2018 FALL NEWSLETTER



# THE DISH HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD BANK

# A STORY OF HIDDEN HUNGER

For Regina Walker, receiving help from a food pantry was never something she thought she would need. She was gainfully employed, and helping to provide for the needs of her family. Then, two years ago, the unexpected happened. Regina suddenly found herself without a job, and without the income she relied on to make ends meet. *"Who is going to hire someone my age,"* Regina remembers thinking. *"It was not a good time to be unemployed."* They still had the same bills to pay — a mortgage, insurance, and medicine for her husband, who was in bad health.



That's when a friend convinced Regina to visit a food pantry. *"It was very emotional,"* she recalls. *"I* didn't want to do it, but I needed help."

Alethea Doud, who coordinates the Faith Assembly of God pantry, remembers offering her words of empathy. *"I told Regina the same thing I was told*  when we started our pantry — a box of food is not a hand out, it is a hand up." And the box of food Regina started receiving from the pantry was a hand up until she could get back on her feet.

food is not a hand out, it is a hand up ...

AMERICA

In the ten counties served by Harvest Regional Food Bank, over 55,000 people are food insecure. And, according to Executive Director, Camille Coker Wrinkle, food insecurity doesn't always look the way you think it would look. *"Hidden hunger is more common than most people think. Just because someone doesn't look like they would be struggling, doesn't mean they aren't having to choose between buying groceries that week, and paying for another necessity, like housing or medicine."* 

Regina's story, like many others, reminds us of the age old saying, "don't judge a book by its cover." The help she received in her time of need, was not just a gift of food, but one of hope. "I could not have made it without the prayers of my friends," Regina states. "And I couldn't have made it without the Food Bank."

#### HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD BANK 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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# LETTER FROM THE CEO

Dear Hunger Partners,

As the holidays approach, and 2018 comes to a close, I have been thinking a lot about "seasons." We all go through seasons in our lives. Some of them joyful, abundant seasons, and some of them not so joyful, or abundant. I would like to think a big part of our job here at Harvest is to help our neighbors through the rough "seasons" in their lives.

We recently hosted our annual Hunger Action Month kick-off luncheon, where we recognize volunteers, donors and agencies. Each year, I am more impressed than the year before, with the generosity of people who use their time and resources to give food and hope to those who need it most. And, I have been more than impressed — in awe, really — of those who have bravely stood before the crowd to share their story of struggle and hunger. Stories, like that of Regina, who never thought she would need a food pantry, but found herself in a season of need. Regina didn't have the "look" that some people associate with food insecurity, but that is because hunger doesn't have a "look." Food insecurity can happen to anyone. And once you know Regina's story, you realize she could easily be your neighbor, your friend, maybe even someone in your family. It only takes one event to start the domino effect that leads to food insecurity, and sometimes you have to look closely to even see it.

While we are proud of the hunger relief that has been provided so far this year, we still have much to do this holiday season. For thousands of families, the holidays will not be a season of joy. Instead it will be a time of choosing between paying the heating bill and putting food on the table. For many parents, it means struggling to get winter clothes for their children. And for thousands of children, the holidays are a time when they are without a reliable source of breakfast and lunch, because school is out.

Harvest Regional Food Bank depends on the support of our community to fill pantries and provide hope this holiday season and every season. You never know what a difference a box of food will make this Christmas to a child, senior citizen or family in need.

Happy Thanksgiving and Christmas, from the Harvest family to yours.

Sincerely,

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Camille Coker Wrinkle CEO/Executive Director

### HARVEST KICKS OFF NATIONAL HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Harvest Regional Food Bank kicked off national Hunger Action Month with the annual Hunger Action Luncheon held at Williams Memorial United Methodist Church. Special recognition was given to agencies, volunteers and "2018 Hunger Heroes".



#### OUTSTANDING AGENCY AWARDS

Life House Ministries — Childhood Hunger Partner New Hope Baptist Church — Senior Hunger Relief United Families of America — Special Community Partner United Christian Church of Emmett — New Agency of the Year Foodshare of Arkansas — Agency of the Year in a Rural County Faith Assembly of God — Agency of the Year



#### OUTSTANDING INDIVIDUAL AWARD

Mitzi Stuart Anthony Higgins



#### OUTSTANDING GROUP VOLUNTEER AWARDS

Zeta Phi Beta Express Employment Professionals Girl Scouts of Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Texas Junior League of Texarkana



#### ANDREA DARBY VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Drury Hoover



#### HARVEST REGIONAL FOOD BANK HUNGER HERO AWARD Walmart : Foundation

#### 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.













Dr. Ly & Aaron Gaylor







Harvesters Club Partners support Harvest Regional Food Bank's two signature events as well as provide vital program support, each year.

# A GIFT THAT GIVES TWICE

Looking for a holiday gift for business associates, clients and friends? Maybe something other than the usual fruit cake or tin of cookies? Why not spread hunger relief while you spread holiday cheer? Let Harvest do all the work. Simply send us your holiday list and addresses and we'll send each one a personalized holiday card. The message inside will let them know a gift was made by you, or your business, in their honor to benefit hungry families this holiday season.

Suggested donation is \$5 per card and can be made by calling the Food Bank at 870-774-1398, or by email, at Development@HRFB.org. Please send your holiday list before December 15th in order to ensure delivery before December 25th.

Just think, each \$5 card will provide nearly thirty meals to a family struggling with hunger.

#### THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT: (GIFTS FROM JANUARY 1, 2018 – AUGUST 30, 2018)

#### FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE GIFTS:

Albertsons Companies Foundation – Various Hunger Relief Programs Walmart Store Community Grants – Childhood and other Hunger Relief
Feeding America — Various Program Support
CHRISTUS Fund – Fresh Produce Initiative
United Way of Hempstead County – Backpack Program Support in Hempstead County
United Way of Greater Texarkana $-$ Backpack Program Support
Walmart State Giving Fund — Warehouse Renovations and Dock Expansions
AEP/SWEPCO — Mobile Pantry Support and Backpack Program Support
Junior League of Texarkana – Backpack Program Expansion to Junior High Campuses
Wells Fargo — Childhood Hunger Relief
Woodforest National Bank — Various Program Support
First Baptist Church Texarkana, Jeruselum Fund — Childhood Hunger Support
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#### HONOR ROLL OF GIVING

(cumulative gifts of \$1,000 or more during the year)

Adra Hallford Arkansas Community Foundation Arkansas Hunger Relief Alliance **Barry Insurance Betty Scoggins Bobbie Bradley** Christ United Methodist Church Cooper Tire & Rubber Company David and Kat Womble Domino Federal Credit Union Domtar – Ashdown Mill Eagle Cutting & Supply E-Z Mart First United Methodist Church of Ashdown James Murphy Kelly Morgan Foundation Kelly & Lisa Mitchell

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