Leading the Fight Against Hunger In Southeast Texas

Help make the holidays healthier and happier for our neighbors in need

This year, many more of our neighbors will be struggling through the holidays as they pick up the pieces from the effects of Hurricane Harvey. As we ensure their most basic needs of food and water are met, we know that providing special meal items to help families celebrate the holidays together can be so meaningful.

Along with providing their usual staples, many of our 110 partner agencies also put together holiday boxes with food from the Southeast Texas Food Bank. Orange Christian Services is one of our partners who distributes 800 Christmas meal boxes.

“...What we can take for granted, so many of our neighbors in this area can’t.” — Judy Jensen, Executive Director OCS

People can’t imagine what their donation is going to do for these men, women and children. Judy says a simple gift makes a huge difference. “It’s a win/win. You will be blessed for the giving and the people will be blessed for the receiving,” she says.

For every $1 you give to the Southeast Texas Food Bank, we can provide 3 meals. Imagine how far your gift will go to ease the burden of a family who has lost so much. Please give today by donating online at setxfoodbank.org or returning the enclosed reply slip. Your generosity matters—thank you!

“#GivingTuesday”

On Tuesday, November 28, start the season of giving with #GivingTuesday by filling the plates of your neighbors in need. You’ll also get your year-end tax donation when you go online to donate to the Southeast Texas Food Bank at setxfoodbank.org. Don’t forget to spread the word on Facebook and Twitter!

Share Your Christmas

Organize a food and fund drive at your workplace, church, school or community organization to help make the holidays happier for our neighbors in need. Together we hope to raise $40,000 and provide 60,000 pounds of food to help struggling families this holiday season. Your group might be among those featured on KBMT Channel 12, our media sponsor. Participating businesses also have a chance to win free advertising for their company.

For tips on how to organize your group, or to sign up and download the participation form visit setxfoodbank.org and click on the Get Involved tab. You can also call 409-839-8777 or 844-356-9084.

Your support helped me have a holiday meal with my family

My name is James and I just want to say thank you. I’m living on a fixed income and getting a few groceries helps a whole lot.

I grew up in this area. When I was 23 I became a merchant marine and worked on ships as a cook. We were a tanker crew transporting gas from one place to another. We used to run from Texas up to New York or Boston. I got to see the world and it paid well. Then, at 55, I retired.

I’ve had a few health problems since then—I had a heart attack and triple bypass surgery. I couldn’t walk for a while, but thank God I’m still here. When you get old, everything seems to fall apart.

Paying my doctors’ bills sure takes a bite out of my income. By the time I pay all my bills, I don’t end up with much to survive on. Being able to come to this pantry really helps. I’m not a picky eater, and I cook everything they give me. As long as I have something in my stomach, I’m happy.

Doing the best with what I have

Just before Thanksgiving I come down to the food pantry and get a turkey. That helps out a lot. I make good rice stuffing with celery and bell pepper. Then I make giblet gravy to go over everything. My sister comes and shares the Thanksgiving meal with me. It lasts me a long time.

If I could meet a Food Bank donor, I would tell them thank you very much because you help me out a whole lot. I’m doing the best I can with what I’ve got, and coming to this food pantry really helps.

James lives in Port Arthur, an area deeply affected by Hurricane Harvey. In the aftermath your support of the Southeast Texas Food Bank brought immediate assistance to communities like his. Mobilizing all our resources we were able to distribute approximately 1.5 million pounds of food and water within the first two weeks of our response. Read more about the way your support helps us respond to crisis on page 2.

Inside the Food Bank Connection

We’re原文有误，无法准确翻译。
Encouraging words from Dan

In Southeast Texas the holidays are going to be a little different this year. We’ve all seen and experienced the devastation from Hurricane Harvey. For families who had so little and lost so much, it’s a toll that will take months or even years to recover from.

In the immediate aftermath of the storm, the Southeast Texas Food Bank responded quickly to the food and water crisis. We opened our warehouse doors for nine days of on-site distribution. To reach communities like Port Arthur, we loaded up our mobile pantry, bringing daily distributions of water, food, even cleaning supplies and baby products. We’re continuing to ensure our distribution reaches those hardest hit in our communities.

“We’re ready to effectively respond to this crisis was possible because of your investments.”

We are so grateful for the compassion of this community and our nation. You rallied to help your neighbors as soon as you could give yourself. You supported water distribution and were quick to volunteer. The national outpouring of support let us know we weren’t in this alone. And to those of you who have given so faithfully to the Southeast Texas Food Bank over the years, our readiness to effectively respond to this crisis was possible because of your investments.

This storm will forever mark 2017 for our families who had so little to give, and it will take months or even years to recover from.

With gratitude,

Dan Mahler, Executive Director

Giving the gift of time for a happier holiday season

Your time is valuable, so use it for something invaluable—helping to feed Southeast Texas families struggling with hunger. There are many ways you and your friends can make a difference this holiday season.

Food Sorting—Wednesdays, noon-3 p.m.
Volunteers are trained to assess and sort donated food that gets distributed through our partner agencies. You can also sign up to bring your group on the third Saturday of the month.

Family Box Day—second Saturdays, 8:30-11 a.m.
Help fill boxes with nourishing food for our mobile pantry distribution.

Organize a food and fund drive—
The holidays are a great time of year to foster community spirit at your workplace, church, school or civic organization. To find out how you can make a positive impact in the lives of hungry neighbors, click on the “Get Involved” tab on our website for more information.

Volunteer with one of our partner agencies—
During this busy time of year, our partner agencies can use your help. Go to our website at setxfoodbank.org/get-help/to find contact information for a partner agency near you and see how you can help.

Volunteering is a gift that gives back. It’s a great feeling knowing you’ve made a real difference in someone’s life. So come join our team of volunteers! Sign up at setxfoodbank.org/get-involved/volunteer/or call 409-839-8777 or 844-356-9084. Thank you for giving your time this holiday season!

The food I receive here helps me take care of others

My name is Yolanda and I’ve had to come to the food pantry regularly since I had major back surgery a few years ago.

Before my surgery, I worked at a charter school and I had the finances I needed to take care of myself. Now I’m working at an after-school daycare program. I’m also raising a little girl on my own—someone I took in for a friend. I’ve had her since birth, and making sure I can help her with homework and make meals for her is important to me. I’d like to have a job where she doesn’t have to go to daycare after school. Finding a job that pays enough and allows me to be around for her is my goal.

I appreciate your generosity

The people here at the food pantry are so sweet and I thank God I found them. When you’re living paycheck to paycheck like I am, coming here means I can stretch my income. A few years back we even got a Thanksgiving meal from the pantry. That was awesome, because it was a year we were really in need of that help!

My dad has been a big support for us. When I had my surgeries he took care of both of us. We live on our own now. I’m his only daughter, and I’m trying to get back on my feet financially, because someday, he’ll need me to take care of him.

There have been times in my life I was able to donate to organizations like this, but now, I need the help. So I don’t take it lightly that you’re able and willing to help. Thank you. I hope you know how much we appreciate you.

Yolanda remembers what a Thanksgiving meal meant to her family a few years ago.

Volunteer Spotlight

The rewarding work of helping others

For Manasseh Miles, a Health Sciences major at Lamar University and a linebacker for their football team, interning at the Southeast Texas Food Bank wasn’t out of his comfort zone. “I’m a servant at heart, I’ve already been through things in my life that have brought me a desire to strengthen those that may be going through something,” says Manasseh, whose own family was helped through a local pantry.

Manasseh has been impressed with the broad reach of the Food Bank—from the nutrition programs to the food distribution process. “When people think of a Food Bank, they think of a place people come to get food when they need assistance,” says Manasseh. “How many different programs they have, how many people they help—it’s more than just handing out food.”

The need is real

As an athlete, Manasseh spends a lot of time understanding the relationship of food to his physical ability, so studying to be a dietician was a natural fit. Manasseh particularly enjoyed interacting with children at a Boys and Girls club during nutrition lessons. He also enjoyed being part of our produce drops.

“What I’ve seen is just the demand that’s out there of people in need,” says Manasseh. “Being able to see the process when the food comes in on the truck, seeing it go out to the pantry and then seeing the kids with their parents and how happy they get when they receive the food—that’s so much that this Food Bank does.”

“I don’t take it lightly that you’re able and willing to help.” —Yolanda

“Thank you. I hope you know how much we appreciate you.” —Dan Mahler

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