

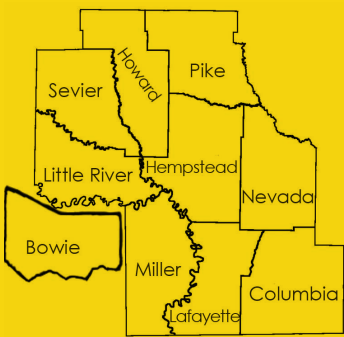
2016 SPRING
NEWSLETTER

THE DISH

HARVEST

REGIONAL FOOD BANK

COUNTIES SERVED



Last summer, Harvest Regional Food Bank broke ground on a new, state-of-the-art commercial freezer that would allow the food bank to provide more fresh and frozen foods to families in need. Thanks to the generous support of the Horace C. Cabe Foundation, Walmart Foundation, the CHRISTUS Fund, and other generous donors, the new unit was completed last fall and has doubled the food bank's cooling space and capacity to receive and distribute frozen and perishable foods.

"A food bank cannot distribute what it cannot safely accept and store," said Camille Wrinkle, Harvest Regional Food Bank Executive Director. "Harvest had reached that critical point when investments to our facility were needed in order to continue growing and meeting the needs of those struggling with hunger."

Prior to the upgrade, the food bank was utilizing refrigerated cargo units as freezer space. The freezer units had

served their purpose of keeping food frozen, but the efficiency of running them full-time was very poor. According to Dan Holden, Director of Warehouse Operations, warehouse staff time was also an issue. "Employees had to remove all pallets with a pallet jack before getting to the desired product because there was no space to drive a forklift," said Holden. "The new dimensions allow for both pallet racking and the use of a forklift to move product safely and efficiently."

Harvest converted the previous cargo freezers into refrigeration, to store fresh and perishable foods that previously had to be distributed within a few days. "The cold and cooler additions are a huge step forward in our hunger relief," says Mrs. Wrinkle. "Harvest is truly proud to be offering more produce, meat and dairy items to the children, seniors and families who need it most."



HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD BANK BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HARVEST RECEIVES SUPPORT TO IMPROVE HEALTH IN RURAL AREAS

Harvest recently received a grant from the Blue & You foundation, for \$25,000 to support Harvest's Mobile Pantry program. Harvest was one of 40 grantees, out of 210 applicants, to receive funding.

Several of the nine Arkansas counties served by Harvest are lacking in food pantries or agencies to distribute food to meet the hunger relief needs of the community. In 2011, Harvest established the Mobile Pantry program to provide food directly to those communities with the fewest hunger relief options. They began quarterly distributions to Lafayette and Pike Counties and over the last year added mobile pantries in Columbia, Hempstead, Howard and Sevier Counties. "It is Harvest Regional Food Bank's plan to expand the program to hold quarterly mobile pantries in seven of our nine Arkansas counties to increase the percentage of need met through distribution," said Camille Wrinkle, Harvest Executive Director. "Harvest Regional Food Bank's mobile pantry program aims to provide over 284,000 total pounds to underserved counties in southwest Arkansas in 2016."

"Our grants this year went to programs across the state that address such issues as nutrition and exercise, dental health, and medical professional education," said Patrick O'Sullivan, Executive Director of the Blue & You Foundation.

Thank you to the Blue & You Foundation for your commitment to improving the health and lives of those we serve.



CLIENT BECOMES FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEER

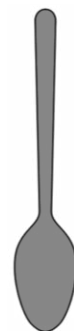
"It feels good to be giving help, not just receiving it," According to Sam Mooron. "Volunteering makes me feel better about the food my family and me are able to take home." Sam shares the same feelings as many of those who walk through the doors of our pantries to receive help and then become volunteers themselves. Sam, who was once in the transportation field, as a driver, was unable to continue in his position after a debilitating accident left him unable to work. "I receive some disability assistance, but it doesn't stretch far," Mr. Mooron explains. "There have been months when what we get from the pantry is what we have to eat." At the Ashdown United Methodist Church's regular food distribution, Sam helps by unloading produce and helping clients to their cars with boxes of food. "I used to bring food to people when I was a driver, and in a way, I guess I get to do that now."



Save the Date



TUESDAY
October 18
5pm - 8pm



Four States Fairgrounds

Presented by

McLarty Ford and Dr. Ly and Aaron Gaylor

Voted one of the top 5 Best Charity Events in Texarkana, Taste of Texarkana brings many local top restaurants and vendors to the Four States Fairgrounds to showcase their culinary cuisine for over 1,500 guests.

Vendors

To reserve vendor space please contact:

Harvest Regional Food Bank

Phone: 870-774-1398

Fax: 870-774-1905

E-mail: harvesttxk@cablone.net

Tickets

On sale September 7th

Adult Tickets \$20 in advance \$25 at the door

Kids \$10

VIP \$50

Reserved VIP tables available

Call for more information: 870-774-1398

Benefitting the hunger relief services provided by Harvest Regional Food Bank



A COMMITMENT TO HEALTHY CHOICES

Potatoes, Onions, Apples. For the average person, these are foods you might just put in your cart, without a second thought. But for families who struggle to buy the basics when they go to the grocery store, these items are a luxury.

About six months ago, Harvest Regional Food Bank was selected to partner with Feeding America in a pilot program to bring fresh produce from produce rich areas around the country to areas lacking in an abundance of farm-to-table foods. **"We were honored to be included in this pilot program to test methods for bringing in much-needed produce and getting it out to those who need it most, especially children and seniors,"** says Camille Wrinkle, Harvest Executive Director. **"Not only were we able to provide approximately 500,000 lbs of fresh fruits and vegetables to thousands of families, our staff gained valuable knowledge on sourcing, pricing, and transporting these items for the future."**

While this was a short-term project, it had a great impact on Harvest and the families they reach every day. Those who have the least access to fresh fruits and vegetables, rural and low income families, are often the ones who benefit the most from their nutrients. Harvest is now more committed than ever to continuing to do our part to make sure fruits and vegetables are always a choice for families throughout southwest Arkansas and northeast Texas.





Letter from the CEO

Dear Friends,

What a year so far! Over the past several months Harvest has been blessed to see much hard work pay off in the form of added capacity and added services. We were able to see the completion of a new commercial freezer and the expansion of our mobile pantry program for rural underserved areas. We were also given the opportunity to partner with Feeding America on two important aspects of our work: Disaster Relief and Increased Access to Produce. While Disaster Relief is not a part of our everyday operation, Food Banks play an important role when a disaster hits in our community. As you all well know, northeast Texas and Southwest Arkansas have some of the most susceptible areas to flooding and tornadoes. Through a grant from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation, Harvest has been able to strengthen our own disaster relief plans and collaborate efforts with other food banks to ensure we have the resources needed to provide emergency hunger relief, when the time comes.

Another area of focus has been to provide more access to fresh produce for those we serve. It's hard to imagine not being able to enjoy a tomato, or put an apple in your child's lunch. However, for many in our community, these items truly are a luxury. As you'll read in this issue, Harvest was recently given the opportunity to bring an additional 500,000 lbs of produce to our 10 county area. While the opportunity was for a limited time, we were given the training and tools to continue providing more fruits and vegetables to those who need it.

As always, I invite you to come and see for yourself the impact our Food Bank is having on the daily lives of those we work, play and live near. Take a tour of our facility. Help stock shelf or pack boxes. Or help at one of our many mobile pantries.

Thank you for your support of Harvest Regional Food Bank. Because of your friendship, we CAN solve hunger!!

All the best,

Camille Coker Wrinkle,
CEO/Executive Director





Harvest Regional Food Bank reaches more than

60,000
FOOD-INSECURE
INDIVIDUALS



Nearly **25%**
of the individuals served
by the Food Bank are
**children under
the age of 18.**

25,200
BACKPACKS
were distributed.

NOURISHING OUR NEIGHBORS...

Harvest Regional Food Bank works closely with hundreds of volunteers, donors and corporate partners to fulfill our critical mission.



1 out of 4
WE SERVE AT
HARVEST
REGIONAL
FOOD BANK
IS A SENIOR.



140,000
pounds of food
distributed through
Mobile Pantries.

BUILDING HUNGER-FREE COMMUNITIES...

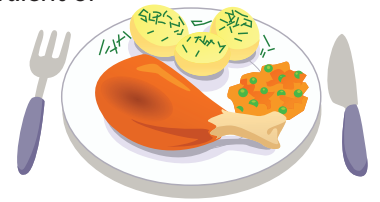
Last year Harvest Regional Food Bank distributed more than

2.9
MILLION
POUNDS
OF FOOD



Which is the equivalent of

2.4
MILLION MEALS



We don't fulfill our mission alone. We count on our volunteers, who gave

3,962 HOURS



And we rely on a vast network of

75 PARTNER
AGENCIES



in addition to the direct programs we offer at our campus and at various locations.

Our Partner Agencies
are spread across our

10 COUNTY
SERVICE
AREA

and include meal programs, pantries, shelters, religious groups and a variety of other organizations.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Harvest Regional Food Bank always has a place for volunteers! If you would like to volunteer, we have a variety of opportunities for groups ranging from one or two people to more than twenty. For more information or to be added to the volunteer schedule, call 870-774-1398 or email development@hrfb.org.



THANK YOU TO OUR HARVESTER'S CLUB PARTNERS

To find out how you or your business can become part of the
Harvester's Club, please call us at 870-774-1398.



FOUNDATION & CORPORATE GIFTS

December 1, 2015 – April 2, 2016

Plum Creek Foundation, \$2,000, for program support
Delta Dental of Arkansas Foundation, \$1000, for support of hunger relief
Walmart Stores, \$2,000, local support of hunger relief
Blue & You Foundation, \$25,000, for support of Mobile Pantry Program
W.W. Metal Products, \$3,000, for support of hunger relief
State Bank, \$1,750, Program and event support
CHRISTUS FUND, \$20,000, for improvements to the Food Distribution Program
McLarty Ford, \$7,500, Harvesters Club Partnership
C & S Wholesale Co. (through Feeding America), \$39,000, Backpack for Kids Program
Ledwell & Sons, \$7,500, Harvesters Club Partnership
E-Z Mart, \$3,500, Harvesters Club Partnership
Phillips & Sons Refrigeration, \$5,000, Harvesters Club Partnership
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company, \$3,500, Harvesters Club Partnership
TEXAR Federal Credit Union, \$5,000, Harvesters Club Partnership
Orr Enterprises, \$5,000, Harvesters Club Partnership



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HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD BANK
PO Box 707 • Texarkana, TX 75504 • (870) 774-1398 • www.harvesttexarkana.org