

# AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from the Food Bank of West Central Texas



2022 FALL NEWSLETTER

FBWCT.ORG



## Hunger Action Month®

September is Hunger Action Month — 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 in wearing orange on Hunger Action Day (Friday, September 23) to show your support! Use the hashtag #HungerActionMonth on social media and donate on our website at [fbwct.org](http://fbwct.org).**





## OUR MISSION

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope.

## OUR VISION

Working together to eliminate hunger in West Central Texas.

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# ROAD TRIP!

Dear Food Bank Friends,

One Thursday in mid-May, our Director of Operations, Patrick Dembach, and I took a little road trip through the southeastern part of our service area. We drove down to Gustine to meet with some folks about opening a “brick-and-mortar” food pantry there — we have been supplying a mobile pantry once a month in Gustine for a while now. Pattiellu Clark heads up Team Gustine ... They have been granted access to a great building there on Main Street that will serve wonderfully as an operating food pantry. It’s a perfect solution for a community in a food desert, allowing a shift from a mobile pantry to a fixed operating pantry in Gustine. We welcome these new partners!



We also had the pleasure of meeting Andrew Volleman, Operations Manager for Volleman’s Family Farms and Dairy just outside of Gustine. The Volleman family has a great story. Frank and Annette Volleman operated a small dairy farm in the European country of Luxembourg. As young parents, they immigrated to Texas in 1993 and began operating their dairy farm outside Gustine. Today, the Vollemans milk 5,000 cows daily and have a distribution footprint covering almost all of Texas. We got to sample the end product at the creamery — I chose the cappuccino flavor ... it was delicious!

We came back through Comanche and stopped at the Comanche County Medical Center to say “hi” to Kristi Taylor. We expressed our gratitude for their partnership to help those facing hunger in Comanche County! We then made our way to Carbon, the town in Eastland County that was devastated by the wildfires back in March. We met Sylvia, the City Secretary, and her chief volunteer Jennifer. Since our meeting, we have been delivering food to them as they continue to rebuild from the fires.

Finally, we stopped in Cisco at The Blessing Box, our agency partner there. We met Glen Boles and he gave us a tour of their beautiful new pantry space within the Myrtle Wilks Community Center. The pantry is in a wonderful location and able to really respond to community needs, providing client choice in a well-organized space.

It was great to be out in the community — our service area. We got to say thank you to folks who work on the front lines every day to accomplish our collective mission. We got to meet new people and understand what they do to help their neighbors. We got to meet other neighbors and understand what they need to help each other. We got to strengthen relationships. **We are better together and together we are awesome!**

With gratitude,

Ronnie C. Kidd  
Chief Executive Officer



*P.S. Join us during Hunger Action Month. Give Food, Give Funds, Give Time. Visit [fbwct.org](http://fbwct.org) to learn more.*



# PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: ALL FOR ONE MISSIONS CHURCH, ABILENE, TX

A Q&A with Tim and Christina Matthews, Pastors

**Q** Tell me how you partner with the Food Bank of West Central Texas.

**A** The Food Bank supplies us with pallets of food for pennies on the dollar. Because of this we are more financially able to keep a massive pantry well-stocked, and able to feed several families in our community every week. We simply could not operate on this level or scale without their support.



**Q** Why was it important to start the Community Client Healthy Choice Food Pantry in Abilene?

**A** One is there is no waste when we operate in this style. Clients are able to come in and shop for exactly the items that they will use. Also with Healthy Choice, they are able to get fresh/frozen meats and vegetables as we keep them readily available in coolers and freezers. Healthy Choice Food Pantry also gives the volunteers one-on-one time with the client. This makes the whole experience more personal for both the volunteer and the client, and we learn if we could possibly help them with other needs as well.

**Q** Who is visiting the Community Client Healthy Choice Food Pantry and what do they receive?

**A** At first, it was folks in our neighborhood community, but as the word of this style of pantry spreads, we are seeing folks from all over the city. Those who come will see items such as: milk, eggs, cheese, bread, desserts, fresh produce, fresh fruit, frozen chicken, pork, ground meats, as well as canned meats, vegetables, fruits, nuts. We also have soups, pasta, sauces, baking items, cake mixes, cookies, and toiletry items. Truly, it's like a mini-grocery store.

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

**A** When I was a kid, my parents had a rough start, and I can remember standing in line for a block of cheese and two pounds of butter. Another time when we were really hungry, a Pastor came and dropped off a box of food for us. This helped us through a rough time while my parents got back on their feet. I can remember how good it felt to get that little bit. Now I'm in a position to give back, as I know firsthand the blessing food can be to someone who has nowhere else to turn.



# HOST A FOOD & FUND DRIVE

During Hunger Action Month and all year long, Food & Fund Drives are a great way to involve your friends, family, church, and places of work in the fight to end hunger. It's simple and fun!



**Collect donations:** Food drives can last however long you'd like, but we recommend running your drive for at least two weeks. The Food Bank has barrels and cash donation canisters, should you need them. If your drive is open to the public, be sure to announce it on social media, your website, or word of mouth.



**Focus on the most wanted items:** If you host a fund or virtual food drive, this will be cash. If you host a canned food drive, please see our most needed food items list below. Also, consider a theme ... Peanut Butter & Jelly, Breakfast Items, or School Snacks are just a few themes to consider.



**Drop off your donations or call for pick-up:** We look forward to seeing you at the end of your drive. We'll help you tally how many meals you raised. For every \$1 donated, we can provide 5 meals. And each meal is roughly 1.2 pounds of food.

## Most Needed Food 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.*

## SAVE THE DATE SEPT 8-17, 2022

**Join Us At The West Texas Fair & Rodeo,  
September 8-17, 2022**

What a great way to take action during Hunger Action Month! Join the Food Bank at the West Texas Fair & Rodeo at the Taylor County Expo Center! You'll find a plethora of delicious, unique foods, a carnival with rides for everyone to enjoy, two nights of Tractor Pull thrills, five nights of PRCA Rodeo action, the best livestock from across Texas, musicians, entertainment and much more!

Stop by our booth to learn more about the Food Bank, register to volunteer, and donate your change. For every \$1 donated, we can provide 5 meals! Now that's the best investment at the Fair & Rodeo, by far! Giddy up!



**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.

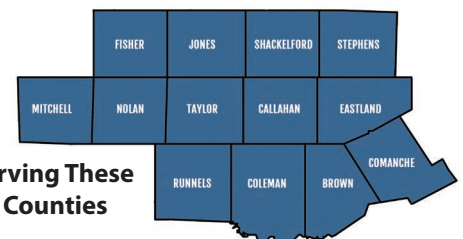
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**Serving These  
13 Counties**