

Thank you for helping Jennifer get back on her feet

Hi there, I'm Jennifer. This is my second trip ever to the East Texas Food Bank. My family never needed their help before, but then businesses started shutting down. Like a lot of folks around here, I lost my job really suddenly.

We tried to make ends meet for a while, but without my pay coming in, it was hard. There came a point when we just had to make the call: If we don't ask for help, we're going to go hungry.

"This food really takes a lot of stress off!"

—JENNIFER

Jennifer takes your helping hand

So we came to a drive-through food distribution that was happening near us—and wow. I was blown away by how easy they made everything. It still broke my heart to see so many people lined up to get help, but the staff here are wonderful. They have a kind word for every last one of us.

We picked up a big load of milk, eggs, fresh produce and other basics that first time, and today, we got another couple weeks' worth. We're so appreciative—it really takes a lot of stress off!

There's more good news: I just went back to work yesterday, so this food will help us get by until I get my



Jennifer is so grateful you were there for her and her family.

first couple of paychecks. Then I hope we won't have to use this resource so some of our other neighbors can benefit from it instead.

Thank you so much for helping my family get through this!

Your support has made a lasting impact in the lives of so many neighbors like Jennifer. The food you help provide relieves them of a huge worry so they can move forward with hope! Please use the enclosed form to give again today or donate online at EastTexasFoodBank.org/DonateNow

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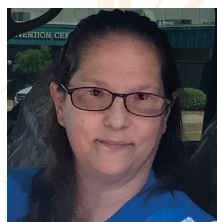
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Your support keeps us nimble



An encouraging word from the CEO



My Spring 2021 Goal: Full Pantry Shelves

Dear Friend,

We're about to reach an unexpected milestone: this month will mark one year of serving East Texas during a pandemic. It's not something any of us at the East Texas Food Bank ever thought we'd experience, but we're all proud we're still going strong.

Friends like you have played a huge role in that—helping us pivot whenever we've needed to. At the holidays, for example, you were instrumental in ensuring we could provide complete holiday meals.

You see, during normal times, securing perishable food, especially proteins like turkey and chicken, can be challenging. During a pandemic? Let's just say it's been an ongoing guessing game about whether supply will match demand.

Thanks to you, families didn't have to guess about whether they'd be able to enjoy a well-balanced, nutritious holiday meal. You helped provide everything they needed!

And there's so much more. You helped us open a new location in Lufkin, where many households fall below the poverty line. You also helped us launch a new mobile pantry that allows us to deliver healthy food directly to the most underserved neighborhoods in our region.

Honestly, it's incredible what we were able to achieve in such a chaotic year. I can't thank you enough for your support.

This spring, I'm determined to keep the shelves full at our partner pantries. We've done such a good job so far; I want to make sure we always have enough food for everyone who needs help in this time of recovery. Can I count on you again?

Gratefully,

Dennis J. Cullinane, CEO

"Your help
is a real
blessing!"

—BOBBY



You help Bobby stay home and stay healthy

My name is Bobby, and I want to thank you for thinking about me. It's a scary time right now. You get to be my age and you're dealing with a lot of health problems. Diabetes, heart trouble. The shape I'm in, I don't dare leave the house.

I found out about the East Texas Food Bank on TV. Living on a fixed income like I do, it was tough having to pay people to help me get food. So I gave you all a call, and you've just been a real blessing in my life ever since!

You brought all sorts of groceries right to my doorstep. Peanut butter, milk, fresh produce—I'm so grateful to get so much good stuff for free. My grandson and his mom live with me, too, and they love the food we cook together.

I just want to say thank you again for remembering me. You've lifted a huge weight off of my shoulders, so I can stay home and stay healthy. I sit out on the porch and get some fresh air every day. I breathe easy because of you.

Because of your support, we were able to deliver food directly to local seniors when we were at the peak of the pandemic. Your generosity helps keep our neighbors like Bobby safe and fed.

Photo has been changed to protect the privacy of the guest.

We would like to thank our East Texas Food Bank Board of Directors

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The right place at the right time

I couldn't believe my luck. I was driving along, worrying about how tough things are at home. I don't have any income at the moment—I'm waiting for Social Security to start up—and I was thinking to myself, "Vicki, how are we gonna get by?"

Then, like a miracle, I found this drive-through food distribution. I can't even tell you how much this means. All of this amazing food is going to keep my family fed until we can support ourselves again.

These are troubled times, with so many people losing jobs. I know if you guys weren't out here, children would be going hungry. Thank you for being in the right place at the right time for tons of folks like me.

The East Texas Food Bank and our 200 partner agencies and feeding programs have never been in more "right places" than we have in the past year! We could only sustain our outreach—and even expand into new areas—because friends like you stood with us. Thank you for your powerful support!

"All of this amazing food is going to keep my family fed."

—VICKI



Vicki was amazed to find the answer to her troubles right here in her neighborhood.

Partner Spotlight

Feeding our communities—together



"It's a passion of ours to give people hope."

—JENNIFER RANDALL

Mission Carthage is a hub of hope for rural Panola County. Since last March, they have been shielding thousands of East Texans from the impacts of the pandemic and poverty. Executive Director Jennifer Randall talks about her organization's vital partnership with East Texas Food Bank:

"It's not enough to say 'thank you,' but these are the words we've got! The East Texas Food Bank made it possible for us to continue to feed people in need when we thought we might have to close our doors. That idea hurt so much. It's a passion of ours to give people hope and help their tears stop flowing for a day. A lot of people would go hungry if we weren't here."

"With the East Texas Food Bank's support, we have stayed open! It miraculously feels like the loaves and fishes sometimes—even when we're serving about 100 more families every month."

"They provide lots of shelf-stable food like canned vegetables, peanut butter, baking mixes, rice, pasta and spaghetti sauce. We give every family some of this, like the grandma in her 70s who's raising her 16-year-old grandson. He wanted to get a job to help out at home, but then COVID-19 hit. This food helps them so much right now."

"Thank you, thank you, thank you to the East Texas Food Bank for helping us love our neighbors!"

We're also thankful—for you! Like Jennifer says, "This is a group effort to feed our communities." We simply couldn't do it without you.

Your generosity keeps us nimble in the fight against hunger

When hunger skyrocketed last spring, friends like you responded. Together, you and the East Texas Food Bank served more neighbors than ever using a new drive-through model. When the food supply chain lagged, you were there with funds to fill the gap.

Thank you. Your generosity truly is the key to keeping us prepared in the ever-changing fight against hunger.

This spring, we need your help once again, as 1 in 5 East Texans continues to struggle. Recovery is slow for neighbors like Kaprenai and her husband, whose employment recently took a hit.

"I'm not working right now, and my husband isn't working as much as he used to," shares this local mom. "Our income just dropped suddenly."

Kaprenai worried they wouldn't be able to afford nutritious food for their young children. Then, she and her husband discovered a nearby food distribution...and their anxiety evaporated. You helped give them a food box full of fresh fruits and vegetables, cereal, peanut butter, dairy and more.

"This food will help out a lot," Kaprenai smiles.

Please help more neighbors get the food they need this spring. **Every \$1 you give helps provide up to 8 nutritious meals** through programs like our Kids Café and local partners like soup kitchens and food pantries. Thank you again for being a friend we can count on!



Help more moms like Kaprenai put food on the table this spring.

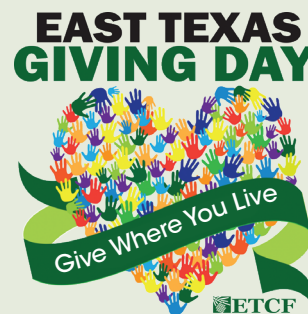
East Texas Giving Day is April 27

The fifth annual East Texas Giving Day is coming up! On April 27, over the course of just 18 crucial hours, compassionate folks from every corner of our community will come together online to help East Texans in need.

We hope you'll make the East Texas Food Bank your charity of choice on this day of community action. When you donate the minimum amount of \$10, you'll help provide up to an astounding 80 meals for our hungry neighbors. No other charity lets you have that kind of impact!

Be sure to remind your friends and family—and if any of you want to give early, that's OK, too.

EastTexasGivingDay.org is accepting donations starting on April 5. Thanks for joining us!



Use the form below or give online at EastTexasFoodBank.org/DonateNow

My gift to provide nutritious food for our neighbors in need

YES, Dennis, I want to help ensure children, families and seniors across East Texas have the food they need to thrive this spring. I'm enclosing my gift of:

☐ \$150 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$25 ☐ Other \$_____

☐ I want to become a member of **THE TABLE Monthly Giving Program** with a monthly gift of \$_____. My first gift is enclosed.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

Please make your check payable to:

EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK
3201 Robertson Road
Tyler, TX 75701-2532



To charge your gift by phone, call **800.815.FOOD**.

Please charge my gift on my credit card:

☐ VISA ☐ MC ☐ AMEX ☐ DISC

CARD NUMBER _____

EXP. DATE _____

NAME ON ACCOUNT _____

SECURITY CODE _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

SIGNATURE _____

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Give online at EastTexasFoodBank.org/DonateNow

Your donation is tax deductible as permitted by law. The East Texas Food Bank will send you a receipt in gratitude for your kindness to the individuals and families in East Texas who rely on us for food.

