



For Immediate Release

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VOLUNTEERING AND SERVICE – FROM GROUND TO TABLE

ODESSA, TX, October 9, 2020 -- Local missionaries of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints regularly join others in the community to help distribute food and supplies to those in need in the Permian Basin. This week, the West Texas Food Bank will also receive a semi-truck load of dry goods as well as \$10,000 from the Church.

"We are thrilled to be able to contribute to the work and goals of the West Texas Food Bank to bless others who are in difficult circumstances. With the truck load of dry goods, a cash donation, and the regular and ongoing service of the missionaries and other church members, we know the Food Bank will be able to reach more families in need. This truck comes from the main production and distribution facility in Salt Lake City, Utah, but in total there are about 48 Farm projects, 13 processing facilities and 34 storage facilities located in North America, Europe, Australia and Polynesia – which all run on volunteers." said April Bushman, Community Volunteer and Communications Director of the Odessa Texas Stake of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Members of the Church worldwide, give hundreds of thousands of volunteer hours each year --from planting to processing to the final distribution of over 100 million pounds of grain, beans, meat, fruit, vegetables, and other commodities produced annually in a network of over 1,000 farms and food-production projects.

The pattern and history of service is rooted deeply in the belief that "Whether we are rich or poor, regardless where we live on this globe, we all need each other, for it is in sacrificing our time, talents, and resources that our spirits mature and become refined. This work of providing in the Lord's way ... cannot be neglected or set aside. It is central to our doctrine; it is the essence of our religion." Dieter F. Uchtdorf, Apostle of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

"We also recognize that the West Texas Food Bank has a strong partnership with many other charities and organizations, and share their resources to reach as many as possible. There are so many ways we can help our communities. If our time is limited, we can donate monetarily, if that is limited, we can donate our time--everyone has something to give, not matter the size or scope, and the blessings come to the giver and the receiver! What a beautiful circle of love and caring!" -- April Bushman

"We have been so fortunate to have had the missionaries volunteering regularly at our facilities for years," said Libby Campbell, Executive Director of the West Texas Food Bank. "Their support over the last several months has been invaluable. The missionaries are a favorite group of volunteers, and the support of the church through donations like these help sustain the mission of the Food Bank."

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About the West Texas Food Bank

The West Texas Food Bank (WTFB) is a nonprofit hunger relief organization that distributes donated and purchased food through a network of 80+ Partner Agencies in 19 counties throughout West Texas. The WTFB supports the nutritional needs of children, families and senior citizens through strategic partnerships with civic and corporate groups, as well as private donors. Every dollar donated provides four meals for the hungry, and 92 cents of every dollar goes directly to feed hungry West Texans. Founded in 1985, the WTFB is a member of Feeding America (feedingamerica.org), the nation's largest network of hunger relief organizations. In FY 2019-20, over 10 million pounds of food was distributed to hungry West Texans.