

# AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from Food Bank of West Central Texas



2023 FALL NEWSLETTER

FBWCT.ORG

## SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Hunger Action Month is a month where we stand together, with Feeding America and our nationwide network of member Food Banks, to fight hunger in our own communities. A month to spread the message about the issue of hunger, take action, and dedicate ourselves to providing nutritious food to individuals, families, seniors, and veterans struggling with hunger.



Join us by volunteering and taking selfies of your time at the Food Bank. Use the hashtag #HungerActionMonth on social media and donate on our website at fbwct.org.

Hunger Action Month® |  FEEDING AMERICA





## OUR MISSION

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope.

## OUR VISION

Working together to eliminate hunger in West Central Texas.

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# LET'S GROW!



Our goal is to distribute 5.2 million pounds of food, or 4.3 million meals, by December 31, 2024. This is an increase of 16% over the calendar year 2019 (pre-COVID). To achieve this, we must build our capacity to optimize the ability of the Food Bank, member agencies, communities, and systems to achieve a positive impact on West Central Texans facing hunger. **We need your help!**

With your support, we will construct a 6,000-square-foot addition and reconfigure our current layout to:

- **Serve as a Beacon of Hope:** We must shine a light on the Food Bank. With a modern new facade, exterior lighting, signage, and a welcoming vestibule, we will visibly become the hopeful beacon we've always been but never shone brightly.
- **Operate a Drive-Through Pantry:** We will be more accessible to the community, especially the working poor that may find it easier to visit a pantry after working hours, or for seniors who find it easier to remain in a car when receiving charitable food.
- **Engage the public in our Community Resource Center:** Our new multi-purpose Community Resource Center will serve many areas of our work. This room is YOUR room, and will be made available to the community, should you need a meeting space.

The total Capital Campaign Budget is an estimated \$4M. However, food banks throughout the country administering capital campaigns have seen construction, supply, and labor costs greatly increase from bid to actual cost due to inflation, and supply chain issues, requiring them to raise additional support. We are fortunate to have public financial support from the Texas Department of Agriculture at \$1.5M and are seeking support from other private funders. **You can help. Join us today.**

With gratitude,

Ronnie C. Kidd  
President/CEO



*P.S. Our 40th Anniversary year is coming to a close. In celebration, give food, time, or funds. A \$40 gift can provide 200 meals; a \$200 gift can provide 1000 meals. Thank you!*

# COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: CIVIL AIR PATROL

A Q&A with Master Sergeant  
William Holloway



**Q** What is the Civil Air Patrol?

**A** Civil Air Patrol (CAP) is America's premier public service organization for carrying out emergency services and disaster-relief missions. Its members selflessly devote their time, energy, and expertise toward the well-being of their communities, while also promoting aviation and related fields through aerospace education and helping shape future leaders through CAP's cadet program.

**Q** How did you get involved in helping the Food Bank of West Central Texas?

**A** The Abilene Composite Squadron had been looking for something to do to give back to the community. On Facebook, we saw the Food Bank post about the Callahan County Mobile Pantry and reached out to help. After helping the first time, we sort of made it our own. We started in June 2022 and have helped monthly ever since, providing 2200 family packages since the beginning. We send between 4-10 cadets and staff each month to help over 200 households receive food at a drive-through mobile pantry.



**Q** How does helping the Food Bank also help your mission?

**A** One of CAP's missions is to provide FEMA's Point of Distribution (POD) Training. PODs are centralized locations where the public picks up life-sustaining commodities. With our training and the work of the cadets, the Callahan Mobile Pantry is one of the smoothest operations. Cadets have also learned the importance of safety by ensuring clients getting food remain in their cars, and have built character. Cadets have learned not to pass judgment and provide food and hope to all those they serve.

**Q** Do you have a story to share?

**A** I don't have one story. Every time we help, we learn. Callahan County has a poverty problem. There are a lot of hungry babies. I recognize students that seek the Mobile Pantry's support. There are so many seniors seeking help. The cadets get so much out of it. The smiles and "thank you's"; they are so rewarding.

**Q** Anything else for our readers to know?

**A** We are a nationwide organization, and we need help. Visit [CAP.news](http://CAP.news) or [GoCivilAirPatrol.com](http://GoCivilAirPatrol.com) for more information about how you can get involved.

# WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS

Without the labor of love, time, and effort provided by our volunteers, the Food Bank of West Central Texas could not accomplish its mission. Individual and group opportunities include:

## Warehouse Helpers

You can help us sort, organize, and repackage dry and canned goods for our Food Rescue Program, pack nutritional backpacks for food in our Backpack for Kids program, create senior boxes for our senior pantries, and help us with any warehouse food projects that arise. Volunteer shifts are Monday – Friday, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. and 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Special Event Workers

On some occasions, we need additional help at food drives, food pantries, festivals, shows, fairs, fun runs/walks, and other special events. Please feel free to join our Facebook page for volunteers @ FBWCT Volunteers to stay connected with any up-to-date events and happenings at the Food Bank.

## Senior Pantry Volunteers

Volunteers are needed monthly for our senior pantry. Rose Park senior pantry is held every 1st and 3rd Thursday of every month at 2625 S. 7th St. from 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.



## Specialized Skills

If you have special interests like photography, carpentry, artistry, computers, or other hard-to-find skills, let us know! We can always find a unique way for you to contribute to the Food Bank.

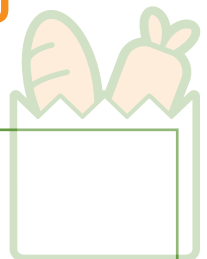
**Contact Jamaica Gonzales at (325) 695-6311 with any questions.**

# ABILENE GAVE BIG!

## — ABILENE — GIVES★

Over \$2.1M was raised on May 3, 2023 during Abilene Gives, a 24-hour day of online giving to raise money for Abilene and the surrounding area, including your very own Food Bank of West Central Texas. We were so grateful to receive \$28,230 from 77 donors. Thank you!

# WE LOVE FOOD DONATIONS



### Most Needed Items:

- ★ Peanut Butter
- ★ Canned Soup
- ★ Canned Fruit
- ★ Canned Vegetables
- ★ Canned Stew
- ★ Canned Fish
- ★ Canned Beans
- ★ Pasta (prefer whole grain)
- ★ Rice (prefer brown rice)
- ★ Other shelf-stable, nonperishable dry, canned food items

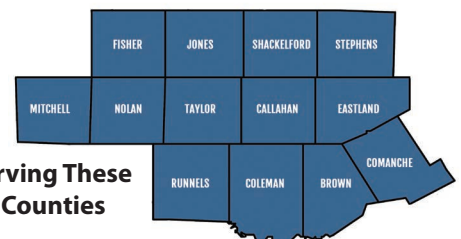
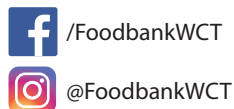
*\*Please do not donate glass jars, perishable or expired foods, leftovers, or baked goods. We cannot accept these items due to food safety issues.*



**Food Bank of West Central Texas**  
5505 N. 1st St.  
Abilene, TX 79603-6426  
(325) 695-6311 • fbwct.org

**Hours**  
Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

### Connect on Social Media



**Serving These 13 Counties**