



food *for*
thought

Wichita Falls Area Food Bank

Fall 2024

*You're Fueling a
Brighter Tomorrow*

Dear Friend



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In May we received food insecurity and hunger data for 2022. It reflects the stark reality and magnitude of hunger in our 12-county North Texas Area. We continue to see more families struggling to put nourishing food on their tables now than ever. Rising food, housing, and medicine costs impact the poor more today because these costs take up a greater percentage of their income.

Below are some key facts:

- The Wichita Falls Area Food Bank has the **14th highest food insecurity rate** (17.6%) out of 197 Food Banks in the entire United States. This is an increase of 2.2 from the previous year.
- An additional **5,300 children, individuals, and seniors** are now food insecure.
- 1 in 4 North Texas children are food insecure.
- New families visiting our Mobile Food Pantries are up over **30%** year-over-year.
- Nationally, **64%** of those food insecure have a full-time or part-time job.

The facts above do not adequately reflect those children, families, and seniors who are impacted far too often because of the lack of routine access to nutritious food. With your partnership, we can continue the fight against hunger as we serve as a bridge between hunger and hope.

Sincerely,

David O'Neil,
CEO



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Wichita Falls, TX 76302
www.wfafb.org

A Grandmother's *Gratitude*

Kari loves to stay active with her grandkids, Romeo, 6, and Camila, 1, who she cares for. You might have run into the family during one of their regular trips to the park.

Like all of us, Kari has felt the impact from the sustained high cost of living. Because her work as a vendor is seasonal, fall is often a slower month.

In the off-season, Kari says, nearly every dollar in the family budget is spent on rent and electricity, leaving no room for other necessities — like healthy food.

“I’m glad [donors] help in a generous manner,”

Thankfully, Kari has friends who knew about the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank. When they told her about the services available, she came right away to the Legacy Church of God, our agency partner.

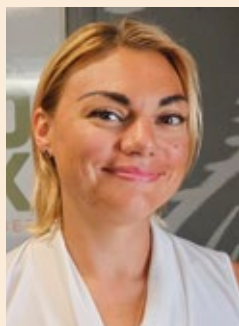
There, Kari was able to pick out ingredients for healthy meals, like beans and rice, as well as the children’s favorite fruits.

Knowing that food access is available is a huge relief to Kari, who knows how important nutrition is for the growing kids. “I’m glad [donors] help in a generous manner,” she says with gratitude for friends like you!



Your support helps Kari fill the table for her grandchildren.

Volunteer Ashley Puts *Community First*



“Putting others first strengthens your bond with the community.”

That’s Ashley Parker speaking, a

Wichita Falls Area Food Bank volunteer. To her, donating time is a priority in life.

Ashley, 37, served as an Army medical officer before

returning home to her family. Now, she volunteers for several organizations, including the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank.

Crediting her faith, Ashley strives to be a good role model and lead by example. She hopes to inspire even more community members to get involved.

Speaking on the people who have inspired her, Ashley gives special credit to Robert at the mobile pantry, Bridget and Stella at our warehouse, and

fellow volunteer Nina, who all encouraged Ashley to begin her own path of giving.

To anyone considering getting involved with the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank, Ashley suggests you try it. She says, “with the Food Bank, you know the donations are going straight to the people who need it.”

Thank you, Ashley, for sharing our mission! We are so grateful to do this work alongside you!

At Interfaith Pantry, Sunnie finds all the healthy food she needs to feed her family.



Sunnie's Family *Is Thankful* for YOU

Sunnie, 62, couldn't be prouder of her three boys, ages 9, 10 and 11. All three brothers are very involved in school. Their love of science and math, plus their good study skills, have landed them on the honor roll this year!

“you can't ask for a better place!”

The boys are active at church, too, using their beautiful voices to sing in the choir. It's clear that Sunnie, who adopted the boys, is doing everything possible to give them a strong foundation for life.

Part of that strong foundation is nutritious food. Which is why Sunnie is so grateful for your

generosity. Because you give, she can pick up nourishing ingredients for home-cooked meals at Interfaith Pantry, a Wichita Falls Area Food Bank partner agency.

“Everything is always fresh,” Sunnie says of the produce and staples, going on to list the household items she's grateful to receive alongside the food. “They even give toilet paper, laundry soap, toothpaste and toothbrushes.”

Your support ensures that the boys have the fuel needed to thrive at school, and in life. With thankfulness and joy, Sunnie says, “you can't ask for a better place!”



You may have noticed our new logo, which represents a milestone in our brand identity and our efforts, in collaboration with Feeding America, to meet our community's needs.

Our reach extends beyond the boundaries of Wichita Falls,

New Logo, Same Mission

encompassing an extensive 12-county area. Within this service area, over 39,000 individuals in our community need routine food assistance.

As the cost of essentials remains high, the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank has witnessed an increasing number of children, families, and seniors facing hardship.

Now, it is more crucial than ever that we provide nutritious food to help ensure that the communities we serve, thrive.

We humbly request your support in spreading the word about our new logo and what it represents. Together, we continue our efforts against hunger in our 12-county area!