

# COMMUNITY DISH

SPRING 2026



**YOU NOURISH WEST TEXAS SENIORS!**



MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING AMERICA**



## A MESSAGE FROM LIBBY

Dear Friend,

As spring begins to slowly inch closer in West Texas, I am reminded of the renewal and hope you help make possible here in the Permian Basin.

The collaborative generosity of this community helped ensure our neighbors could begin 2026 with ongoing and vital access to nutritious food.

A new year brings opportunity — but also fresh challenges. Many West Texans continue to feel the strain of rising costs, and our neighbors living on fixed incomes are especially vulnerable.

Inflation has increased prices for rent, utilities, groceries and other necessities — leaving almost no one unaffected. At the same time, uncertainty in the oil industry continues to create unease for many hard-working West Texans.

Your generous support helps us continue to provide nutritious meals — and hope — to children, families and seniors throughout West Texas. Together, we are working to ensure that no one has to choose between paying rent, filling prescriptions or buying groceries.

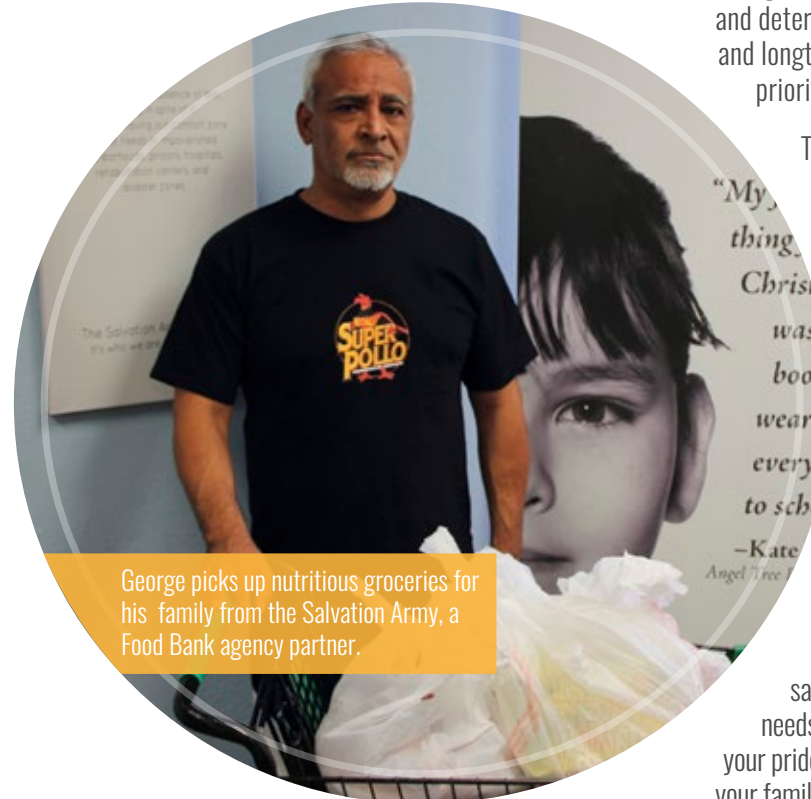
In this issue of *Community Dish*, I hope you're inspired by neighbors like Patricia (page 4), who can access nutritious food while managing her medical care and daily life. Her story is a testament to what is possible through our collective efforts.

Thank you for stepping up to help build a West Texas without hunger. I look forward to continuing this important work with you throughout 2026.

All my best,

Libby Stephens  
Chief Executive Officer

## GEORGE FINDS STABILITY IN TIMES OF CHANGE



George picks up nutritious groceries for his family from the Salvation Army, a Food Bank agency partner.

George, 55, is well-versed in hard work and determination. A U.S. Army veteran and longtime oil field professional, his top priority is providing for his loved ones.

These days, George is navigating a period of change, focusing on finding stability and keeping his family supported.

Though he describes himself as “very prideful” and initially hesitant to ask for help, George is grateful for the support that allows him to keep moving forward.

“Hard times make you come to a place like this to get help,” he says. “Sometimes a person just needs to reach out for help. Swallow your pride and do what you have to do for your family.”

With the oil field slowdown causing inconsistent work, George is actively seeking new work opportunities, with support from organizations like Prosperity that assist with resumes and interviews.

*“I come here because the people are so nice.”*  
— George

Even amid uncertainty, he remains committed to his family — his wife, Virginia, and their three adult children, who all live nearby — and to staying positive through life’s ups and downs.

Your generosity doesn’t just help fill plates — it gives neighbors hope and strengthens determination to keep moving forward.

## BRINGING NOURISHMENT AND CONNECTION TO SENIORS

Every day, staff and volunteers of Senior Life Midland deliver more than 500 hot, fresh meals to seniors in Midland County through their Meals on Wheels program.

But the work of Senior Life Midland goes beyond food — providing connection, safety checks and compassionate support to help older West Texans continue to live independently.

“Our mission is to address challenges related to aging and develop efficient, flexible and compassionate ways to meet the needs of our community,” says Tracy, a Senior Life Midland team member.

“Not only is it that fresh meal we deliver, but it’s also that friendly connection we make,” she adds.

Volunteers and staff start early each morning, preparing, packing and delivering meals, utilizing food provided by the West Texas Food Bank.

Senior Life Midland also offers pantry support, weekend meal programs and help with home repairs, mobility aids and utility needs.

“Our volunteers are like family,” Tracy shares. “That feeling of being special and loved? Those things can’t be discounted. Human connection cannot be replaced.”

Kathleen, who has been with Senior Life Midland for 11 years, adds, “Meals on Wheels isn’t just life-changing, it’s lifesaving.”

Thanks to the dedication of staff, volunteers and supporters like you, seniors in Midland receive more than meals — they receive care with dignity, and the reassurance that they are not alone.



## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- PRESIDENT**  
Adam Munoz, ProPetro
- VICE PRESIDENT**  
DaLacy Sleeper, Frost Bank
- SECRETARY**  
Jessicka Gonzales, H-E-B
- TREASURER**  
Jefferson Cox, Southwest Commercial Capital
- CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**  
Libby Stephens, West Texas Food Bank

- PAST PRESIDENT**  
Krysta Hadlock, Frost Bank
- MEMBERS-AT-LARGE**  
RJ Lopez, Parkhill  
Thaimar Ramirez, Oxy

- DIRECTORS**  
Ashley Akin, Chevron  
Mariann Bagley, Sunset Well Service  
Melissa Boland, Community Advocate  
Karmen Bryant, Community Advocate  
Natalie Cargile, The Connect Network

- Trey Fournier, 1PointFive  
Amanda Matamoros, Ovintiv  
Stephanie Mead, Community Advocate  
Kris Phillips, United Markets  
Melanie Saiz, Midland College  
Evan Thomas, Midland Chamber of Commerce  
Melissa Wicker, Primewest Mortgage

# HEALTH AND HOPE FOR PATRICIA

Patricia, 55, is a fighter. Determined to maintain her independence and best quality of life, she manages her household, medical care and daily routines with the support of her mother, Helen.

Despite living with a permanent, painful disability from a 2010 car accident, Patricia's perseverance and resilience guide every step of her day, from navigating doctor appointments to staying engaged with her community.

*“You don't realize how much a bag of groceries can mean until you're the one who needs it.”*

— Patricia

And with Social Security Disability as her only income, Patricia is left to balance the cost of medical expenses, transportation for frequent doctor visits and basic necessities.

But rising grocery prices and medical co-pays are making it increasingly difficult to keep up, which is why Patricia is grateful she discovered Catholic Charities of Odessa, a Food Bank agency partner.

“They treated me with dignity and kindness when I felt at my lowest,” Patricia says. “That kind of compassion gives you hope again. You don't realize how much a bag of groceries can mean until you're the one who needs it.”



The groceries Patricia receives at Catholic Charities of Odessa help her maintain her independence and best health possible.

Patricia now visits Catholic Charities about twice a month, benefiting from a process that is organized, thoughtful and accessible even with her mobility limitations.

The groceries Patricia receives allow her to redirect funds toward medications and travel for medical care, easing both physical and financial strain for herself and her mother.

Because of the caring support of this community, Patricia can access the nutritious food she needs to stay healthy and maintain her independence. Your generosity helps West Texans face each day with continued resilience, dignity and hope.



## 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL EARTH DAY EVENT ON APRIL 18

The West Texas Food Bank will celebrate its 9th Annual Earth Day Event on April 18 at its Midland location, marking both a longtime community tradition and the beginning of an exciting new partnership with the Sibley Center. The annual event brings together local organizations, families and

community members to learn about practical ways to reduce waste and make the most of available resources.

Community groups will host interactive booths and conversations focused on Earth Day-related topics, including recycling, reusing

materials, sustainable gardening, conservation and everyday practices that support long-term community well-being.

“This event is about bringing people together and sharing common-sense ideas that help families stretch resources, reduce waste and build stronger communities,” said Brent Oden, Program Director at the West Texas Food Bank.

The Earth Day Event continues to serve as a space for connection, learning and partnership—reinforcing the West Texas Food Bank's mission to support families today while planning for tomorrow.

Connect with us online:



[wtxfoodbank.org](http://wtxfoodbank.org)



**Odessa:**  
411 S. Pagewood Ave.  
Odessa, TX 79761  
P 432.580.6333  
F 432.580.0807

**Midland:**  
1601 Westcliff Dr.  
Midland, TX 79703  
P 432.697.4003  
F 432.697.4002

