

*You Give
Hope for
the Holidays!*



You Ease Annette's Worries

Annette, 73, is retired from a career as a barber — but her days are now happily filled with caring for her grandchildren. She's thanking you for helping her make sure she has nutritious food to share with them.

We met Annette on a recent visit to the East Texas Food Bank's Drive-Through Mobile Pantry at First Baptist Church in Palestine, where she's been receiving groceries weekly since the spring when it first opened.

“With the opening of this pantry, it took the fear out of my life,” she says.

Annette says one of the main reasons she comes to the food pantry is because her

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Annette pauses before receiving groceries from the Food Bank's Drive-Through Mobile Pantry at First Baptist Church in Palestine.



ultimately distribute more nutritious food and serve more people.

We also continue to work hard to make sure programs like our Mobile Pantry are there to meet the need for healthy food, wherever it arises.

You'll meet just a couple of the many neighbors who have benefited from this program in this special holiday edition of Servings, just like Annette (page 3) who is thanking you for helping her provide for her and her grandchildren this holiday season.

I'm so grateful for your partnership with ETFB to make sure nutritious food is available through whatever obstacles our community faces.

I look forward to partnering with you in 2023 to build an even stronger, healthier community for us all.

Gratefully,

Dennis J. Cullinane
Chief Executive Officer

Dear Friend,

I can't imagine living and working in a more supportive, compassionate community. From the ongoing struggles resulting from the pandemic to the increased costs of nearly every necessity, you've been there to give help and hope.

That's why, at the start of another holiday season, I remain encouraged about our community's future.

In fact, we have several exciting things to celebrate at this year's end. This past summer, East Texas Food Bank broke ground on a new Tyler Resource Center and Fresh Produce Processing Center.

Both centers are a part of our overall strategic plan to expand programs, and

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“With the opening of this pantry, it took a lot of fear out of my life.”

— Annette

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mobility is somewhat limited and it’s difficult to walk through the entire grocery store. She has osteoarthritis and has had both knees replaced.

“They are timely and efficient,” Annette says of the food pantry staff. “The produce is always good.”

Annette says friends like you are “Godsends” for choosing to give on behalf of your neighbors.

“There is love in giving and we would be grateful for anything that you can provide,” she says.

This holiday season, thousands of our neighbors like Annette can put nutritious food on the table because you choose to give. Thank you for your ongoing and vital partnership.



Deep East Texas Resource Center

The Deep East Texas Resource Center (DETRC) in Lufkin celebrated their one-year anniversary in May of 2022.

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. In the past year, DETRC served 3,100 households, with a total of 741,000 meals.

“For those of us on disability, we can’t afford our rent, groceries, and medicines. Coming to DETRC helps us. Money doesn’t go far after you pay rent. You are all nice and helpful!” -Rachel



Sandy Nichols (left)

Sandy Nichols: 2022 Outstanding Volunteer

Sandy Nichols received the 2022 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year award from the East Texas Food Bank, but what keeps her

coming back each week isn’t the accolades — it’s the difference being made for her community.

“I especially have a heart for the children and want to make sure no one goes hungry,” she says.

Sandy first began volunteering with ETFB nearly nine years ago.

“My husband Jimmy and I, and several other members of my congregation, started helping

out when we opened a food pantry at our church,” she says.

Since then, volunteering has become a regular part of the couple’s routine. “It’s really one of the best parts of our week,” Sandy says.

While putting labels on cans and repackaging rice may be tricky to get the hang of, Sandy and Jimmy are always willing to help in whatever way is needed.

Thank you, Sandy, Jimmy and all the amazing volunteers who help the East Texas Food Bank fight hunger and feed hope across our community!

Nohemy, right, and Blanca share a smile on a recent visit to the Food Bank's Mobile Pantry at First Baptist Church in Palestine.



Moms are Grateful for Your Support

Nohemy and her husband are the proud parents of three children, ages 2, 4 and 6 — thanks to you, the couple can keep nutritious food on the table for the whole family this holiday season.

Nohemy's husband works for a local meat company and Nohemy cares for the children full-time.

"We used to be able to make it, but when the prices of groceries started rising, we knew we were in trouble," she says.

That's why Nohemy and her friend, Blanca, are pooling their resources together to help provide for their families — and thanking you for supporting their efforts.

Blanca's husband also works for the local meat company, and Blanca cares for their young children full-time, too.

The two run errands together, including their first visit to the East Texas Food Bank's Drive-Through Mobile Pantry at First Baptist Church in Palestine.

"Since everything is so expensive, we are trying to do our part in helping our husbands," Nohemy says.

If it weren't for the groceries you make available through the food pantry, Nohemy says her family wouldn't have money left to buy additional necessities.

"With a home of five people, living off one paycheck is more than we can bear," she says.

Thank you for supporting families and individuals as they work to keep nutritious food on the table this holiday season. You are paving the way for a healthier, happier new year across East Texas!



East Texas Food Bank
3201 Robertson Rd
Tyler, TX 75701-2532
easttexasfoodbank.org

