

COMMUNITY DISH

HOLIDAY 2019



YOU
SPREAD
HOLIDAY
JOY!

DEAR FRIEND,

The holiday season is just around the corner! Food and family go hand in hand at this time of year, and I just cannot wait to sit down to a big, beautiful meal with the people I love.

But, because big special meals take center stage during the holidays, our hungry neighbors might find the next few weeks especially difficult. How can you think about buying a turkey and cranberry sauce — not to mention holiday gifts — if you cannot even afford your basic cost of living?

That is where caring folks like you come in. Another reason I love the holidays is because I get to see this generous community in action!

You have been collecting food, making donations and volunteering at our facilities and partner agencies to help make sure fellow West Texans can celebrate the season, too. It warms my heart and gives me faith that we can solve the problem of hunger, as long as we work together.

Please take some time to read through this holiday edition of *Community Dish* and meet just a couple of the families who have new hope because of your gifts.

As we look forward to expanding our service in the new year, I am so grateful to know the [West Texas Food Bank](#) can rely on your generous support. We are going to serve even more people facing hunger in 2020 — all thanks to you!

I hope you remember the life change you have made possible in the Permian Basin as you celebrate the holidays. Thank you for all you do.

Gratefully,



LIBBY CAMPBELL
Executive Director

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

OFFICERS:

President

Jefferson Cox, Southwest Commercial Capital

Vice President

Brian Whytlaw, Southwest Commercial Capital

Treasurer

Alex Hester, SM Energy

Secretary

RJ Lopez, Parkhill Smith & Cooper

Executive Director

Libby Campbell, West Texas Food Bank

DIRECTORS:

Mariann Bagley, Community Advocate

Lewis Busbee, Private Counseling

Judge Eleazar Cano, Brewster County Judge

Gary Carlisle, Anadarko

Arturo Carrasco, Chevron Corporation

David Dowd, H-E-B

Alex Gibson, Apache

Ricky Holman, Market Street

Melanie Hollmann, Atkins, Hollmann, Jones,
Peacock, Lewis & Lyon, Inc.

Elizabeth Jones, Concho Resources

Marc Kondrup, Shared Spaces

Sally Kvasnicka, Fasken Oil and Ranch, Ltd.

Shelby Landgraf, CBS 7

Toby Latham, Security Bank

Mark Lowe, Prosperity Bank

Maryann Martin, Frost Bank

Bernie Spears, Odessa Housing Authority

Courtney Wardlaw, XTO Energy Inc.

Chad Wheeler, Occidental

Eric Whitaker, Complex Community Federal
Credit Union

Dianne Williams, Community Advocate

Leah Williams, LC Public Relations

Ezra Yacob, EOG Resources, Inc.

ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS:

Mona Ables, Encana

Raymond Chavez, Major Electric Co., Inc.

Tammy Clements, T & E Services

Barbara Davis Donnelly, Community Advocate

Manisha Desai, Pediatric Physician

Suzanne Dickerson, Community Advocate

Rodney Hall, Choat Enterprises

Judge Billy Johnson, Midland County Precinct #3

Wade Kuehler, Abell-Hanger Foundation

Minka Sibert, Cisco Equipment

Amy Ward, Cashway Rental

Cindi Wiehle, Community Advocate

THANK YOU FOR HELPING JESUSITA AND HER DAUGHTERS THRIVE

“Thank you for all that you do.”

This holiday season, your generosity is bringing hope to neighbors like Jesusita, who is struggling to make ends meet right now.

Jesusita is raising her two girls — Alvina, 11, and Andrea, 12 — in Odessa, and providing for their needs is a frequent challenge. She is not able to hold a full-time job due to a disability but washes clothes to supplement her limited assistance checks. Often, she still falls short of being able to afford basic necessities, like food.

Andrea and Alvina are able to eat free meals at school, but when they are on break for holiday vacation, Jesusita will have to make up for those breakfasts and lunches.

It is very important to the caring mother that her daughters have balanced meals on the table. They are active, social kids and big readers, and Jesusita wants to make sure they have the fuel they need to thrive.

You help make sure their family has access to a variety of healthy food through the [Food Bank's](#) Mobile Pantry Program. On the first Monday of each month, Jesusita can stop by the American Legion to pick up bags full of fresh produce, eggs, beans and other groceries.

“Thank you for all that you do,” Jesusita says with deep gratitude for your generosity.



Jesusita and her daughter, Alvina, are excited to take home food from their local mobile pantry at American Legion in Odessa.

VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: ASHLEIGH AMONETT

“If it wasn’t for the Food Bank, I know that families would only have noodles to eat,” says Ashleigh Amonett, property manager at 87th Street Apartments.

The apartment complex provides affordable housing to families and individuals in Odessa and partners with the [West Texas Food Bank](#) to make sure residents have enough to eat.

87th Street currently hosts a Mobile Pantry distribution and in the summer it also hosts a Summer Feeding site, which provides lunch for about 30 local kids ages 2 to 18, whether or not they live at the complex. Ashleigh acts as advisor for the Summer Feeding Program and says she

appreciates the quality of the meal. The menu includes healthy items like salad, fresh fruit, grilled chicken and milk.

In addition to the summer meals and mobile pantry that serves community members of all ages, Ashleigh hopes to expand the programs offered at the complex to include an after-school Kids Cafe and in-house food pantry.

“Seeing the conditions that these families are coming from, it’s nice to have these resources available for our residents,” Ashleigh says, adding to friends like you, “Without you this would not be possible. I want to thank you very much.”

We are truly grateful for Ashleigh’s dedication and partnership in the fight against hunger!



FAMILIES ARE GIVING THANKS FOR YOU!

“Thank you for creating meaningful memories with my granddaughters.”

Tracey just loves feeding her family. She says her kids and grandchildren all appreciate her cooking. Her two little granddaughters — Maddison, 4, and Bryleigh, 7 — always come stay at grandma’s house during breaks from school and enjoy sharing meals and exploring nature with Tracey.

She appreciates their company, especially since her husband passed away a few years ago.

Right now Tracey’s income is made up of survivor benefits and Social Security. She retired three years ago, and after a lifetime working on her feet, adjusting to a fixed income has been tough. Finances are increasingly difficult with her healthcare costs.

Tracey had a heart attack a few months ago and deals with diabetes. It is absolutely vital that she fills her kitchen with healthy food. But on her budget, it can be hard to come by.

That is, until she found out about the food pantry at First United Methodist Church, which partners with the [Food Bank](#) to provide nutritious groceries in her hometown of Crane.

Because you choose to give, Tracey and her neighbors can visit the church to pick up food throughout the year. As the family chef, she is excited to prepare special holiday meals for her loved ones. Your support means so much to her.

“Thank you for creating meaningful memories with my granddaughters,” Tracey says. “You help out a lot of people that would have to [go] without.”

You are clearly making the holidays bright for your neighbors at risk of hunger — and they are so very grateful. Thank you!

EMPTY BOWLS 20TH ANNIVERSARY



Empty Bowls started as a way for artists and students to fight hunger by making ceramic bowls for donors to keep as a

reminder of all the empty dishes in the world.

Young Odessan Taylor Ruggles wanted to join the effort after September 11, 2001. She recruited her father, Sid Clark of Catfish & Company, and ceramics professor Chris Stanley to help.

Empty Bowls has grown from a small space at Odessa High School to now partner with UTPB, Odessa College, Midland College and Trinity School of Midland.

The Food Bank is forever grateful to the dedicated artists who create the bowls, as well as Catfish & Company and Jason’s Deli of Midland for their donations of soup, bread and dessert.

You are invited to the 20th Anniversary Celebration of Empty Bowls January 26 at the Odessa Marriott and Convention Center from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bryleigh and her little sister, Maddison, are all smiles at First United Methodist Church in Crane.



Connect with us online:

