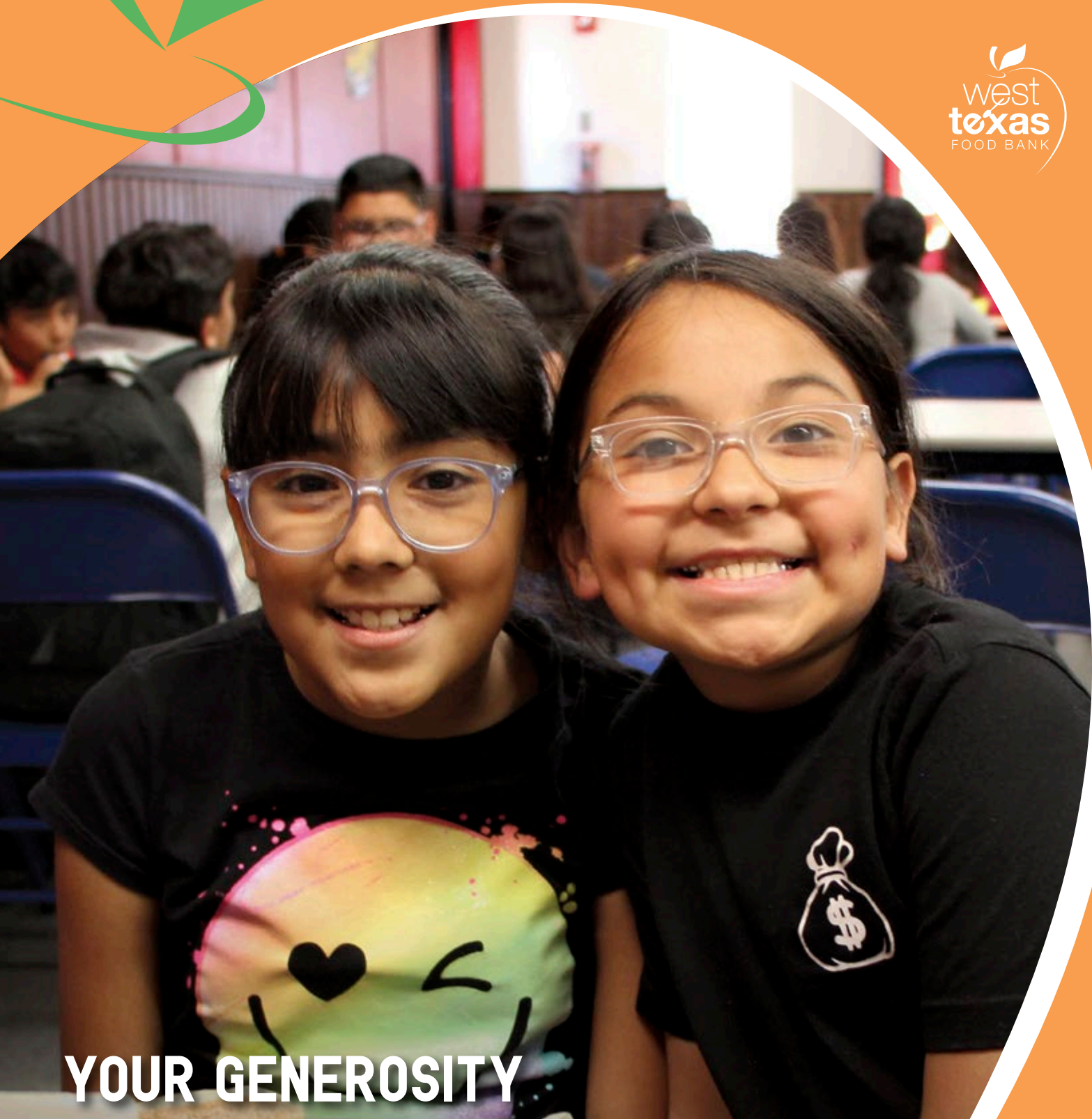


# COMMUNITY DISH

SUMMER 2026



**YOUR GENEROSITY  
FUELS THE FUTURE  
OF WEST TEXAS!**

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



# A MESSAGE FROM LIBBY

Dear Friend,

I am so grateful for your generosity that helps keep nutritious food within reach of every neighbor. And now, as we approach the summer months, your partnership means we can work to close the summer meal gap for West Texas kids.

**Children are our future, and we must ensure they have access to the nourishing food that helps lay the foundation for lifelong well-being...**

As the cost of living remains high, healthy food is both hard to access and hard to afford. And during the summer, kids lose access to free and reduced-price school meals. Families will have to cover up to 10 additional meals per week per child. The added strain can cause food insecurity for the entire family.

Summer also brings high utility bills that disproportionately impact older adults and anyone

else with a fixed income. Expenses increase but not income.

That's why your partnership is so essential. Together, we stock the shelves of our 100+ Partner Agencies, ensuring our neighbors across 19 counties can access the healthy food needed to thrive.

In this edition of *Community Dish*, I hope you are inspired to see how your generosity provides a lifeline for families like Kat's (page 3).

Thank you for helping bring us one step closer to creating a West Texas without hunger. We deeply value your partnership!

All my best,

Libby Stephens  
Chief Executive Officer

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## NOURISHING MEALS FOR KAT'S GROWING BOYS



Kat visits a West Texas Food Bank mobile pantry at First Baptist Church Monahans to pick up nutritious groceries for her four sons.

Kat has created a home that encourages her four boys — Dayton, 10, Noah, 7, Vincent, 3, and Bassy, 1 — to use their imaginations. In their free time, Kat and her sons spend time drawing, crafting and writing together.

When they grow up, Dayton dreams of being an architect and Noah hopes to be a writer. To fuel her sons' aspirations, Kat cooks nourishing, well-balanced meals.

For the ingredients, Kat visits a West Texas Food Bank mobile pantry at First Baptist Church Monahans.

After having a steady income for five years, Kat abruptly lost her job when a change in management occurred.

The mobile pantry has become a lifeline for Kat and her boys while she looks for a new job.

“Without this food, I honestly don’t know what we would do,” shares Kat. “It helps more than people know.”

Having somewhere to turn provides relief during a challenging season. The mobile pantry also helps Kat ensure her sons have not just any food but the *right* food for their growth and development.

*“It helps more than people know.”*

— Kat

“This help keeps parents from feeling like they’re letting their families down,” says Kat.

On behalf of neighbors like Kat, thank you for your support that helps ensure West Texas families have uninterrupted access to nourishing food.

## JACOB'S MISSION TO HELP END HUNGER

At only 22 years old, Jacob embodies the heart behind the West Texas Food Bank, and he does so with pride, love and passion.

For over three years, Jacob has been working with the West Texas Food Bank to end hunger. He first joined us in 2023 when he began his two-year church mission with the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

*“When something happened within the community, we were first in line to help.”*

— Jacob

Jacob chose the Food Bank for his mission partially because he remembers growing up in a low-income household and seeing his

friends experience food insecurity. He understood the food had to come from someone or somewhere.

“It’s cool to know I can do something about it,” shares Jacob.

After his two-year mission ended, Jacob wasn’t ready to leave. He worked as a warehouse associate for a few months and still visits once a month to volunteer with his church. Jacob is proud of how his church community responds when there is a crisis.

“When something happened within the community, we were first in line to help,” Jacob shares.

If you’re considering volunteering, Jacob says, “Definitely do it. When you go, have it with the heart that you are doing something bigger.”



# ALEXIS PUTS HEALTHY FOOD ON THE TABLE

Community resources like the West Texas Food Bank and its Partner Agencies provide a lifeline for families like Alexis's during challenging times.

Alexis was first a volunteer at the Andrews Food Pantry, a Food Bank Partner Agency, before she began to utilize the pantry resources to help ensure her two sons — Noriel, 3, and Henry, 6 – have the healthy food they need to thrive.

*“I am so thankful for the people who give.”*  
— Alexis

Although Alexis's husband is working, the couple is considering other ways to add income, even looking into opening their own business.

Often when Alexis visits the Food Pantry, she has one or both of her sons with her. The boys love tagging along.

“They sometimes even give [my] children snacks such as animal crackers...so they have something to eat when they come visit the pantry,” Alexis shares.



Alexis and her son, Noriel, visit Andrews Food Pantry, a West Texas Food Bank Partner Agency.

She appreciates grocery items like fish, beef, chicken, eggs and vegetables. And her boys like the cereal and bread.

For friends like you, Alexis says, “I am so thankful for the people who give.”

Thank you for your partnership, which helps fill empty plates with nourishing meals for families like Alexis's.

*\*This conversation was translated from Spanish to English*



## ADVOCACY MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON DC

Our recent trip to Washington, DC, for the Feeding America “Fly-In” was a powerful opportunity to advocate for our community. We engaged directly with Congressman

August Pfluger, Senator John Cornyn and Senator Ted Cruz to stress the critical importance of The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the positive impact of USDA bonus buys.

We also took the opportunity to introduce them to our innovative “Navigate Forward” program, explaining how it helps people break

the cycle of poverty through dedicated case management and comprehensive support services. A key highlight was attending the Republican Study Committee (RSC) lunch, where we heard Secretary Millsap speak, providing invaluable context on the current landscape.

Beyond Capitol Hill, we held a productive meeting at the USDA to further our advocacy. During these conversations, we focused on telling our organization's story, illustrating the specific needs of the neighbors we serve, explaining how our programs—including Navigate Forward—address those needs, and clearly articulating what resources and support are required to continue our mission effectively.



**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

**Connect with us online:**



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