Food Bank, the cadets work together to sort and pack the *Food2Kids* bags, ensuring each bag is filled with easy-to-eat snacks for kids like cereal, fruit and more.

The bags of food help fill the gap that occurs when children are unable to access school meals over the weekends and holiday breaks from school.

Midland ISD AFJROTC students are not only able to learn valuable life skills during their time at the Food Bank, but also invest in a stronger future for us all.

We are so grateful for each and every one of our volunteers who help create a healthier West Texas. Thank you, AFJROTC students!

YOU PUT HEALTHY FOOD ON BILLY'S TABLE

Billy devoted nearly 50 years to making this community a better place to call home. Today, he's 83 years young and thankful that your support makes his life better, too.

Nine years ago, Billy's wife, Austine, passed away and he has lived alone ever since. Thankfully, Billy's adult children live nearby and often stop to check on him. But like many older adults, Billy relies on a fixed income to pay for groceries.

That's why Billy is grateful he can visit the food pantry at Catholic Charities, a Food Bank partner agency. He says he visits twice a month to help lower his grocery bill. He especially appreciates items like cereal, sandwich supplies, and fresh oranges and apples.

When asked what Billy would like to share with friends like you who make it possible for him and so many neighbors to pick up healthy food, he encourages, "Don't change what you are doing. Everything is going well."

Your support means that Billy can access the healthy food needed to fuel his days.



Your support means Billy can access nutritious food at Catholic Charities, a West Texas Food Bank partner agency.

Grateful for the assistance from friends like you, Billy hopes more older West Texans will benefit as well.

"I want to get more of the senior citizens involved," says Billy.

You make a vital difference for our West Texas neighbors of all ages — thank you!



The Mobile Comunidad is making a significant impact in Jeff Davis County, by bringing essential services directly to residents in remote West Texas towns.

The program partners with local organizations — including the West Texas Food Bank — to ensure that individuals and families have access to help.

"Mobile Comunidad is grateful for

The Mobile Comunidad Brings Hope and Help

the partnership with the Food Bank as we continue [our] programs, and as we expand our services to senior citizens," says Mobile Comunidad Co-Founder and Acting Executive Director Jeanine Bishop.

"We will be providing meals, both home-delivered and on-site, [as well as] resources for health, financial security, and assistance with benefit programs."

This program operates through a mobile unit that travels throughout Jeff Davis County, offering a variety of resources.

The Mobile Comunidad van provides vital services such as satellite internet, food distribution, educational workshops and social services — which is especially impactful since access to these resources can be limited in rural areas.

The program is a lifeline for many neighbors, offering solutions in rural communities. By bringing services to their doorsteps, the Mobile Comunidad is helping to strengthen the health and well-being of Jeff Davis County residents — one visit at a time.