



**For Immediate Release**  
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## **WEST TEXAS FOOD BANK DISTRIBUTES ALMOST 1,000,000 POUNDS OF FOOD IN MAY**

*Between COVID-19 and Falling Oil Prices, West Texas Food Bank  
Has Busiest Month in its 35 Year History*

**Odessa, TX – June 5, 2020 – After another busy month**, the totals are in and the West Texas Food Bank distributed just shy of one million pounds of food in the month of May to around 25,000 households throughout 19 counties in West Texas. The record distribution was aided by help from the National Guard.

The West Texas Food Bank operates on-campus pantries at both locations in Odessa and Midland, as well as conducting mobile distributions in underserved areas of the 19 counties we serve. In May, the two in-house pantries and mobile distribution locations distributed 8,100 pantry boxes, along with proteins, fruits and vegetables.

Speaking of protein, our new friends at FireBird Energy got in touch with our friends over at the Midland Meat Company about a donation of ground beef. Always working quietly behind the scenes, the Midland Meat Company matched the beef donation, and forwarded what the meat would have cost to the food bank, so not only did we receive several tons of ground beef, we also received a check for \$7,500! We also want to thank H-E-B for delivering some of the donated meat from a processor in South Texas.

May turned out to be the month of matches. The organization behind Giving Tuesday, which is normally held in November, following Black Friday and Cyber Monday, decided that Tuesday May 5<sup>th</sup> was to be designated Giving Tuesday Now, and was used by organizations around the country to raise funds for their COVID-19 response. Following a successful matching campaign from our friends at CBS7 and the Dobbs Law Firm, Odessa attorney Juan Silva, from the Silva Law Group, and the Permian Basin Trial Lawyers Association donated \$100,000 to the Food Bank, then challenged the community to donate \$100,000 more, which they would match. The community stepped up big, and we met the match, which will allow us to provide an additional 1.3 million meals!

“It is easy to view the numbers from the month of May with rose colored glasses, and paint the picture of what is going on around the Food Bank as a ‘win’,” said Libby Campbell, Executive Director of the West Texas Food Bank, “but we must also not lose site of the fact that the record numbers we are seeing are from our neighbors who are in crisis, and as many as 74% of the people we are serving have never been to a food bank or pantry before, and I don’t want to lose site of the fact that we don’t anticipate these record numbers going down. With the Payment Protection Program (PPP) loans quickly running out, and without swift action from lawmakers in D.C., we could see another devastating round of layoffs and cuts in our West Texas workforce, and we still have not fully reopened our economy following COVID closures. I fear the worst is yet to come.”

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### **About the West Texas Food Bank**

The West Texas Food Bank (WTFB) is a nonprofit hunger relief organization who distributes donated and purchased food through a network of over 80 Partner Agencies in 19 counties throughout West Texas. 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 helps provide four meals for the hungry, and 92 cents of every dollar goes directly to feed hungry West Texans. Founded in 1985, WTFB is a member of Feeding America ([feedingamerica.org](http://feedingamerica.org)), the nation’s largest network of hunger relief organizations. In 2019, roughly 6.5 million pounds of food was distributed to hungry West Texans.