



food *for*
thought

Wichita Falls Area Food Bank Summer 2021

*You're Feeding Our
Community's Future*



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DEAR FRIEND

The past year has presented significant challenges for the [Wichita Falls Area Food Bank](#), including an increase in need, a back logged food supply chain and the need for social distancing, which meant fewer volunteers.

We knew hunger was an issue in our community prior to the pandemic, but this unforeseen situation brought to light how quickly someone's circumstances can change.

So many of our neighbors' worlds were shattered, through no fault of their own. Lines at food pantries grew at an alarming pace – you may have even seen the cars backed up for blocks.

The need for our mobile pantry grew exponentially during the pandemic adding five sites for a total of 11. In 2020, we distributed almost 600,000 pounds of food through the mobile pantry – a 670 percent increase over the year before. We are so grateful to United Regional Healthcare Center for being the main sponsor for our mobile pantry.

This program is vital to getting food into the hands of families in need. As you know, the pandemic caused many people to lose jobs, loved ones, face illness, and scramble for childcare.

Our overall distributions increased by more than 1.2 million pounds last year compared to the previous year. This would not have been possible without your support, including monetary donations, volunteering, advocating and the gratitude you offered for the work we do.

Unfortunately, we expect to see the elevated need for food to continue through 2021. No one should have to worry about going to bed hungry or how they'll provide food for their child the next day. We ask that if you have the capacity, please continue to support us through this difficult time.

Gratefully,

Kara Nickens
CEO



Misty and her son, Trey, pick up groceries from a Food Bank Mobile Pantry in Electra.

YOU FUEL KIDS DREAMS

Lucas, 12, enjoys playing football for his school team. With your help, he'll have the nutritious food he needs to stay strong this summer and return to the sport he loves in the fall.

We met up with Lucas' mom, Misty, and his brother, Trey, 4 and at a [Food Bank Mobile Pantry](#) in Electra. Misty says the family lives with her mom right now to help make ends meet, and the food they receive from the Mobile Pantry helps the whole family.

When school is in session, Lucas has access to free breakfasts and lunches in the cafeteria. But this summer, Misty will need to make up for the missed school meals — after already having been stretched thin earlier in the year when Lucas was doing school from home.

On top of that, Misty says there isn't a grocery store in town, so they have to drive even

"I hope they understand how much we appreciate and how much it helps in Electra."

further to purchase the food they need, when they have the funds to make the trip. Misty is diabetic, so she tries to watch what she eats. But healthy food gets expensive.

"It would be a lot harder [without the Mobile Pantry]," she says.

Misty especially wants to thank you for helping her keep nutritious food on her family's table...and giving her sons the fuel, they need to achieve their dreams — like the simple joy of playing team sports.

"I hope [donors] understand how much we appreciate and how much it helps people in Electra."

YOU MADE A DIFFERENCE IN 2020!

PowerPak 4 Kids Backpack Program



65,629

PowerPak 4 Kids
Bags Distributed

Many food-insecure children receive free breakfast and lunch at school during the week. The problem arises on weekends, when they may not have enough food at home. That's where our PowerPak4Kids program comes in. We partner with more than 50 area schools to offer the PP4K program, placing a bag of nutritious supplemental food into the backpacks of participating students on Fridays. In 2020, we served over 1,896 food-insecure children each week through our PowerPak4Kids program, providing a total of 65,629 bags of nutritious, supplemental food. Thanks to PowerPak, these children were able to return to school on Monday with energy to participate, concentrate and thrive!



Kids Cafe



45,031

Kids Cafe meals served
to local children

Kids Cafe is one of the key ways we fight childhood hunger in our community. Studies show that children who face hunger often experience poorer health than their peers, difficulty learning, shame and social alienation. Our Kids Cafe program ensures these students have enough to eat. We partner with 7 agencies to ensure children in need have access to a warm, nutritious meal at the end of the day both after school and during the summer. Covid restrictions shut many sites down but more are opening every day! We hope to be back at 11 this summer.



Mobile Pantry



595,102

pounds of food in 2020

Food deserts and lack of reliable transportation are two of the biggest issues when it comes to local hunger. The Mobile Pantry is exactly what it sounds like — a large truck with storage and refrigeration that will allow us to provide food where and when it's needed most. Sponsored by United Regional Health Care System, the Mobile Pantry allows us to bring nutritious food boxes to six sites throughout Wichita Falls. Thanks to your generosity, we distributed 595,102 lbs of food in 2020! The Mobile Pantry has been a critical part of our response to the COVID-19 crisis in our community.



Produce Express



897,875

pounds of produce connected
with people in need

Our Produce Express program brings fresh produce to food deserts in the communities we serve. These include rural areas and urban neighborhoods in which there is little or no access to nutritious food and where residents often lack reliable transportation. Fighting hunger means providing fresh, high-quality food to areas that otherwise have few healthy options.

Nutrition Education



8,219 Individuals

educated virtually and in person
through nutrition programs

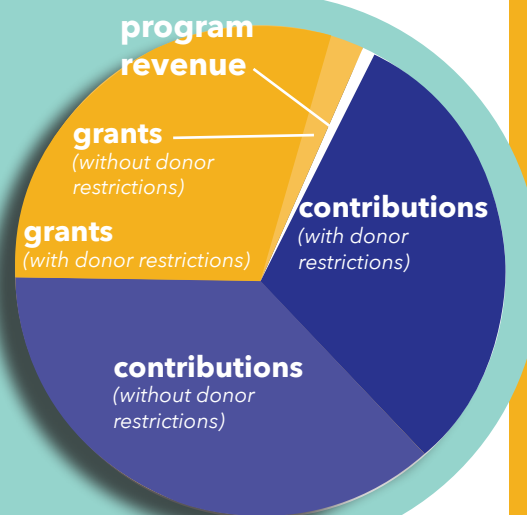
As leaders in the fight against hunger, we know quality is just as important as quantity here at the Food Bank. That's why our Nutrition Services team promotes "foods to encourage" in all of our projects and programs and educates our community through Cooking Matters. Cooking Matters classes teach children, teens and families about nutrition and how to prepare healthy, affordable meals.



2020 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

REVENUE

Program Revenue	\$102,545 (.77%)
Contributions <i>(with donor restrictions)</i>	\$4,412,722 (33.25%)
Contributions <i>(without donor restrictions)</i>	\$4,592,184 (34.50%)
Grants <i>(with restrictions)</i>	\$3,573,792 (26.94%)
Grants <i>(without restrictions)</i>	\$629,063 (4.54%)
Total Revenue	\$13,310,306



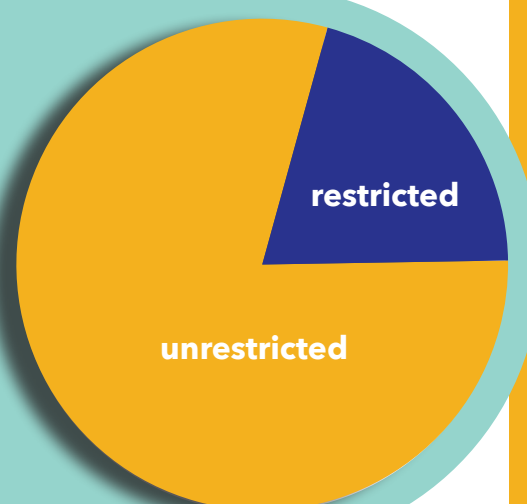
EXPENSES

Program Services	\$7,363,616 (91.56%)
Administrative	\$515,185 (6.40%)
Fundraising	\$163,843 (2.04%)
Total Expenses	\$8,042,644



ASSETS

Unrestricted	\$6,451,625 (78.41%)
Restricted	\$1,776,433 (21.59%)
Net Assets	\$8,228,058





IN MEMORY OF BELOVED VOLUNTEER, BARRY STROTHER

"I was on the Food Bank Board for 10 years and I can't remember a time that I didn't see Barry." – Melba Helms James

Barry Strother passed away February 5, 2021, but not before making an impact on his community that will last for generations to come. Among his many acts of service in the community, Barry volunteered with the Food Bank from 1985 through 2020.

"Barry told me he was walking around town one day and a man pulled over and asked, 'Young man, what are you doing?'," recalls Emily Kincaid, former Marketing Director at the Food Bank. "He said 'Nothing,' and that man told him 'Well, get in. You can help us at the Food Bank'...Barry came back almost every day for the rest of his life."

Barry served in numerous capacities over his years of volunteer service, but Food Bank CEO Kara Nickens says his greatest joy came

simply from his encounters with other people.

"He truly enjoyed visiting with people, especially our agencies," Kara says. "Barry's gentle spirit endeared him to more people than we can count."

Barry suffered a stroke at birth, which left him with some physical setbacks — but nothing stopped him from serving his community, both through the Food Bank and his home church.

"Many probably didn't know what would become of Barry," Emily says. "But few would have guessed he would spend his life helping feed thousands of people in our community,"

The Food Bank will not be the same without Barry there to help every day, but

his impact will remain in our community for a long time to come.

"He will always be a part of the Food Bank family," Kara says.



CHARTWELLS HELPS POWER OUR PAKS



Our Powerpak 4 Kids Backpack Program (PP4K) has always been integral for many students that

are missing meals and have become even more vital during this pandemic. With so many households struggling Chartwells K12 reached out to the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank to help! "As the food service supplier for

Wichita Falls ISD, Chartwells K12 is always seeking creative ways to deliver the very best to WFISD students and families. Therefore, we jumped on the opportunity to collaborate with the Wichita Falls Area Food Bank on their PowerPak4Kids program." Says Emily Kincaid, Marketing Specialist for Chartwells K12 at WFISD. We are so very grateful for their support that has filled the plates of so many students in our area!

NATHAN APPRECIATES YOUR KINDNESS



Nathan and his son, Charles, wait to receive groceries from a Food Bank Mobile Pantry in Wichita Falls.

When Nathan's job took a hit at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, your generosity made all the difference for him, his wife Melissa, and their children.

"We appreciate all the help we've been given," Nathan says.

We met up with Nathan, his son, Charles, and their sweet dog on a visit to a Food Bank Mobile Pantry. The family lives in the country but gladly makes the drive in to receive the food.

Nathan worked with engine parts in the aviation sector but was let go at the beginning of the pandemic. He says he receives unemployment, but only 60% of his previous pay

and simply not enough for his family's needs.

One of his and Melissa's children has type 1 diabetes, which makes nutritious food even more critical, but hard to come by on a limited budget.

Nathan says the family has cut back on other necessities for the time being and they live simply, enjoying board game family nights for entertainment. But without your help, they would have to rely on friends to get by.

"It is a necessity," Nathan says of the food you help provide for his family.

Though the family didn't need food assistance prior to the

pandemic, James and Melissa are grateful it was there to help their family exactly when they needed it. Family favorites from the Mobile Pantry are chicken and spaghetti.

***"We appreciate
all the help we've
been given."***

This summer, your generosity continues to make a significant difference for our neighbors in the wake of the pandemic. Thank you for helping families keep nutritious food on the table this summer, and all year long!

EMERGENCY DISTRIBUTION:

The February 13th record-breaking ice storm slammed Texas and left many without electricity and water for hours and even days. With the need for groceries increasing as food became inedible in unpowered refrigerators, we knew we had to do something more than our regular operations to help those most affected by this storm. We had to cancel our distributions for the week due to snow and ice, but once it thawed, we had a plan to help our friends and neighbors

in need. Saturday, February 20th, with a line stretching nearly a mile, we began distributing boxes of food to families directly from our warehouse. When all was said and done over the 2-hour distribution period, we handed out over 31,000 lbs of groceries including fresh produce, frozen meat, and nonperishables. We were overjoyed to have provided 295 families in our service area with the peace of mind that comes with having food at hand. Thank you to our staff and donors for making this possible!



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