



SERVINGS

News from the East Texas Food Bank

2026 Summer Newsletter

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Closing the Summer Hunger Gap

As school cafeterias close for the summer, your gifts are helping ensure thousands of children continue to have access to nutritious meals. In fact, through our annual East Texas Food Bank Summer Food Program, friends like you are providing meals to 4,500 children across our service area.

"It's so important to make sure children don't go hungry in the summer just because school is out," said David Emerson, CEO. "Here in East Texas, one in four children is food insecure, so it's up to our community to help fill that meal gap when the school year ends, and kids lose access to meals they depend on."

This summer, we're expecting to serve more than 100,000 meals at 43 locations throughout East Texas.

When you give, you're bringing nourishment and peace of mind to families like Lanetta's, a grandmother whose grandchildren receive meals through the program.



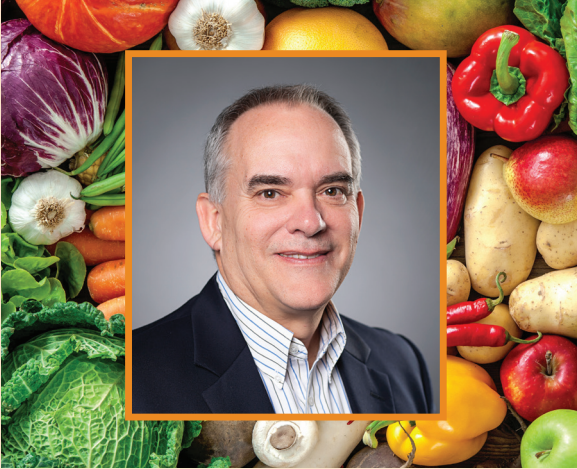
"The food is nutritious, and they give them everything they need," she says. "I like the food program because they always have enough food for them, and they have packaged meals for each child."

Your support goes even further this summer thanks to our friends at the PepsiCo Foundation, whose Food for Good program helps expand access to nutritious food in rural and underserved areas.

"Summer hunger is one of the most urgent yet solvable challenges we face," explains Andrea Moribbe, Director of Food for Good at the PepsiCo Foundation. "Our collaboration with the East Texas Food Bank is a powerful example of how public-private partnerships can bridge access gaps and deliver real solutions to families when they need them most."

With summer in full swing, we're working with our partners to ensure every child in East Texas can focus on enjoying their break - not worrying about their next meal.





ANNOUNCING A NEW PARTNERSHIP WITH SWEPCO FOUNDATION

A Summer Message From Our CEO

Summer in East Texas should be a time for backyard cookouts, swimming pools, and long days spent outdoors with family and friends. But for thousands of children in our community, summer brings something far less joyful: the loss of free and reduced-price school meals they rely on every day.

When school cafeterias close, families already struggling to make ends meet are left to provide additional meals to fill the gaps.

Because of compassionate supporters like you, these families and children will not have to face summer hunger alone.

This summer, your generosity will help us provide more than 100,000 healthy meals to 4,500 children at 43 feeding sites across our 26 counties.

Many of our feeding sites also create opportunities for children to continue learning and growing while school is out. At places like Tyler Public Library, children can read books, participate in enriching activities, and stay engaged in a safe, welcoming environment.

As you read this issue of Servings, I hope you see the real impact your generosity makes possible. Again and again, families share their gratitude for friends like you who step forward to ensure children are fed, supported, and encouraged during the summer months.

Thank you for standing with children and families in East Texas. Your continued support brings hope to neighbors who truly need it most.

Gratefully,

David Emerson
Chief Executive Officer
East Texas Food Bank



Nearly one in five Gregg County residents, or about 23,050 people, face hunger. For children, that number is even more troubling: 27.4%, or 8,850 boys and girls who don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Thanks to your generosity, we served over one million meals to neighbors at our Longview Resource Center.

That's why we're proud to announce a new partnership with the SWEPCO Foundation. As part of this collaboration, the Longview Resource Center will now be known as the East Texas Food Bank Longview Resource Center Powered by SWEPCO Foundation. This name reflects shared commitment and expanded capacity to reach more families with nutritious food.

"This partnership with the SWEPCO Foundation is a powerful step forward in our mission to end hunger in East Texas," David Emerson, our CEO, says. "Their support allows us to serve more people, provide more meals, and make a lasting difference for families who are struggling. Together, we are strengthening our community and offering hope to our neighbors when they need it most."

SWEPCO Foundation's External Affairs Manager, Mark Robinson, echoed that spirit, noting that the contribution also honors the legacy of James Templeton, whose service on the Board of Directors of Central and Southwest Corporation embodied leadership and dedication to this community. These are values carried forward through this partnership.

Because of supporters like you and partners like the SWEPCO Foundation, more East Texas families will have access to the food they need to thrive. **This is what fighting hunger together looks like!**



FINDING HOPE AT THE TEXARKANA RESOURCE CENTER

Your generosity ensures that much-needed resources, like our Texarkana Resource Center, are available to neighbors in their moment of need. Because of people like you, neighbors like Pearlene are finding hope and relief.



At 81 years old, Pearlene has faced more challenges than most. A widow, a mother of three, and a grandmother and great-grandmother to 10, she has

diabetes, is a cancer survivor, and is currently seeking treatment for kidney issues. Through it all, she meets each day with quiet strength and resilience.

Since losing her husband, Pearlene has also struggled with mounting personal debt and financial strain while living on a fixed income. Making ends meet each month is a constant challenge — one that so many of our neighbors face in silence.

For Pearlene, the food pantry at the Texarkana Resource Center has become a vital source of support. Knowing it's there, brings peace of mind.

The food she receives helps stretch her budget between Social Security checks and ensures she has nutritious meals to support her health. Some of her favorite pantry items include black beans, rice, and peanut butter — simple staples that make a meaningful difference in her daily life. For someone managing diabetes and kidney concerns, having access to wholesome, reliable food isn't a luxury; it's a necessity.

Despite the hardships she faces, Pearlene remains deeply thankful for neighbors like you who step in to help: "Y'all have been so good to me. You are a lifesaver."

THE DIFFERENCE YOU HELP MAKE

For more than three decades, Linda and her husband shared life on the open road as truck drivers. Everything changed when her husband got sick and passed away unexpectedly, leaving Linda to navigate a new and difficult chapter on her own.

Today, Linda lives on a fixed income. After paying monthly expenses, there is often very little left over for groceries. **That's why the support you make possible at the Tyler Resource Center is so critical to her daily life.**



Yet despite her own challenges, Linda's heart remains focused on others. She regularly brings neighbors who do not have their own transportation with her to the pantry, making sure they can access the help they need, too.

Meanwhile, neighbor Beatrice faces daily challenges as well while caring for her mother and disabled sister.



Rising costs stretch her budget to the breaking point, leaving little room after the bills are paid. The food she receives from the Tyler Resource Center helps make ends meet each month and gives her the peace of mind to keep going.

"This is my groceries. This place is a blessing," Beatrice shares. "I don't waste anything. Food banks save me so I can take care of my family. I am grateful for what I receive and find joy in waking up and making it through another day."

Stories like Linda's and Beatrice's are a reminder of just how powerful your compassion truly is. Because of you, healthy food, real hope, and genuine encouragement reach families throughout our community.

BRINGING FOOD & HOPE TO OUR NEIGHBORS

In Anderson County, one church has been making a big difference at their community produce distribution.

On the fourth Wednesday of every month, cars line up outside Palestine First Baptist Church as volunteers prepare to hand out fresh produce to families. As food is distributed, worried parents start to relax, children smile and wave from the backseat, and seniors start to breathe easier.

For many residents, the event offers more than just food. It provides real relief in a county where one in five people are facing hunger — including 29% of local children.

“Studies show a direct link from good nutrition to positive health outcomes,” Kim Morris, ETFB Chief Impact Officer, explains. “The ability to offer more vegetables and fruits greatly benefits neighbors.”

With generous help from friends like you, we also proudly support local pantries in Frankston, Elkhart, and Palestine, provide food boxes to local seniors, and distribute backpacks of food to children through area schools. **Thank you.**



THE LEGACY TABLE

The East Texas Food Bank's Legacy Table honors supporters who have chosen to leave a lasting legacy through a planned gift. By including the East Texas Food Bank in your estate plans, you can help ensure children, families, and older adults have access to nutritious food for generations to come.

Contact ETFB Chief Development Officer for more information:

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STRONGER TOGETHER



TRANE

TECHNOLOGIES™

At our annual appreciation luncheon this spring, we honored Trane Technologies — a major global climate innovator that designs, manufactures, and services HVAC systems and transport refrigeration — with our Outstanding Volunteer Award.

“Trane believes in supporting local communities, because strong communities help create a stronger future for everyone,” said Lauren Hayden, Trane Technologies Facility Coordinator.

“As a company, we understand that our employees, customers, and neighbors are all connected, and when the community thrives, we all thrive. Supporting local organizations and community efforts reflects Trane’s commitment to making a positive impact beyond the workplace and being a responsible, engaged partner in East Texas.”

Thank you for your generous volunteer partnership, Trane Technologies!

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