



food *for*
thought

Wichita Falls Area Food Bank

Holidays 2021

*You're Building
Community This
Holiday Season*



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Dear Friend

Although our wish for a COVID-free year did not come to fruition, the support of our community in our fight to end hunger never wavered! We continue to see people in need of food that have never used our services before. Last year we distributed 1.2 million pounds more food than the previous year, and we are on track to surpass that amount this year.

At one September distribution that was scheduled to last from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., cars started lining up before 6 a.m. and we served the last car just after 3pm. We served over 422 families and distributed 33,909 pounds of food. Those days are some of the most fulfilling, seeing how grateful someone is to receive food items and produce that you and I often take for granted.

As we go into this holiday season, I reflect on friends who helped us meet the growing need in our community. From individuals just like you, to our local foundations and businesses who make what we do possible I am forever grateful. I am so proud to live in this part of North Texas because you will not find kinder or more generous people anywhere in this world.

At a recent food drive I was touched by so many people that donated. There was the grandmother who brought her two granddaughters, and each gave a handful of change, saying "sorry this is all we have to give." A little girl who handed me a one-dollar bill. Another who donated food because they had previously utilized our services and wanted to pay it forward.

These types of stories are examples of what the holiday season is all about, sharing and taking care of your friends and neighbors. So, as you hopefully spend time with your families this holiday season, please remember the 1 in 6 people in our community who are not as fortunate. Thankfully 5 in 6 of us can help.

I wish all of you a happy, healthy blessed holiday season!

Gratefully,

Kara Nickens
CEO

Judy and Daniel *Thank You*

We met Judy, 77, and Daniel, 81, at the [Food Bank's Mobile Pantry](#) in Electra. Before retiring and moving to Electra, the couple lived in New Mexico where Daniel worked for Texaco and Judy was a math and physics teacher.

Like a lot of us do when our parents are aging, Judy and Daniel moved closer to their parents to help care for them...and they've stayed in Electra ever since. They've had their own ups and downs over the years. Daniel has been cancer-free for eight years, but still has trouble with his heart. Judy recently had major spine surgery.

"I appreciate you so much."

Now that the couple live on a fixed Social Security income and have added health expenses, it's sometimes difficult to afford groceries — especially nutritious items like fresh produce.

Thanks to partners like you, Judy and Daniel can turn to the Mobile Pantry whenever they need to.



Judy and Daniel pause before receiving groceries at the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry in Electra.

"It all helps," Judy says of the food they receive.

Thank you for making sure each and every one of our neighbors has enough nutritious food at this special time of year.

"I appreciate you so much," Daniel says to friends like you.



Dotti Lesieur may be retired from her career in sales, but she says she's moved on to a new career: volunteering.

"There's a need," Dotti says of her motivation to begin volunteering with the Food Bank. "There's a big need."

Dotti Lesieur *Motivated by Need*

Since retirement, Dotti says she's become a "professional volunteer" by spending her time serving at various nonprofits in the community — including the [Food Bank](#) each Wednesday.

"I had two hands and said, 'I'll go do that,'" she says humbly of her choice to give so much of her time.

Each Wednesday, Dotti shows up at the Food Bank ready to help in whatever way is most needed that week. She says she most enjoys the people she works with.

Dotti encourages everyone to consider volunteering with the Food Bank, noting the necessity of the work that gets done.

"You're being a help," she says of volunteering. "You're helping some other people that are in need."

Thank you, Dottie, for setting aside time each week to help your neighbors who are facing hunger. You're an inspiration!

***"There is a need.
There is a big need."***

You Extend *Hope*

Brittney is hopeful for her future after just starting a new job and a new year of college, and she's thanking you for helping her family put food on the table until she gets her first paycheck.

We met up with Brittney, along with her niece, Londyn, 7, and nephew, Kenneth, 9, at a [Food Bank Mobile Pantry](#) near their home. Though the two children don't live with Brittney, they tagged along for an outing with their aunt.

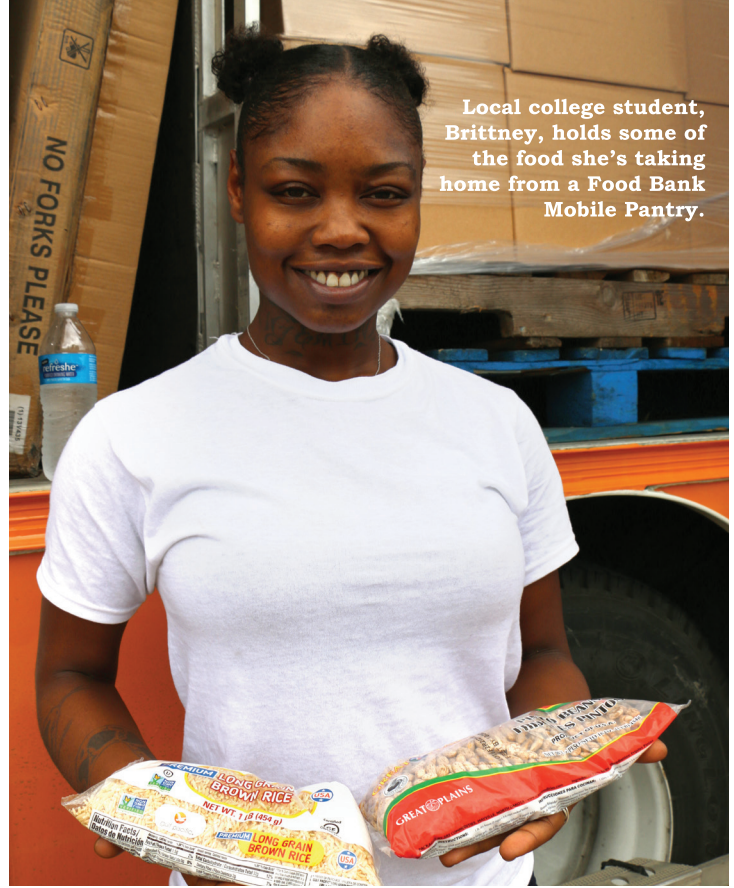
Brittney lives with her mom and says they have especially struggled the last few weeks without enough food to make full meals — in fact they had barely any food at all. Brittney started the job to pay for her college and help her mom, who has major health issues.

The start of a new year of college drained the family's finances, Brittney says, so she was especially grateful to hear about the Mobile Pantry through the computer lab at her school.

Brittney is hopeful that the food she takes home today will last her and her mom until she can get her first paycheck.

"You are appreciated."

Local college student, Brittney, holds some of the food she's taking home from a Food Bank Mobile Pantry.



"You extend hope and extend our faith and life," Brittney says to donors like you who make the Mobile Pantry possible.

She further wanted to express her thanks on behalf of her and her mom "to everyone involved. You are appreciated."

This holiday season, and all year long, your generosity is appreciated so much more than you may ever know. Thank you for your partnership.

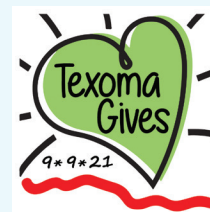
Hunger Action Month Construction Sculpture Exhibit



In 2021 we decided to bring back a community favorite event that has been left behind the last few years. The canned sculpture contest! We sent out special invites to several organizations

and businesses that partner with us to keep our 12 counties fed. All the entries were amazing but even though 6 sculptures entered, only one could win the coveted "people's choice award!" Dexter school received the most votes overall with their interpretation of a Harry Potter Quidditch pitch. We were so happy to see so many folks coming in to vote and to see the final tally of food donated was amazing. Overall, we ended up with a total of 4,476lbs of food for our friends and neighbors in need! Congrats Dexter! We can't wait to hold this event again next year!

Texoma Gives 2021



Year after year the support we receive from the Texoma Gives donation event has increased exponentially. From just over \$13k in 2018 to \$46k in 2020, we didn't think we would see a record-breaking number in 2021, but

we were wrong! You, our amazing donors raised nearly \$65,000 to help fight hunger in our 12-county area. This is truly a testament to how incredibly generous our community can be towards the folks that are struggling. Thank you so much for helping us meet our goal and beyond. Let's see what we can do in 2022!



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