

COMMUNITY DISH

Fall 2018



Kids Are Ready
for Success This
School Year —
Thanks to You!



MEMBER OF
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Dear Friend,

School is back in session this month! As students across the Permian Basin begin a new year of learning, I am excited to tell you about how your gifts are being used to help them focus.

The [West Texas Food Bank](#)'s Food 2 Kids Program has grown to include not just our Backpack Program, but also Kids Cafe, Summer Feeding, the Food 2 Babies Formula Program and School Pantries! With your help, we are reaching growing kids — from newborns to teenagers — with the healthy food they need to thrive.

I hope you understand what a difference your generosity makes for children and their families. Without steady meals to depend on outside of school, many girls and boys started the new academic year at a disadvantage.

It is nearly impossible to concentrate with a growling stomach. And chronic hunger can have truly devastating effects — from low energy to illness, developmental delays, behavior problems and more.

By providing access to consistent nutrition, you truly change lives for the better. You help children learn, grow, thrive and break the cycle of poverty for their family's next generation. I could not be more grateful for the role you play in ensuring our community's bright future.

Please take a few minutes to learn about your impact in the following pages. As you see all the smiling faces, I hope you will remember you share responsibility for our neighbors' joy.

I take comfort knowing I can count on friends like you to help alleviate hunger. Thank you sincerely for your partnership!

Gratefully,

Campbell



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Executive Director

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411 S. Pagewood Ave.

Odessa, TX 79761

(432) 580-6333

1601 Westcliff Drive

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wtxfoodbank.org

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You're Growing Strong Families

Annabelle is a single parent to her 6-year-old daughter, Annarita. She does her very best to fill her plate with balanced meals. But that has been a tall order since Annabelle became ill.

She has been out of work with kidney problems and a recent hernia. Annabelle is fortunate to have a safe place to stay with her mother, Martina. But Martina is still raising Annabelle's three much younger siblings, and stretching her income as a housekeeper has been tough.

Fortunately, the family found out about the Midland Baptist Crisis Center, a Food Bank partner near their home. When we met Annabelle at the Center's food pantry, she told us how important being able to visit had been to her family.

"We just really love serving people," Elder Jansen says, speaking on behalf of his counterparts — Elder Shamo, Elder Thomas and Elder Barney.

As missionaries with the Texas Lubbock Mission of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, the men are assigned to the Midland-Odessa area for two years. Part of that time is spent fulfilling a community service requirement, which brought them to the [West Texas Food Bank](#).

Elders Jansen, Shamo, Thomas and Barney visit our facility every other week to organize food and set up our Senior Pantry in Midland. They also help visitors pick out healthy groceries and deliver to their cars.

Jansen says the Food Bank's work struck him as especially



Annabelle (right), with her mother and daughter, outside Midland Baptist Crisis Center.

give, her family does not have to stress about affording groceries to keep her strong and healthy.

Our West Texas neighbors are giving thanks for your support this fall. With the added cost of back-to-school expenses, your gifts are a big help. Thank you for joining us in fighting hunger!

Men on a Mission to End Hunger

Bank. "There is no better feeling than helping people put food on the table."

We could not agree more! Our sincere thanks to Elders Jansen, Barney, Shamo and Thomas for your generous partnership. Our work would simply not be possible without caring friends like you.

Elder Shamo, Elder Thomas, Elder Barney and Elder Jansen





Students from Sul Ross are excited to receive food and volunteer at their school's pantry!

You Help College Students Thrive

Your generosity is a lifeline to students of all ages. At Sul Ross State University in Alpine, struggling college students are grateful for your partnership.

With the overwhelming expense of tuition, books and housing with a full-time course load, many young people who attend Sul Ross State have a hard time affording food. Fortunately, Jonathan Herrera, pastor at Collison Church near the campus, saw the need and stepped in to help.

Jonathan and his wife both graduated from Sul Ross State and understand the financial challenges of university life. Once a month they and their congregation join Alpine Food Pantry, a [Food Bank](#) partner in the area, in handing out groceries to students in need.

We had a chance to chat with just a few of the hundreds of Sul Ross students who are benefitting from your gifts. Isabella, a 19-year-old business major and president of Collison's campus ministry, was excited to share her thanks with you directly.

"Thank you," Isabella says. "Please know that this is an amazing opportunity to feed college students."

Maria, a senior, will soon graduate with her degree in kinesiology. She hopes to become a dietitian and gives time volunteering with the pantry to show her gratitude for the food she receives. Maria does not have an income right now, so the food is a real help.

"This shows that there are people who care," she says of the food made available to students like her. "I appreciate it."

Student after student told us how helpful it was to have healthy food they could count on when they run out of other options. The need is greater than Jonathan had anticipated, and your continued support is essential to feeding this community. Thank you!

Disaster Response Mobile Pantry Officially on the Road

Members of the Odessa and Midland Chambers of Commerce joined Libby Campbell, Mark Grommesh, Midland Basin President and General Manager for Occidental Petroleum, along with a few Friends of the Food Bank and Board Members, to cut the ribbon and launch the Food Bank's newest addition, the Disaster Response Mobile Pantry.

In response to the tragedy following Hurricane Harvey, Occidental Petroleum and Feeding Texas stepped up to provide another tool for future disaster relief efforts. Built by Cruising Kitchens in San Antonio, the Mobile Pantry is completely self-sustained. A generator powers mobile refrigerators and freezers, as well as powering lighting, the public address system, and even air conditioning. The trailer is connected to the outside world via H.A.M. radio, which is especially useful in rural areas with no cell phone coverage.

We are extremely proud of the new trailer, and in times not needed for disaster relief, the Disaster Response Mobile Pantry will be used to distribute food to rural and underserved areas. The Mobile Pantry is capable of serving around 200 families when fully stocked.

