

# AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from Food Bank of West Central Texas



2024 SPRING NEWSLETTER

FBWCT.ORG



## THANK YOU

Happy New Year! We continue to be amazed and inspired by our West Central Texas community. The generosity and goodwill you've shown has not gone unnoticed. Throughout the Big Country there are people like you who respond to crises with compassion, who raise their hand in moments of need, who show up — often without being asked — whenever they can.

Your kindness will make an enormous difference in the months ahead. Thank you for your commitment and ongoing support in the movement to end hunger. Together, we can fill the new year with hope.





## OUR MISSION

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope.

## OUR VISION

Working together to eliminate hunger in West Central Texas.

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# HAPPY NEW YEAR



Dear Food Bank Friends,

We are so grateful to be starting a new year together with YOU — our friends, donors, volunteers, and partners. We've got a lot to do in 2024, but with YOUR support, our mission of fighting hunger and feeding hope stays vibrant and focused.

Our capital expansion is underway! Thank you to all that have supported it thus far. This 6,000-square-foot addition will better serve our neighbors facing hunger with a Drive-Through Pantry. And our new Community Resource Center will support many areas of our work. This space is YOUR space should you need a place to gather. But give us until 2025, at least ... this is quite the project!

Looking back at 2023, we worked every day to Feed Kids, Feed Seniors, and Feed Communities. **This was only made possible with over 4,000 donors and volunteers. Thank you!**

### Feeding Kids

- 317 kids served annually through the Backpack Program
- 16 partner school sites
- 1,217 Backpacks distributed per month during the school year
- 28,574 snacks were served each month, on average

### Feeding Seniors

- 123,627 pounds distributed at Rose Park Senior Food Pantry, opened in 2021
- 968 senior backpacks distributed in Callahan County

### Feeding Communities

- 4.8 MILLION pounds of food distributed
- 1.7 MILLION pounds of fresh produce and dairy products distributed
- 7,122 families served per month on average through partner agencies and mobile pantries
- 64,978 meals served on average per month through meal sites
- Mobile Pantries in 9 counties serving an average of 1,178 households per month

Your continued kindness will make an enormous difference for our neighbors in the months ahead. Thank you for your commitment and ongoing support in the movement to end hunger. Together, we can fill this new year with hope.

With gratitude,

Ronnie C. Kidd  
President/CEO



*P.S. We'll soon be gearing up for summer, when the kids are out of school and lose access to school meals. Support our efforts in feeding them over the summer. \$1 can provide up to 5 meals.*

# COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY MISSION, COLORADO CITY

A Q&A with Ginger Adams, Director



**Q** Tell me how Community Mission came to be:

**A** About 50 years ago, a group of people formed the Community Mission. It was to help local county residents in time of need with clothing and/or food. The Mission was set up in a building in downtown Colorado City to be centrally located. **You see, a lot of people didn't have a car, and they still don't. They live off Social Security alone. It's not enough income to pay bills and purchase food.** So the Mission has helped fill that void.

**Q** I hear you are doing wonderful produce distributions. Tell me more.

**A** The Food Bank of West Central Texas came over and graciously handed out lots of produce for the whole community!! There were around 400 families that came to accept the kindness. It was a very busy time but rewarding to see all the smiling and grateful people getting help. **They were so thankful to receive watermelon, cantaloupes, potatoes, squash, corn, onions ... you name it! One recipient shared, "I ate every bit of that."**

**Q** Why is produce especially important to those you serve?

**A** The produce provides a lot of health benefits they normally would not be able to get because of the cost. And we only have one grocery store and the costs are high. Many of our neighbors, as I mentioned, don't have cars so we allow someone else to help drive and pick up for them. We also had someone show up on their riding lawnmower. Some are on bikes.

**Q** Personally, why is this effort important to you?

**A** I am a retired administrative clerk from the oil fields. I've been around Community Mission more than 15 years, volunteering in different positions. It's hard work; people don't realize what it takes. But just seeing the smiling and hearing the gratitude is so rewarding to know that I have also done a little to help.  
**Feed the people ... that's my purpose.**

# YOU CAN HELP US SET THE TABLE

## Give Funds



One-time, monthly, donor advised fund gifts, corporate sponsorships, and grants help us end hunger today. **Just \$10 can help provide 50 meals.** Also, please consider a gift to help us tomorrow. A gift in your will to the Food Bank, or naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy, are simple ways to make a long-term impact.



## Give Time



It doesn't take a big commitment to make a big impact. Help the Food Bank of West Central Texas get food in the hands of those who need it most. Individuals and groups welcome.



## Give Food



Food drives are a great way to involve your children, friends, and family in the fight to end hunger. Whether you host a traditional food drive to collect canned goods or hold a virtual food drive to raise funds on Facebook, you can make a big difference.



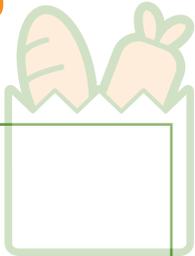
# ABILENE GIVES



## SAVE THE DATE!

What a difference a day makes  
**Tuesday, May 7 • 8a.m. – 8p.m.**  
[abilenegives.org](http://abilenegives.org)

# 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.*

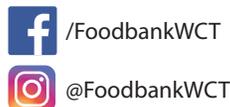
# GIVE TODAY! CALL OR VISIT US AT FBWCT.ORG.



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

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

### Connect on Social Media



**Serving These 13 Counties**