IT'S GREAT TO BE GREEN!
HARVEST HITS MAJOR MILESTONE ... AND WE DID IT TOGETHER!

One of the cornerstones of Harvest Regional Food Bank’s mission has been to provide hunger relief, fairly and equitably, across its ten-county service area. This meant overcoming barriers that included rural, underserved counties with some of the highest hunger rates in a state that already ranks at the top for food insecurity. Throughout the year, Harvest Regional Food Bank receives a report from Feeding America, showing how much of that need is being met in each of its ten counties. By providing at least 50 percent of the meals needed to fill the gap for hungry families in a county, Harvest is considered compliant, or “Green,” in that county. Fall below that 50 percent mark, and the food bank is considered “Red.” For many years, it was a challenge to achieve Green status in counties outside of Miller and Bowie — but slowly and surely, county by county — the percent of need met has increased. “To have an all green service area has been a goal since I first started work with the food bank and received my first report,” according to Camille Wrinkle, Executive Director. “An all green report means you’re not just distributing food, you’re distributing it where it needs to go.”

One way for the food bank to achieve this was to change its distribution model to include more rural deliveries and increase mobile pantries. But Harvest is also quick to point out the role that friends and supporters have played in increasing its reach. “This is really a reflection of everyone who plays a role in our mission, including our agencies, volunteers and donors,” explains Wrinkle. “Together we did it!”

... everyone plays a role in our mission ...
This year’s Wine & Jazz Gala was a huge success! On April 12, community members joined at Silvermoon on Broad to support Harvest Regional Food Bank and help fight hunger. Guests dined on gourmet dishes and wine pairings prepared by Chefs Jennifer Tanner, Julie’s Deli; Bri and Staley James, Twisted Fork; Bobby Duhon, Lagniappe Meat Company; and Darby Neaves, Naaman’s Barbeque. Everyone enjoyed live music on the patio, provided by Candace Taylor & Three of a Kind Jazz Trio. A live painting by Joseph Raymond added to the evening’s festivities. The 2019 Wine & Jazz Gala raised approximately $40,000 to support hunger relief to more than 55,000 individuals throughout Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas.

WINE & JAZZ 2019

WINE CASE SPONSORS:
Andrus/Flanagan Financial
Darla Wilf, Realtor Caldwell Banker
Dowd & Company
Dr. John & Miranda Baugh
Dr. and Mrs. Kiran Kurichety
H.E. Wright
Hobbs Manufactured Homes
Mike and Sylvia Ingram
Southwest Title Company
Youngblood Insurance

IN-KIND PARTNERS:
Coca-Cola
Eagle Distributing
Southern Glazer’s Wine and Spirits
Tito’s Vodka
TownSqaure Media

REISLING SPONSORS:
Bancorp South
BWI Companies
Commercial National Bank
Douglas Companies
Farmer’s Bank & Trust
Nantze Electric
Texarkana Emergency Center
Texarkana Tractor
Twin City Title
Wayne Garrison Charitable Trust
Young & Thornton Insurance

CABERNET SPONSORS:
Collom & Carney Vascular Surgery
Cooper Tire
Denson Wealth Management
Eagle Cutting & Supply
Fay J Wines
State Bank
Wholesale Electric Supply Company

CHAMPAGNE SPONSORS:
Ledwell
Phillips Refrigeration
TEXAR Federal Credit Union

Mike Ingram, Marla Runion, Camille Wrinkle and Buck Buchanan
EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT: CHARLES NASH

This issue’s employee spotlight is Warehouse Associate and Driver, Charles Nash. Charles, or “Nash” to his food bank family, started his work with the food bank in 2017 and is responsible for delivering much-needed food to pantries throughout our service area, as well as helping to distribute food directly to families at our mobile pantry events. When asked about his favorite part of the job, he breaks into the friendly smile he’s known for, and says, “It’s really just knowing I’m getting food out to people who need it.”

Mr. Nash also serves as one of the faces of the food bank as he picks up food from our retail partners and interacts directly with receiving managers and department heads. Back at the food bank, Charles can often be seen (and heard) unloading and storing deliveries, and alerting staff and volunteers, with a quick beep of his forklift horn, that he’s coming through.

Prior to joining the team at Harvest, Charles spent more than 20 years working in the railroad industry, followed by work with organizations including Salvation Army and Evergreen Ministries, where he still volunteers in their programs for adults with disabilities. Despite retiring from the railroad, Nash prefers to be on the move, “I figure why not stay busy and active.”

“It’s really just knowing I’m getting food out to people who need it.”

“Mr. Nash’s hard work, and upbeat banter, make him a joy to work with,” according to Camille Wrinkle, Harvest Executive Director. “We can count on him to go the extra mile to bring food to those who need it, and he almost never fails to end the day with one of his signature sayings like “see you tomorrow … Lord willing and the creek don’t rise.”

Harvest is grateful for the work of incredible team members, like Charles Nash. Because of him, struggling families in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas are able to get the food they need.

TYSON SUPPORTS HARVEST’S MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES

Harvest Regional Food Bank was recently honored to receive a generous gift from Tyson Foods, Inc, for $50,000 to support Harvest’s Mobile Pantry program in Howard, Pike and Hempstead counties in Southwest Arkansas.

Several of the ten counties served by Harvest Regional Food Bank lack enough pantries or agencies to distribute enough 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. The food bank began quarterly distributions in two counties, and have increased mobile distributions to include six rural and underserved counties. “It is Harvest Regional Food Bank’s plan to continue expanding the program to hold either quarterly, or bi-monthly mobile pantries in rural and underserved areas to increase the percentage of need met through distribution,” said Camille Wrinkle, Executive Director at Harvest. “The funds received from Tyson Foods, Inc. will help us provide an additional 300,000 pounds of fresh and shelf-stable food to approximately 175 food insecure families each month.”

“Recognizing there is real need for hunger relief here in Southwest Arkansas, Tyson Foods is pleased to provide a $50,000 grant to Harvest Regional Food Bank,” according to Tem Gunter, HR Manager at Tyson Foods Nashville Complex. “The grant will enable Harvest Mobile Food Pantry to not only add to the number of communities it serves, but also the frequency in which it delivers meals to those communities.”

Thank you again to Tyson Foods for their continued support through food and funds to help Harvest Regional Food Bank fight hunger in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas.
FOUNDATION AND CORPORATE GIFTS:

Texarkana Community Foundation  
Area Backpack Program Support

Columbia County Community Foundation  
Columbia County Backpack Support

Blue & You Foundation  
Mobile Pantry Support

Walmart Store Grants  
Hunger Relief Distribution Programs

Feeding America  
Various Hunger Relief Programs Milk to My Plate Initiative

Junior League of Texarkana  
Junior High Backpack Program

Tyson Foods  
Mobile Pantry in Pike, Hempstead, and Howard Counties

HONOR ROLL OF GIVING  
(cumulative giving of $1,000 or more during the period)

Beauty Outlet Mall, Inc.  
Betty Scoggins
Blake and Allie Cogbill
Christ United Methodist Church
Cornerstone Counseling Clinic
Dallas Divaz & Dem Boyz
Domino Federal Credit Union
Farm Credit Services
Graphic Packaging International
James Murphy
Dr. Jeffrey DeCaprio
John and Sue Anthony Charitable Trust
Mary Tidwell

Milway Federal Credit Union  
Minhly and Aaron Gaylor
Northside Assembly of God
Precision Metal Industries
Reliance Mechanical Contractors
Sam’s Club #8295
State Bank
Stephen Zorsch
Wayne and Alyson Denson
Wholesale Electric Supply
Youngblood Insurance

Thank you to all of our volunteers, donors and in-kind supporters!  
We couldn’t provide hunger relief in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas without you!