

AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from the Food Bank of West Central Texas



2022 SPRING NEWSLETTER

FBWCT.ORG

OUR FIRST NEWSLETTER

We are delighted to bring to you the first issue of "Around Our Table." As a supporter of the Food Bank, it is important you know what is happening "around our table" and the impact you have on our mission of Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope. Twice a year, you will hear from us, learn more about our partners and programs, and find ways to get involved.

**You always have a seat at our table.
Please pull up a chair and stay with us.
Together, we can end hunger.**





OUR MISSION

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope.

OUR VISION

Working together to eliminate hunger in West Central Texas.

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GRATITUDE AT THE TABLE

Dear Food Bank Friends,

Simply put, our mission is **fighting hunger, feeding hope**. We strive to keep these goals front and center in all we do “around our table” here at the Food Bank. As we embark into 2022, I wonder what new challenges lie ahead. Though unknown at this moment, I am confident that **together** we can work, pray, plan, study, and conquer whatever challenges come to our table. Strength and resilience are common “seasonings” found on our table. They come from working together to help our neighbors. What often happens is everyone involved **around the table** receives blessings! Case in point is one of the holiday traditions that has developed here at the Food Bank.



For the past four or so years, our Food Bank Board of Directors has sponsored a holiday box project for families at the Jane Long Early Learning Center (ELC). With generous assistance from our friends and partners at H-E-B and United Supermarkets, we gather our board members and other volunteers, alongside Long ELC staff members, and build boxes in early December each year. The collective group of folks, ranging in age from young children, to senior citizens, spends a couple of hours putting together boxes of food to help families

through the holiday break when their food sources become much more limited without the school programs available. While we are building boxes, we share laughter, smiles, tears of joy, and an occasional cookie, like Jake pictured left. The end result is best expressed in a letter I received from Long Early Learning Center’s Director of Early Childhood Programs. Miss Jenny writes:

“You all keep Long ELC in the corner of your eye, always. Thank you. It is a celebration when we get to be a part of filling the boxes. The boxes are filled to the brim and overflowing. Joy, laughter, and smiles of relief are on parents’ faces as they pick up their boxes. Your efforts supply two weeks of food for our families. Thank you. Thank you for intentionally tending to our children, families, and staff. They know they are loved, tended, and safe. Thank you for being with us. We are abundantly blessed through your thoughts, wish wells, and your generosity. We love you. Our hearts and souls are with yours as you live in this holiday season. **Blessings to overflowing to you and your families.**”

We thank you for being with us around our table. Whatever comes our way in 2022, we wish you and yours “blessings to overflowing!”

With gratitude,

Ronnie C. Kidd
President/CEO

PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: COMANCHE HOSPITAL

A Q&A with Comanche County Mobile Pantry Representatives:

Michelle Mitchell, Social Worker & Kristi Taylor, Chronic Care Management Director

Q How do you partner with the Food Bank of West Central Texas?

A For about the last four years, the Comanche County Medical Center has partnered with the Food Bank on the **Comanche County Mobile Pantry**. Currently, we offer two drive-through locations in our county. One location is at the City Park in Comanche and the other is at the City Park in De Leon. The third location is at Comanche County Medical Center where our Central Supply Staff take over distribution to employees who either pick up for themselves or individuals who are unable to pick up their food boxes themselves. This Mobile Food Bank occurs every 4th Thursday of the month during the year, except November and December, when they occur on the third Thursday of the month.



Q Why was it important to start this effort in Comanche County?

A Comanche County is rural. **Our food prices in this county tend to be higher than in bigger towns because our grocery stores may be unable to take advantage of better bulk pricing.** It does seem we have people who have some difficulty finding jobs in the immediate area that can provide adequate income. Some will travel outside of the county for work and then face additional transportation costs. Although we do have some food pantries in the county, they sometimes have to limit the amount of food they are able to provide to a family, and in some cases the food pantry may only be able to provide food to their town residents.

Q Personally, why is this effort important to you?

A This effort is important because our county has many families that would not be able to gain access to the food they need to get them through the month. And those that participate are so grateful, often sharing, **"This is the only way they can sustain their families."** And a part of our mission as the county hospital is to promote community wellness. Nutrition is an important component to one's wellness. **This Food Bank partnership has allowed our hospital to be at least a partial solution for individuals and families to gain access to food.** It has also provided an avenue for our community business and programs to come together in meeting the needs of community members.

Q Who is visiting the mobile pantry and what do they receive?

A On a low month, we serve 150 families, but the average is about 200 families each month. **We believe the highest number served in 2020 was 325.** We serve a high percentage of people 65 and older. However, the numbers show we also have many under 60, including families with small children, especially during the COVID peak in 2020. The amount of food they receive varies per month. Each family receives an equal amount of food.

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.



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

SAVE THE DATE MAY 3



JOIN OUR DAY OF GIVING!

Support us and give back on May 3, 2022

For more information, go to AbileneGives.org

Join us for Abilene Gives, 24-hours of online giving to raise money for nonprofits serving Abilene and the surrounding area, including your very own Food Bank of West Central Texas. Giving happens at abilenegives.org. In 2022, our goal is to raise \$60,000 and land in the top 10 of the leaderboards.



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Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

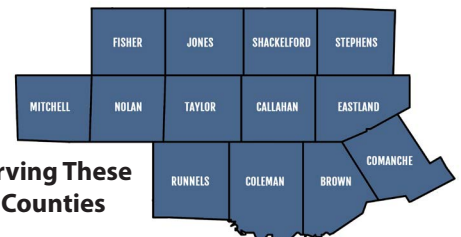
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Serving These
13 Counties