



# EAST TEXAS STRONG

Feeding Neighbors,  
Building Community

FY2021 ANNUAL REPORT







# TABLE OF CONTENTS

|           |                      |           |                                 |
|-----------|----------------------|-----------|---------------------------------|
| <b>4</b>  | Message From Our CEO | <b>11</b> | Volunteer Profile               |
| <b>5</b>  | Our Mission          | <b>12</b> | Programs                        |
| <b>6</b>  | Who We Are           | <b>16</b> | Deep East Texas Resource Center |
| <b>7</b>  | How We Help          | <b>17</b> | How You Can Help                |
| <b>8</b>  | Hunger Heroes        | <b>18</b> | Funding Sources                 |
| <b>10</b> | Donor Profile        | <b>19</b> | Board of Directors              |

## Meet Paul

Paul is retired, but like many East Texas seniors living on a fixed-income he was coming up a little short to make ends meet. He turned to an East Texas Food Bank partner food pantry for a little extra help.

"Without this food, I don't know what I would do. It's tough out here."

He says he loves the food he receives. "You are doing a very good service to the community and I thank you."



# MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

## Dear Partners and Friends,

Thousands of East Texans experience food insecurity each year—meaning they lack access to adequate, nutritious foods. As a result of COVID-19's economic impacts, different segments of the population have sought assistance from the East Texas Food Bank as a result of job loss, reduced incomes, no school or daycare options, illness, or taking care of family.

As the pandemic continues, new challenges are impacting the face of hunger as well as the services we provide because of inflation and the volatile food supply chain issues. Prices on everyday items are going up causing more East Texans to seek out help with food. The average family is spending

\$175 more a month in 2021 for items like food and fuel according to Moody's Analytics.

The East Texas Food Bank responds to each challenge with a can-do attitude so we can fulfill our mission of fighting hunger and feeding hope.

We are humbled by the large number of people who have come out to volunteer at our distributions, at one of our 200 partner agencies and in our volunteer center. Help came in the form of packing boxes, sorting through food donations and labeling cans. One retiree told me coming here to volunteer is the best part of his week!

This past fiscal year we were able to provide 24.9 million meals to more than 111,000 families. Donors are an important part of the equation of solving hunger in East Texas. We are so thankful for the many individuals, families, businesses, foundations

and organizations that give to the ETFB to alleviate hunger. We were especially thankful to have been selected with other national charities to receive a large financial gift from philanthropist MacKenzie Scott.

A generous grant from the The T.L.L. Temple Foundation enabled us to launch the Deep East Texas Resource Center in Lufkin to assist families with food, nutrition education and other support services.

It's incredible what we have achieved in the past year and I can't thank you enough for your support.

Gratefully,



**Dennis J. Cullinane**  
Chief Executive Officer

“ This past fiscal year we were able to serve 24.9 million meals to more than 111,000 families. ”





million net  
pounds of food  
distributed



million total  
pounds USDA  
product received



million pounds  
of produce  
distributed

# OUR MISSION

**The East Texas Food Bank  
exists to fight hunger and  
feed hope in East Texas.**

The East Texas Food Bank is committed to feeding our neighbors who struggle with hunger. Unfortunately, 1 in 5 East Texans, including 1 in 4 children, don't have access to the nutritious food necessary for a healthy life.





# WHO WE ARE



## Our vision remains the same today as when we started — a hunger-free East Texas.

The East Texas Food Bank was created in 1988 by a group of community leaders in Tyler to fight hunger. We started with 17 partner agencies in 10 counties and now we operate with over 200 partner agencies and feeding programs throughout 26 East Texas counties. While our programs have evolved to meet the needs of our community, our vision remains the same today as when we started — to create a hunger-free East Texas. We believe that every East Texan should have access to the nutritious food they need to thrive. Today, the East Texas Food Bank works to feed families, while tackling the underlying causes of hunger.

**200**

partner agencies and feeding programs  
.....

**26**

East Texas counties  
.....

**20,000**

square miles





# HOW WE HELP

## Our strategic goal is to increase distribution by 2025 to 32 million meals annually.

The East Texas Food Bank works to feed our community with programs such as the Backpack Program, Kids Cafe and After School Snack Program, Summer Food Program, Mobile Pantry Program and Senior Box Program. We also provide nutrition education and benefits assistance.

According to Feeding America, 239,800 East Texans, including 85,450 children, are food insecure.

By 2025, the East Texas Food Bank, in collaboration with our network of partner agencies and community leaders, will ensure access to enough nutritious food for people struggling with hunger and make meaningful progress toward ending hunger in East Texas.

**3,800**

volunteers

.....

**24,602**

total volunteer hours





# EAST TEXAS STRONG

The East Texas Food Bank honored seven recipients in 2020 with the inaugural Hunger Hero Awards.



The awards were presented to recognize the outpouring of support from the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Inaugural Awards were given to Brookshire Grocery Company, the Longview Police Department, Smith County Government, Texas Army National Guard 1st Squadron 124th Cavalry Regiment, The Mentoring Alliance, T.L.L. Temple Foundation and the Tyler Police Department.

"Hunger existed in East Texas long before the pandemic hit but as a result we saw more of our working-class neighbors struggling to put food on the table," said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank.

**"We have been inspired by East Texans helping each other to make sure everyone has access to nutritious food."**

The awards were given in September during Feeding America's Hunger Action Month. This month of awareness works to inspire the community to take action and bring attention to the reality of hunger in East Texas.

The Tyler Police Department helped with food distributions. "It's our honor and privilege to fully support the highly professional and compassionate people of the ETFB," said Tyler Police Department Sergeant Matt Leigeber.

"For 92 years, Brookshire Grocery has been committed to causes including hunger relief in the communities where we live and work. Never has the need been more pervasive or sustained than during this pandemic. We are very grateful to have been able to partner with the East Texas Food Bank to help those who have been affected by the pandemic," said Chairman and CEO of Brookshire Grocery Co. Brad Brookshire.

"Hunger is a crisis in East Texas that will take the whole community's support to fight. While the fight against hunger is ongoing, together, we can feed hope for our neighbors in need," Cullinane said.



**HUNGER HERO AWARDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021**



# EAST TEXAS STRONG

The East Texas Food Bank honored four recipients in 2021 with the second annual Hunger Hero Awards



The East Texas Food Bank honored four recipients in 2021 with the second annual Hunger Hero Awards.

Hunger Hero Awards were given to Green Acres Baptist Church (Community Partner Organization), Mr. & Mrs. Herb and Melvina Buie (Individual Supporter), John Soules Foods, Inc. (Corporate Partner) and the Louis & Peaches Owen Family Foundation (Foundation Partner).

**"2021's Hunger Hero Award recipients have shown a great amount of support, especially as we've continued to distribute record amounts of food," said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank. "They really exemplify the kindness and generosity of our community and the commitment needed in the fight against hunger."**

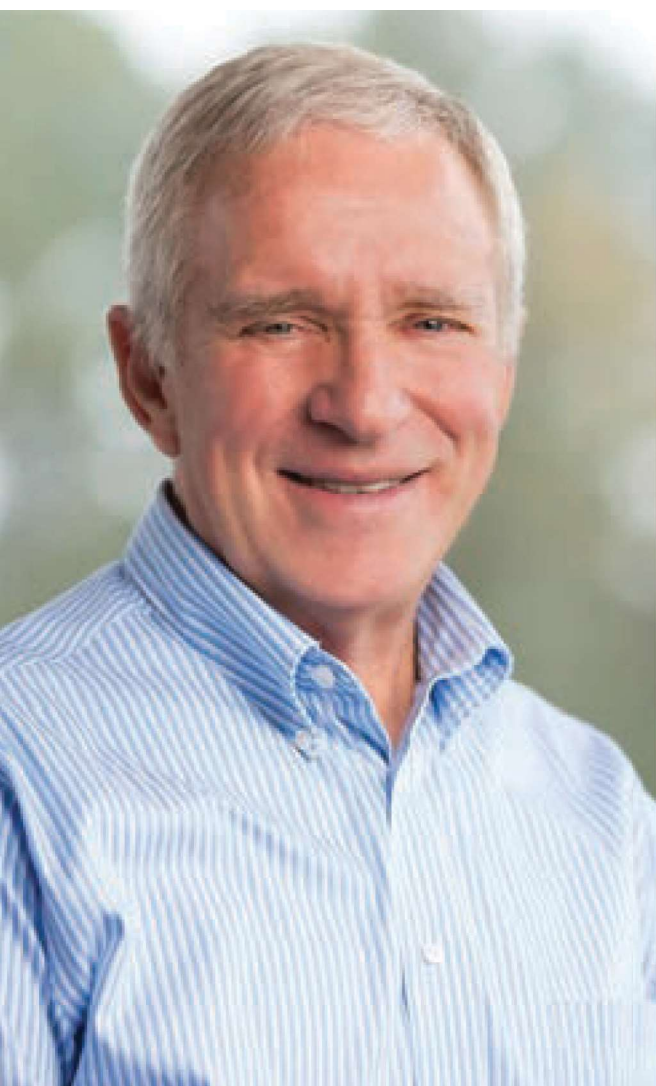
"One thing that motivates me is that we want to help 26 counties, and 200 agencies give out 30 million pounds of food to the hungry in our East Texas area," said Herb Buie. "I want to see that happen with the great performance of the East Texas Food Bank."

"We feel it is important to give back to the community that has given so much to us," said John Soules Jr., Co-CEO of John Soules Foods, Inc. "We are honored to be awarded in this way and continue to pledge our support to the East Texas Food Bank for years to come."



**HUNGER HERO AWARDS  
FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022**





# DONOR PROFILE

**“I came from humble beginnings, worked hard my whole life from an early age, and want to help people who are going through challenging times with their needs.”**

**JEFF JOHNSTON**



Many East Texans look forward to reaching retirement age, but for Arkansas native Jeff Johnston, when he achieved that milestone and completed a 33 plus year career with Eastman Chemical, that took him all over the world, he decided he wanted something more.

Johnston became the owner/operator of a new Chick-fil-A in Orlando in 2009 and moved to Tyler in 2014 to assume ownership of the South Broadway Chick-fil-A restaurant. Jeff and his wife Debra immediately started investing in lives and service opportunities in Tyler and the East Texas community. Jeff says he was raised to lead by example and has always strived to work with and through others.

“Giving back is very important to me,” said Johnston. “We strive to live by the Chick-fil-A corporate purpose statement which states, ‘To glorify God, by being a faithful steward of all that is entrusted to us and to be a positive influence to all who come in contact with Chick-fil-A.’”

Johnston is a board member for the East Texas Food Bank and a donor. “Food is a universal need. It’s important to make sure people have food and shelter and I enjoy being a part of this organization.”

He also serves on the advisory board of the Salvation Army and Executive Board of the Tyler Chamber of Commerce. In addition, he helps multiple non-profits and community helpers such as firefighters, law enforcement and others. Johnston also gives of his time and was recently a volunteer at several of the East Texas Food Bank food distributions.





# VOLUNTEER PROFILE

**“The need is so great and it gives me something to do in my retirement and to help fight hunger.”**

**ROY COSTON**

Roy Coston retired two years ago after a successful career in the oil and gas industry. He wanted to find a way to give back, so he became a volunteer at the East Texas Food Bank.

“I had the chance to work one of the large drive-through distributions and see how grateful the people were to receive food and it made me feel so good to be helping,” said Coston.

Coston says when he was growing up, his family had food, but there wasn't a lot to put on the table. He has seen family members who depend on the senior food boxes and understands the mission. “I especially have a big heart for the children. It's not their fault they have no food and I am so happy when we pack the food for them to take home on the weekends.”





# FEEDING NEIGHBORS

## BackPack Program

Many East Texas school children rely on free or reduced priced meals provided at school to receive their daily nutritional needs. The BackPack Program provides healthy food to children every weekend to close the hunger gap.

## Kids Cafe and Afterschool Snack Program

The East Texas Food Bank partners with a variety of afterschool programs to provide quality meals and snacks for children. These programs provide a fun environment for children to engage in educational, recreational and social activities.

## Summer Food Program

Free lunches and breakfasts are provided to low-income children as part of the Summer Food Program. Children receive meals that meet the daily nutritional requirements while participating in games and educational and enrichment activities.

## Mobile Pantry Program

The Mobile Pantry Program targets neighborhoods and communities with a high percentage of people facing hunger. The East Texas Food Bank partners with community organizations to find a distribution site, provide volunteers and spread the word about the program. Mobile Pantry locations give out food once or twice a month, with no documentation or eligibility requirements to participate.

**The BackPack Program was designed to close the weekend hunger gap for children.**



**181,475**

backpack kits  
distributed in FY21

.....

**8,000**

children served  
through BackPack  
Program in FY21

.....

**89,670**

meals

**38,000**

snacks  
were served in  
Kids Cafe and  
Afterschool  
Snack programs

.....

**620,939**

pounds distributed by  
13 Mobile Pantry sites

.....



# SUPPORTING SENIORS

**Access to healthy food is associated with lower risk for obesity and other diet-related chronic diseases such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and hypertension.**

## Senior Box Program

Boxes of nutritious food are provided each month to low-income seniors living in isolated, rural communities. Many older adults in East Texas are living on a fixed income and have to choose between food, medicine and other monthly expenses. The Senior Box Program is a great help to them, so they can allocate funds for other needs.

**3,770**

seniors served each month by Senior Box Program

**45,450**

senior boxes were distributed during FY21

**1,225,284**

meals were served through the boxes in FY21

### Meet Delois

Delois sought assistance at an East Texas Food Bank distribution location. "I never needed food assistance before, but between my disability and COVID-19, we were having trouble affording enough food at home."

She was so thankful to find out about the program. "They gave me everything I needed—canned goods and fresh produce. What a comfort in this scary time!"

Delois says receiving extra food is such a blessing. "Maybe you can't see it because of my mask, but I am all smiles right now."



# EDUCATION

## Nutrition Education Program

The Nutrition Education Program assists with obesity and chronic disease prevention. The program offers nutrition education to low-income community members by partnering with community organizations and social service agencies serving limited-resource clients.

### Direct Education

The Direct Education Program provides nutrition education through classes. Topics include healthy eating on a budget, food safety, meal planning, cooking, physical activity and more.

### Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters for adults is a six-week course focused on preparing and shopping for healthy meals on a limited budget. Each class includes a nutrition lesson, cooking and food safety and hands-on preparation of a meal. Each week the class participants are sent home with all the ingredients to make a new recipe they learned in the class as a way to try healthy foods.

### Healthy Pantry Program

The Healthy Pantry Program aims to make "the healthy choice the easy choice" for clients by using marketing strategies to provide nutrition education in the food pantry setting. The goal of the project is to increase the distribution of healthy foods through product placement, signage, recipe card displays, shelf tags and food demonstrations.

**17,520**

clients were reached  
through the Healthy  
Pantry Program  
.....

**1,576**

people reached by  
Direct Education  
.....

**24**

partner agencies  
participate with Healthy  
Pantry Program



### Meet Beth

Beth is a single, East Texas mom, who struggled during the pandemic to provide enough food for her children.

She has a 4-year-old son and a 2-year-old daughter who suffers from seizures and cannot be placed in day care so Beth is unable to work.

"I couldn't always afford what we needed with rising prices. My daughter's health concerns have kept us going back and forth to the doctor a lot recently, and that has been tough. We haven't really been able to go anywhere else."

She said the East Texas Food Bank's boxes helped feed her family.

"It's been pretty rough lately, and that's why I started coming to the drive-through distributions. I'm thankful for everybody that has helped."





# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Partners in Health

The Partners in Health Program is an innovative partnership with local healthcare providers. The goal of the program is to impact food-insecure individuals at their place of healthcare by providing healthy foods and nutrition education.

## Benefits Assistance Program

The Benefits Assistance Program helps eligible East Texans apply for state social service benefits, including SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Medicaid, TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families), CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), Healthy Texas Women and Medicare Savings Program. Additionally, the Benefits Assistance Program provides referral services for other social service agencies, such as WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children), housing, shelter and utility assistance programs.

**The combination of nutrition education and healthy food access aims to improve food security status while also promoting chronic disease prevention and maintenance.**



**6,500**

pounds of food distributed through Partners in Health

.....

**1M**

meals provided through SNAP application assistance in FY21



# GETTING STRONGER

## Deep East Texas Resource Center opens in Lufkin.

The East Texas Food Bank opened its newest program, the Deep East Texas Resource Center or DETRC, in the spring of 2021 in Lufkin in Angelina County.

DETRC is a one-stop-shop of wraparound services including a food pantry, benefits assistance and other support services for families in deep East Texas. Nutrition education classes are also conducted so clients can learn how to make healthy meals for their families.

Funding for the DETRC was made possible with a grant from the T.L.L. Temple Foundation. The T.L.L Temple Foundation works alongside rural communities to build a thriving East Texas and to alleviate poverty, creating access and opportunity for all.

**20%**

of Angelina County residents are food insecure including 29% of children  
.....

**10,000**

Angelina households receive emergency food assistance  
.....

**2.1M**

meals provided in Angelina County by the ETFB







# OUR COMMUNITY IS OUR STRENGTH

**Hunger is a crisis in East Texas that will take the whole communities' support to fight.**

While the fight against hunger is ongoing—**together**, we can feed hope for our neighbors in need.



## **Give Money**

Financial support from the community is essential for the growth of the East Texas Food Bank. Every \$1 donated can provide up to 8 meals. We are also proud that 96 percent of all revenue and support goes directly toward our programs.



## **Give Time**

Almost everything the food bank distributes is touched by a volunteer. Last year, East Texans logged 24,000 hours at the food bank, distribution sites and other programs. Available opportunities and registration is available online at [EastTexasFoodBank.org](https://EastTexasFoodBank.org)



## **Give Food**

Virtual Food Drives make it easy to get involved in the fight against hunger with a unique way to fundraise on our behalf. The drives raise dollars instead of cans. For example, \$10 at a grocery store can purchase 10 cans or about 10 meals. However, that same \$10 in a monetary donation can provide up to 80 meals thanks to our large buying power.

**Find out how you can give money, time and food by visiting [EastTexasFoodBank.org](https://EastTexasFoodBank.org) or call 903-597-3663.**





## Funding Sources

In fiscal year 2021, the East Texas Food Bank had a total public support and revenue of \$50,307,072 and operating expenses of \$46,933,079. Over 96% of all support we receive, including financial donations, other revenue and donated food, go directly to helping feed East Texans facing hunger. For the full financial report, go to [EastTexasFoodBank.org](https://EastTexasFoodBank.org)

## Revenue and Support

**Total \$50,307,072**



|                     |                            |
|---------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>\$27,988,933</b> | Donated Food & Commodities |
| <b>\$9,076,059</b>  | USDA Commodities           |
| <b>\$13,242,080</b> | Contributions              |
| <b>\$4,259,281</b>  | Federal Grant Revenues     |



|                    |                         |
|--------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>\$1,324,286</b> | Purchased Food Recovery |
| <b>\$704,573</b>   | Shared Maintenance      |
| <b>\$121,265</b>   | Other Income            |

## Expenses

**Total \$46,933,079**



|                     |                        |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| <b>\$45,121,399</b> | Program Services       |
| <b>\$1,011,148</b>  | Management and General |
| <b>\$800,532</b>    | Fundraising            |



# STRONG NUMBERS



## Board of Directors 2020-2021

### **Michele Bosworth**

UT Health Science  
Center at Tyler

### **Jay Brooks**

Smith County Fire Marshal  
Emergency Management  
Coordinator

### **Kenneth Cobb**

amaGoh Smoothie

### **Jim Daughtry**

Daughtry Realty Company

### **Gregg Davis**

Merrill Lynch

### **Kristy Everitt**

Henry & Peters PC

### **Verna Hall**

Community Volunteer

### **Leslie Harrison, Secretary**

Community Volunteer

### **Diane Heindel**

Law Office of B. Diane  
Heindel, PC

### **Ann Howell**

Retired, State Farm  
Insurance

### **Bryan Jacobs, Immediate Past Chair**

Jacobe Brothers  
Construction, Inc.

### **Jay Jelinek**

Brookshire Brothers, Inc.

### **Moises Leandro**

MLEandro Realty

### **Jeff W. Johnston**

Chick-Fil-A at Broadway  
Crossing

### **Aaron Martinez**

Christus Trinity  
Mother Frances

### **Bill Mohl, Chair**

WMM Enterprises, LLC

### **Jim Noble**

Community Volunteer

### **Christie Osuagwu**

Community Volunteer

### **Cathy Schreiber, Treasurer**

Community Volunteer

### **Dr. Valerie Smith**

St. Paul Children's Clinic

### **Michael Stevens**

Michael W. Stevens, CPA

### **Howard Tagg**

Law Office of Howard Tagg

### **Dustin Wilkinson**

American State Bank

### **Lisa Williams**

Black Nurses Rock

### **Ivette Zavarce**

Encouragement  
Media Group

**Feeding  
Neighbors,  
Building  
Community**



3201 Robertson Road

Tyler, Texas 75701

903.597.3663

[EastTexasFoodBank.org](http://EastTexasFoodBank.org)



Design by Eisenberg, Inc.





3201 Robertson Road

Tyler, Texas 75701

903.597.3663

[EastTexasFoodBank.org](http://EastTexasFoodBank.org)