

*You're
Fueling Our
Community's
Future!*



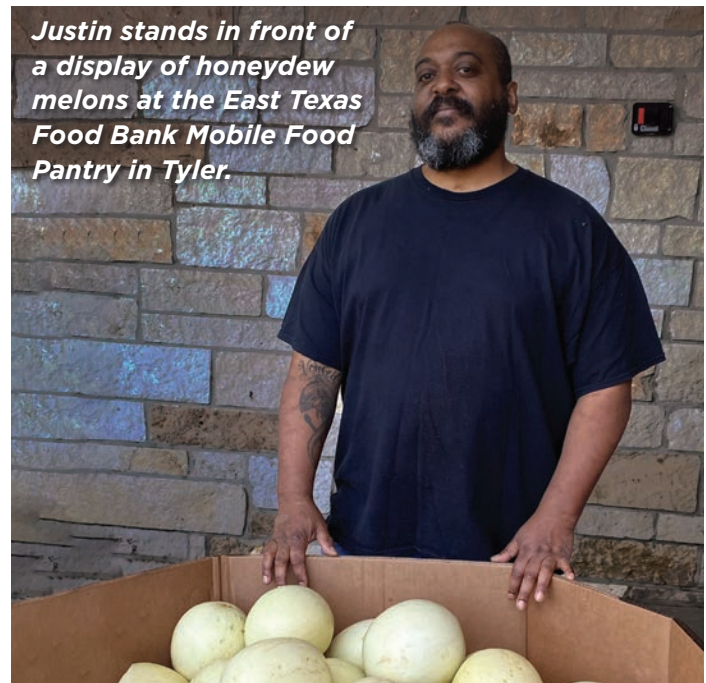
You Help Sustain Our Neighbors

Justin was happy to begin a new job as a chef at a local school, but when a medical emergency stood in his way of putting food on his own table, friends like you stepped in to help.

“I am so thankful to the East Texas Food Bank for providing free produce, which I love, to help sustain me while I recover,” says Justin on a recent visit to an East Texas Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry in Tyler.

Justin had only recently started his new job when he discovered he had a dissected aorta

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Justin stands in front of a display of honeydew melons at the East Texas Food Bank Mobile Food Pantry in Tyler.



Leslie Harrison, Stuart Hene, Don Warren and David Emerson serve neighbors at the ETFB Summer Food Program.

Welcome ETFB's New CEO, David Emerson!

The East Texas Food Bank announced this summer that David Emerson has been named the new Chief Executive Officer.

“We are pleased that David will become our sixth CEO in our 35-year history,” says Jeff Johnston, chair of the East Texas Food Bank board. “We wanted someone who understands food banking and his previous non-profit experience in the Dallas-Fort Worth area will be a great benefit to this organization.”

David has more than 20 years of senior leadership experience and most recently served as the Executive Director of the Midwest Food Bank.

“I have a heart for feeding the community,” David says. “I grew up in southern Arkansas and saw the need. I have a desire to continue the mission of the East Texas Food Bank and to address food insecurity in this region and especially in the rural communities. I hope to continue providing healthy and nutritious food and more produce to our neighbors. It’s also

important to build on the partnerships we have with agencies.”

David helped to restart operations for the Midwest Food Bank in Texas, increased revenue from \$9 million to \$25 million and grew the operations from 40 agency partners to 100 in Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas.

David also has extensive non-profit experience with the American Red Cross in Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

He graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from Henderson State University in Arkansas and a Master of Arts degree from Columbia International University in South Carolina.

East Texas Food Bank CEO Dennis Cullinane retired at the end of June after 13 years with the Food Bank. Please join us in welcoming David as he joins together with partners like you to fight hunger and feed hope across East Texas!

“I am so thankful to the East Texas Food Bank for providing free produce, which I love, to help sustain me while I recover.”

— Justin

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that required major heart surgery in Dallas. He spent several weeks in the hospital, and another month of follow-up care in a Tyler hospital.

But because Justin had just started his job, he hadn't yet accrued paid time off.

“It's been very stressful not knowing how I am going to pay my bills and put food on the table,” he says.



That's why the food he receives at the Mobile Food Pantry means so much. On the day we met him, Justin could choose from fresh produce like potatoes, yams, lettuce, broccoli, carrots and honeydew melons.

He's hopeful to be well enough to return to work in the next few months, and he says he's so grateful for your generous support in the meantime. Thank you for your ongoing and vital partnership.

Volunteers Honored for Dedication

Volunteers are essential to the East Texas Food Bank, and during our annual volunteer luncheon, two individuals were recognized for their dedication.

Debbie Finley received the 2023 Outstanding Volunteer Award. She had been a donor and after she retired came to see the operation in person. She was so impressed that she wanted to give her time, too.

“I love making the Senior Boxes, knowing that we're helping someone who might have to choose between medicine, heat or food,” she says.



Debbie with Dennis and Lauren.

Debbie is also making the summer meal kits for children. We typically prepare 50,000 meals for the three months of summer.

Macey Bunger received our 2023 Outstanding Youth Volunteer. “It is a great organization,” Macy says of the East Texas Food Bank. “I love being the Lord's hands and feet, and saving lives by keeping people from hunger, working with friends and meeting new people.”



Macey poses with Dennis and Lauren.

Macey says her favorite job is to pack the boxes for seniors and backpack snacks for kids. She is a graduate of Bullard High School and works at a local coffee shop but also uses her spare time to give back.

Over 4,000 volunteers each year give a total of 30,000 hours. If you would like to become a volunteer please visit [easttexasfoodbank.org/join-the-fight/donate-time](https://www.easttexasfoodbank.org/join-the-fight/donate-time).

Nicolette and Brayden pause to share a smile of gratitude on a visit to the East Texas Food Bank's Summer Food Program in Tyler.



You Set Students Up for Success

Brayden is gearing up to enter the 6th grade this fall and his mom, Nicolette, is thanking friends like you for helping make sure he has plenty of nutritious food to fuel his body and mind.

We met Nicolette and Brayden on a visit to the East Texas Food Bank's Summer Food Program in Tyler where Nicolette picked up healthy food for Brayden and his siblings.

"I really appreciate that the food is nutritious, and the kids really like what they offer," she shares.

"I am beyond grateful for this wonderful food.."

— Nicolette

Nicolette works hard to support her children, but says she isn't always able to stretch her

income through the end of the month now that the cost of living is so high.

She's relieved her kids will once again receive free lunch through the school meal program this fall. And, through the summer, Nicolette had access to plenty of nutritious food for her family thanks to your generosity.

"Prices are so high in the grocery store, so I am beyond grateful for this wonderful food from the East Texas Food Bank," she says, adding a message to donors like you, "Thank you to everyone who helps make this happen."

Thank you for helping set kids and neighbors of all ages up for success this fall with ongoing access to healthy food. Your generosity is paving the way to a healthier, happier future for us all!



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