

# COMMUNITY DISH

SUMMER 2020



**YOU HELP  
FIGHT SUMMER  
HUNGER FOR LOCAL  
CHILDREN!**

# DEAR FRIEND,

I am simply in awe of your passion and commitment to helping your neighbors. Even in such uncertain times, you continue to share what you have with children, families and seniors facing hunger in the Permian Basin.

Over the past few months our work has become even more critical. Many West Texans have been missing paychecks and losing jobs, seniors are self-isolating for safety and kids have been without the meals they typically eat at school.

We expect the serious need for food to persist for many months as our local economy struggles to recover from coronavirus closures and the drastic decrease of oil prices.

Here at the [West Texas Food Bank](#), our priority has always been to feed the hungry. We can only continue to work toward this goal with the ongoing support of folks like you.

Whether a senior receives a box full of healthy groceries or parents make kids' favorite foods from groceries they pick up at a Food Bank partner agency, you help make it possible.

In this issue of *Community Dish*, you can meet just a small representation of the many neighbors you are already helping in the midst of such a trying time.

On behalf of the children, families and seniors we serve together, thank you for your commitment to hunger relief in our community, especially during this trying time.

Gratefully,



**LIBBY CAMPBELL**  
Executive Director



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## ROSA AND FAMILY THANK YOU

### “I’m thankful for everything.”

Lourdes, 10, will head into 5th grade next fall. Thanks to you, she will have the nutritious food she needs all summer long to get ready for another year of learning.

We met Lourdes as she accompanied her aunt, Rosa, on a visit to the food pantry at First United Methodist Church in Crane, a partner agency of the [Food Bank](#). The two made the visit together before the COVID-19 outbreak.

Rosa is a daycare teacher and her husband also works. With the high cost of



Rosa and her family appreciate the support that they receive from the Crane FUMC pantry.

living, the couple sometimes struggles to afford groceries. A year ago, friends and neighbors told her about the food pantry.

Rosa says she typically comes to the pantry once a month, and she is especially grateful for the canned goods and produce she finds there.

“I’m thankful for everything,” Rosa says, adding she is “grateful that [the food pantry] is here to help the community.”

We also met Lourdes' older sister at the pantry. She not only benefits from the food the family receives from the pantry, but she has also volunteered there. She reiterates that their family appreciates your generous donations, especially because groceries in the area are so expensive.

On behalf of the many families, just like Lourdes and Rosa's, who can access healthy food because you choose to give, thank you for your generosity!

## VOLUNTEER OF THE QUARTER: DAVID MARTIN

“True happiness comes from helping others.”

David Martin is a busy man. A married father of two, he works full-time as a land developer and serves as lay Bishop at his church. But he always makes time to serve his community.

Prior to COVID-19, he joined a group of around 40 people from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in Odessa to volunteer at the Food Bank.

“I always feel better when I’m helping others,” David says.

The volunteers typically helped pack *Food 2 Kids* weekend backpacks — and averaged an amazing 5,000 bags per hour.

David also encourages others to volunteer with the Food Bank, whether as individuals or in a group.

He believes, “The greatest joy is found in the service of others.”

We appreciate you, David, and the entire group of volunteers from The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. Thank you for your gift of time. We look forward to seeing you again in the fall to sack *Food 2 Kids* weekend backpacks for hungry children!



# YOU HELP CHILDREN THRIVE

**“Thank you!”**

Yatziri Andrade is assistant director at the Woodson Unit of the Boys and Girls Club in Odessa where – during a typical year – around 100 kids participate in the after-school program and 200 participate in the summer program.

When school is in session, kids in the after-school program can eat a hot meal before going home. In the summer, children receive both lunch and a snack during day camp. While there is still uncertainty about how this summer will play out, what is certain is that your gifts will help provide nutritious meals for children in need no matter what.

“Parents really appreciate the meal program,” Yatziri says. “It helps.”

The kids are also thankful, she says, and often try foods new to them thanks to the variety of food provided by the [Food Bank](#).

“They are getting all the food groups,” Yatziri says.

Often, she says children even ask for seconds when there is enough left over.

“Thank you,” Yatziri says to donors like you.

We echo Yatziri and thank you for making sure so many children have the nutritious food they need, especially when school is out. Your generosity is feeding the future of our community!

Children at the Boys and Girls Club, Woodson Unit, are all smiles as they enjoy a snack together.



## COVID-19: RESPONSE UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of folks like you, the West Texas Food Bank is working hard to significantly increase our food distribution efforts in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

Not surprisingly, we continue to see an increase in the need for nutritious food across West Texas. Forced closures of schools

and businesses have taken a deep toll, and it is one that will continue for a long time.

We remain committed to the health and wellness of volunteers, staff and the people we serve, and your generous support allows us to maintain our already high standards and sustain our mission.

If your financial situation allows you to pay your bills and still keep food on the table, would you consider giving (perhaps again) to help your neighbors who are not as fortunate?

Thank you for sacrificing for your hungry neighbors, especially during this challenging time for us all.



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