

COMMUNITY DISH

FALL 2026



**YOUR PARTNERSHIP
CHANGES LIVES!**

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



A MESSAGE FROM LIBBY

Dear Friend,

This fall, I have so much gratitude for this community. As we prepare to send our West Texas kids back to school, your partnership helps ensure every child can show up to class ready to learn, play and grow.

Because the cost of living keeps climbing, families are having a hard time making ends meet and keeping enough healthy food on the table. Friends like you lend a helping hand, ensuring that West Texans of all ages have the fuel needed to thrive.

One of the ways that you support children is through our *Food 2 Kids* programs. Some of which help ensure kids can access healthy food over weekends and holidays when they are unable to count on school meals.

Please take a moment to meet our neighbors and see your generosity in action through the pages of our Fall Issue of *Community Dish*. Your partnership

makes an impact for families like Angela's on the back cover.

If you feel inspired by the difference we make together, I hope you will consider giving again today — especially since many West Texans are having a hard time stretching budgets thin enough to afford enough healthy food.

Thank you for changing lives across the Permian Basin. I am so grateful for your partnership.

All my best,

Libby Stephens
Chief Executive Officer

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TEENS SET UP FOR SUCCESS



educational programs that cover topics like addictive substances, coping skills, financial literacy and more.

“When teens learn to feed themselves and their families, you can see their confidence grow.”
— Chalace

“The goal is simple — don’t let a mistake at 15 follow someone for the rest of their life,” Chalace shares.

Chalace Phillips, the Executive Director of Midland Teen Court, is dedicated to helping set the next generation up for success.

Midland Teen Court is a nonprofit that focuses on youth diversion, helping steer young people with their first offense away from the formal juvenile justice system and ensuring they have a second chance.

After a court hearing, participants receive consequences like community service hours at local nonprofits. Teens also complete

“[Teen Court] is about giving these teens the tools to succeed in real life,” Chalace explains. “We’ve seen kids come in as defendants and leave on a path toward college, careers and leadership.”

One of the most popular seminars is the West Texas Food Bank’s nutrition and cooking class where teens learn how to prepare simple meals. Many recreate the recipes at home for their families.

“When teens learn to feed themselves and their families, you can see their confidence grow,” Chalace says.

We are so grateful for our community that invests in creating stronger futures for West Texans of all ages.

KRYSTA HADLOCK INVESTS IN HER COMMUNITY

“I’m...someone who genuinely believes this community is worth showing up for every single day,” shares Krysta Hadlock, a member of the West Texas Food Bank Board of Directors for five years and past Board President.

“When the opportunity to serve on the Board came, it was an easy ‘yes,’” Krysta says, noting that her values aligned with the Food Bank’s.

“Once you see the operation up close, you won’t want to stay on the sidelines.”

— Krysta

Krysta is committed to caring for the West Texas community and has spent her entire professional career serving the Permian Basin. She is involved with multiple non-profits in the area.

One of the reasons that Krysta is proud to be involved with the Food Bank is because of how remarkably efficient our programs are.

“The vast majority of every dollar donated goes directly to food,” she shares.

To friends like you, Krysta says, “you don’t have to write a big check to make a difference. Show up. Volunteer. Tell someone about the work... The West Texas Food Bank needs hands and voices as much as it needs dollars.”

Krysta adds, “and I promise you this — once you see the operation up close, you won’t want to stay on the sidelines.”

Thank you, Krysta, and every volunteer who is helping bring us one step closer to a West Texas without hunger.



“LIKE A CUP OF FRESH WATER...”

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

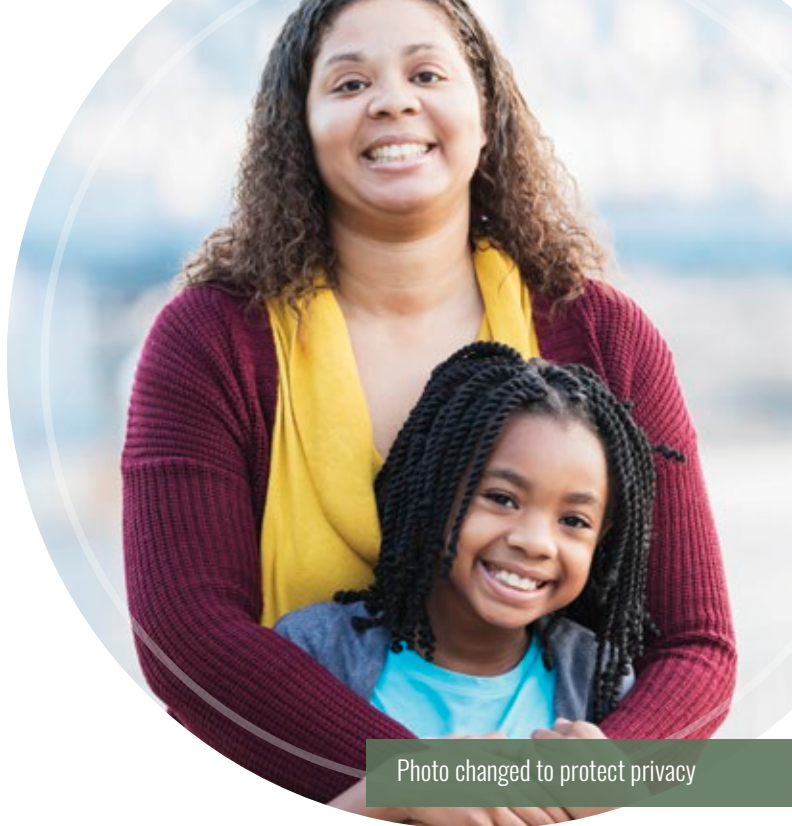
Paul, Angela's husband, works in the oilfields, which means he is often away from home. Angela was a teacher's aide until she had to leave her job to care for her daughter, Arlet, who was born premature and needed extra love and attention.

The loss of Angela's income made it difficult for the couple to provide the healthy food that Angel, 13, Adiel, 8, and Arlet, now 1, need to thrive.

“Coming here is like a cup of fresh water when you are thirsty!”
— Angela

That's when caring neighbors encouraged Angela to visit the West Texas Food Bank mobile pantry in Odessa.

Thanks to partners like you, Angela can pick up healthy ingredients and fresh fruit like the watermelon her children love. The mobile pantry helps ensure her kids have the healthy food needed for their growth and development.



“Coming here is like a cup of fresh water when you are thirsty,” Angela shares with gratitude.

Having access to the mobile pantry helps relieve some of Angela's stress, which is especially important because she lives with fibromyalgia and stress can make her symptoms worse. Angela also notices that when she relaxes, so do her kids.

For donors like you, Angela says “A heartfelt thank you. Whatever you do makes a difference — small to some but for others it is removal of concrete from their shoulders.”



NAVIGATE FORWARD WITH WEST TEXAS FOOD BANK

The West Texas Food Bank is launching a wrap-around program designed to support families with long-term goals, offer referrals and foster stronger connections beyond our food pantry services. Our mission is to help promote self-sufficiency.

1. Initial Consultation, Intake and Assessment: Our team explores what life events led West Texans to our program, reviews key requirements and expectations, sets realistic goals and creates a clear timeline for success.

2. Collaborative Planning Towards Goals: Once at least three realistic goals have been established, our team begins

identifying community programs and agencies to help West Texans achieve these goals.

3. Progress Visits: A first monthly virtual or telephonic check-in allows our team to review progress and reassess goals if needed. The second monthly visit is an in-person check-in, and participants can also shop at our on-site pantry.

4. Follow-Up and Feedback: Our goal is to leave West Texans in a stronger place, financially, mentally and socially by equipping recipients with the tools and confidence to set long-term goals and sustain progress. Before exiting, participants complete a survey to help us continue improving our growing program.



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