

AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from Food Bank of West Central Texas



SPRING 2025 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 are cherished graces. 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.

To put it simply: **Thank you, and we appreciate you.**

You are a valued member of our incredible community. 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 are launching this 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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SEASON OF REBIRTH



Dear Food Bank Friends,

As we are writing this first newsletter of 2025, it's December and I am thinking about transitions. It's finally feeling like winter outside, but before long we will start the season of rebirth and the transition back to warmer times.

Spring brings rejuvenation and "newness" ... and we're in a spot here at the Food Bank where we are experiencing rejuvenation. After encountering a delay beyond our control, our construction project is well underway. We anticipate completion this summer and are quite excited about the new opportunities to serve that it will provide. We will have an onsite pantry as well as space to share more resources with our community.



During the second half of last year, Summer Menchaca stepped up to assume the Director of Programs role for us. We are currently reviewing our programs and service delivery to identify opportunities for improvement and ways to move progressively forward in partnerships for those we serve. We are working to expand the capabilities of our team, the capacity of our resources and the ways that we do business.

As we make transitions and embrace newness, we know there are considerations we must keep in mind to allow us to remain focused. **Hunger impacts people of all ages, all generations.** We aren't always able to see hunger on the faces or in the lives of those it impacts. We create hope when, together, we are able to provide access to food, replacing hunger and helping fill the lives of those it impacts. It takes all of us working together with our time, food, funds and relationships to replace hunger. **Thank you for helping us replace hunger with hope!**

With gratitude,

Ronnie C. Kidd
President/CEO



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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: COOPER HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT COUNCIL

A Q&A with Jimmy Pogue, English Teacher and Student Council Lead, Cooper High School

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

A It goes back to our work in Chinle, AZ, a food desert in the heart of Navajo nation, 719 miles away from the High School. Since 2003, I have led student trips to Chinle, delivering food, animal feed, and clothing to the people of Chinle. We just took our 1 MILLIONTH pound to the Navajo nation.

But in 2020, with COVID, we couldn't go to Chinle. And our senior class wanted to do something to leave their mark on their time at Cooper High School. So, they decided to establish a school food pantry, "Table 20" where our own kids would be taken care of no matter what, no questions asked. Working with the Food Bank and working the Chinle project, it made us really aware of kids with food insecurity. Everyone is welcome at our table.

Q Are there other ways you are involved with the Food Bank?

A We also volunteer at the Food Bank a couple times per year. And for the last 5 years or so, we have been helping with the Senior Program at Rose Park. It's hot here in the Summer and we recognized this food distribution probably needed some help. The students take food boxes out to seniors in their cars and help with whatever else that is needed.

Q What have you seen and learned from this work?

A To bet on honesty. And we bet on the kids. That's what I am most happy about. We know the kids attending Table 20 School Food Pantry will only use it when needed. We learned this from our Navajo friends, that they only take what they need and if not needed, give it to the next person.



“When the Cooper kids are here, we know they come with hearts of service. They're here to help, not rob our people of their culture or language. Our community understands Cooper comes here out of love and a desire to help.”

– Cammie Natay, Academic Coach at Chinle Elementary School, and friends of Jimmy Pogue since the beginning of the Chinle/Cooper High School Partnership

MEALS AT OUR TABLE, 2024 IMPACT

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
- **968** senior backpacks distributed in Callahan County



Feeding Communities

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



GIVE FUNDS, FOOD, TIME

FUNDS: One-time, monthly, donor advised fund gifts, corporate sponsorships, and grants help us end hunger today. **Just \$10 can help to provide 50 meals.** Donate today through the QR code or enclosed remit envelope.



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, such as on Facebook, you can make a big difference. **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.*

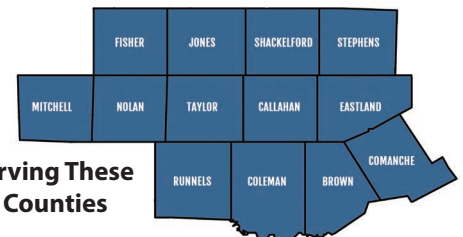
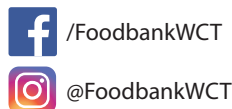
TIME: It doesn't take a big commitment to make a big impact. Help Food Bank of West Central Texas get food in the hands of those who need it most. Individuals and groups welcome. To volunteer, call us at 325-695-6311 or email us at inquiries@fbwct.org.



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