



wtxfoodbank.org

COMMUNITYDISH

Feeding **More** Than *Hunger*.

Fall 2025

**YOUR
GENEROSITY
IS A LIFELINE!**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



LIBBY STEPHENS
Chief Executive Officer

DEAR FRIEND,

Thank you.

I don't think I can say that enough. Your commitment to creating a West Texas without hunger is unparalleled. Partners like you mean that we are steadily moving closer to ending hunger in West Texas.

This work is especially important right now as kids head back to school. While students will once again have access to free and reduced-price breakfasts and lunches on school days, there is still a gap on nights and weekends.

But thanks to partners like you, the West Texas Food Bank can provide healthy food to kids during breaks from school through our Food 2 Kids programs. And that's only one of the ways your support helps our neighbors.

I hope you're encouraged to read about your impact in this Fall Issue of *Community Dish*. Your help provides a lifeline for so many West Texans, just like Miriam, page 4, who now has the nourishing food to fuel her family's health and her kids' education.

If seeing your generosity in action inspires you, I hope you will consider giving again today — especially since many community members are currently having a difficult time keeping enough healthy food on the table.

I am so grateful for your partnership — thank you again!

All my best,

Libby Stephens,
Chief Executive Officer

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THANK YOU FOR HELPING FAMILIES IN TRANSITION

Your support provides healthy groceries for Ian and Kristi as the couple begins a new chapter.



While Ian and Kristi look for new jobs, they are grateful to be able to visit Jesus House, a West Texas Food

Bank Partner Agency to help supplement their ability to buy groceries.

The healthy food they receive not only fuels their transition as they search for work but also supports the growth and development of their two sons — Robert, 8, and Richard, 13.

“I’ve worked at convenience stores, motels, front desk, housekeeping — whatever puts food on the table,” Ian shares his willingness to work hard.

Ian and Kristi both say they look forward to giving back once the family is able to fully settle.

“When we get back on track, we want to help others too,” Ian says.

Because you give, so many West Texas families just like Ian, Kristi and their boys, can access the healthy food needed to thrive, which means a healthier, happier West Texas for us all.

“Thank you for being here,” Kristi says to donors like you. “Every little bit helps when you’re trying to rebuild your life.”

MARIANN BAGLEY SERVES HER COMMUNITY



Mariann Bagley is passionate about serving her neighbors. Her commitment as a West Texas Food Bank board member and president of Sunset Well Service, INC are only a couple of the many ways she puts her passion into action.

“It’s quite an honor to be on the [Food Bank] board,” Mariann shares. “It’s one of the most fulfilling positions. It makes me proud to be a member.”

Mariann considers it a privilege to support her neighbors through her work with the Food Bank. In fact, she’s been involved with the Food Bank’s work for over 15 years in one capacity or another. She even recalls the early days when the Food Bank was housed at the small warehouse on 2nd Street in Odessa.

“To see [how the Food Bank has] grown now is just a blessing,” Mariann says.

For Mariann, it’s fulfilling to watch the healthy food arrive, see the shelves stocked, boxes filled and then distributed to Partner Agencies and neighbors facing hunger.

Mariann is a devoted leader whose tireless dedication continues to strengthen the Food Bank. Through her time, generosity and unwavering commitment, she helps nourish not only bodies, but the heart of our community.

Thank you to Mariann and all our volunteers who dedicate time and energy to our mission! Together, we are working to end hunger in West Texas.

Feeding **More Than** *Hunger*.



Thanks to friends like you, Miriam can visit the West Texas Food Bank's Odessa Mobile Pantry to pick up nourishing food for her family.

MIRIAM IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Miriam enjoys creating healthy, homemade meals for her husband, three kids ages 14, 6 and 6 months, and her parents who live with them. Thanks to partners like you, she has all the nutritious ingredients she needs to ensure her family has a well-balanced diet.

In addition to fueling her growing children, Miriam prioritizes making meals with healthy proteins and fresh vegetables to help support her father's health as he battles colon cancer.

But the most nutritious groceries are often the most expensive. Miriam's husband works hard to support the family, but his income hasn't kept pace with the high cost of living.

Thankfully, Miriam and her mom, Norma, can visit the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry in Odessa to pick up groceries for the whole family. The food fuels the family's health and helps Miriam's school-aged children meet their potential in the classroom.

"The times I have come here, they treat us with a lot of respect and humility," Miriam shares. "You can see their passion to be here. It makes us feel happy."

Miriam also shares a deep appreciation for partners like you who make it possible for her to pick up food for her family.

"Thank you to everyone who helps us — thank you so much," she says.

**This interview was translated from Spanish to English*

Kids Farmers Market at the West Texas Food Bank



The West Texas Food Bank recently hosted its beloved Kids Farmers Market — a vibrant community event dedicated to teaching children the value of fresh fruits and vegetables. Held on the food bank

grounds, the market transforms into a hub of laughter, learning and discovery.

At the heart of the event is a mission to educate kids on where food comes from, how it's grown and why eating fresh produce is essential for a healthy life. With hands-on displays in the Food Bank gardens, kids get to

touch, smell and even sample fruits and vegetables while asking questions about farming and nutrition.

But this isn't just an educational day — it's a celebration.

Families enjoy a variety of fun activities, from a foam pit where kids leap and play to colorful arts and crafts stations that inspire creativity. Classic lawn games keep the energy high and spirits even higher.

The Kids Farmers Market brings the community together around a shared goal — helping children build healthy habits early. By combining fun with food education, the West Texas Food Bank creates lasting memories and a brighter, healthier future for the next generation.