HELPING THE COMMUNITY THROUGH A CRISIS

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began in March, Harvest Regional Food Bank has seen a 108% increase in food distribution. As schools closed, jobs were lost, and families faced food insecurity, many for the first time, Harvest got to work addressing the need for hunger relief.

“Prior to the COVID-19 crisis, we used mobile pantries to serve the needs of our rural counties,” says Camille Coker Wrinkle, CEO/Executive Director. Harvest partners with churches or community centers in these rural areas to distribute food boxes to 100-150 families every two-three months. “But as we saw an increase in food insecurity right here in Texarkana, we realized the best way to address hunger was to use our Mobile Pantry Program, but on a much larger scale.”

Harvest held its first large-scale Mobile Pantry event in May at Four States Fairgrounds in Texarkana, and distributed food bundles to 1,000 area families. “This was by far the largest one-day distribution we’d ever hosted, but our goal is to continue making sure families have the food they need, even during this challenging time,” says Wrinkle.

Harvest’s second Texarkana Mobile Pantry was funded by Operation Jerusalem of First Baptist Church Texarkana and held at their location on Moores Lane, and another 1,000 family food bundles were distributed. More Mobile Pantries were scheduled in New Boston for Bowie County and surrounding area residents, where over 1,700 families have been served so far.

Family food boxes distributed in Harvest’s Mobile Pantry Program include fresh vegetables, shelf-stable pantry items, and frozen meats. These “bundles” include enough food to prepare up to a month’s worth of nutritious meals.

“In five months, we’ve been able to provide food to over 4,500 individuals and families in the Texarkana area,” says Wrinkle.

And this need isn’t going away anytime soon. With more mobile pantries scheduled for the fall and more area families needing support, Harvest will continue navigating these uncertain times with the help of our community. As one area resident said at a recent Mobile Pantry, “I never thought I’d be here, but I sure am glad you all are here for me.”
Response to COVID-19
March 1 - July 31

2.5 million pounds distributed since the crisis began

271 new donors

9,400 school food kits & 17,021 pantry boxes packed and distributed

2,219 calls to the food bank for assistance

127 requests for assistance via our website or Facebook

25,491 visitors on our website, more than twice the traffic from 2019

1.2 million more pounds distributed than this time in 2019, a 108% increase

Harvest was recently honored with a visit from Feeding America CEO Claire Babineaux-Fontenot. Mrs. Babineaux-Fontenot spent the morning meeting staff and volunteers, touring the food bank, and visiting with the team about our current and future hunger relief needs. “This was the first visit to our food bank by Feeding America leadership,” said Mike Ingram, Harvest board member. “It was especially important to highlight our growth as a food bank and outline our plans for the future.”

Feeding America is a national network of food banks that provide more than 4 billion meals to over 40 million people across the United States. Harvest is a proud member of Feeding America and partners with them to improve food security for the individuals and families we serve.
RECIENT HUNGER HEROES

We are deeply grateful to the many Hunger Heroes who have helped us continue providing hunger relief to Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas with their time, funds, food, and talent. Here are just a few:

**First Baptist Church Texarkana**
Sponsored and provided volunteers for the June Texarkana Mobile Pantry, providing 3,000 boxes of produce, meat, and shelf-stable foods to local residents.

**Texarkana Overhead Door Company**
Provided support toward the installation of much needed, new overhead doors for loading area.

**H&K Electric, Inc.**
Provided electrical work for overhead door installation to improve loading area.

**P.R.I.D.E. Academy**
Held a meal packing event, where they packed over 40,000 meals and donated them to Harvest Regional Food Bank.

**Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation**
Granted critical COVID-19 relief funds in the first weeks of the crisis, which provided 82,500 meals across our region.

TYSON FOODS CONTINUES GENEROUS SUPPORT

With the high rise in hunger relief needed in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas, Harvest Regional Food Bank has relied on the generosity of its partners more than ever. The continued support of Tyson Foods has allowed Harvest to expand its Mobile Pantry Program, in order to address the increase in food insecurity throughout the region. “Tyson Foods is proud to continue our partnership with Harvest Regional Food Bank by awarding another $50,000 grant again this year,” according to Tem Gunter, Complex HR Manager for Tyson Foods of Nashville. “The money will primarily be used to expand the mobile food pantry in Southwest Arkansas.”

In 2011, Harvest established the Mobile Pantry Program to provide food directly to those communities with the fewest hunger relief options. Harvest began quarterly distributions in two underserved counties but has now increased mobile distributions to include both rural and more populated counties. “Camille and her team at Harvest have really done a fantastic job meeting the increased demand for food brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.”

Since March, Harvest has seen a sixty percent increase in the need for hunger relief. “Our team has already distributed one million pounds more than the same time in 2019,” said Camille Coker Wrinkle, CEO/Executive Director. “We do not expect the need to decrease in the near future, and this generous gift will help us continue serving food insecure families for months to come.”
Dear Hunger Partners,

This year has been like no other year in the Food Bank’s history. COVID-19 continues to test our strength and resilience, as more families need hunger relief than ever before. We have had to adjust and scale our food distributions to serve much larger groups, and many of our agencies have added distributions and increased their number of clients. Overall, our distribution has increased by over 100% since the pandemic began in March.

During this uncertain time, Harvest has embraced change and new opportunities to serve. We have found ways to support our loyal partner pantries as they strive to meet the need in their communities. Over the past few months, Harvest has given new freezers and coolers to nearly twenty pantries and awarded grants of nearly $100,000 to pantries to purchase food.

No one knows what the future will hold, but we do know this international crisis has shed light on the issue of food insecurity right here in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas. For many, asking for food was the last thing they thought they would ever have to do. And our hope is for our entire community to come away from this crisis with a new compassion and more empathy for those who struggle with hunger.

From March through July, Harvest has distributed over 2.5 million pounds to our neighbors across ten counties. And we could not have done it without the generosity and kindness of friends, new and old, and from all walks of life, who have stepped up to make sure our neighbors are fed.

We’d also like to take this opportunity to thank our incredible team here at Harvest Regional Food Bank. Everyone here wears multiple hats, and most of our employees have worked overtime, taking on additional roles and responsibilities to make sure we “get the job done.”

And while we are sad to see our fundraising events cancelled for the year, we hope you will continue supporting our mission by giving financially, or with your time, to one of our many vital hunger programs. As you’ll read in this issue, the challenge we have been facing is far from over. Every hour of your time and every dollar of support counts. If you have not “liked” Harvest Regional Food Bank’s Facebook page or “followed” us on Instagram, we encourage you to do so. We hope you’ll join us in sharing our stories of hope, and help us celebrate our accomplishments in the coming months.

One thing we know about Southwest Arkansans and Northeast Texans is that we stand together in difficult times. And with you by our side, we know we can get food to the children, families, and seniors who need it most. We are all in this together!

Thank you for helping us help others. All the best from our family to yours.

Stay Well,

Camille Wrinkle, Executive Director/CEO
Harvest Regional Food Bank

Julie Furlow, President
Board of Directors

▲ Camille Wrinkle, Executive Director/CEO

▲ Julie Furlow, President, Board of Directors
The value of the food Harvest Regional Food Bank receives and distributes is included as Non-Cash under expenses and revenue.

**EXPENSES**

**Programs:** All expenses related to securing, storing and delivering food in the 10 counties we serve.

**Fundraising:** The cost of fundraising and marketing activities.

**Administration:** Compensation, accounting costs, and other expenses not directly connected to food distribution.

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<td>Programs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin</td>
<td>$87,952</td>
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<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$288,476</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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**REVENUE**

**Handling Fees:** Cost-sharing with partner agencies, who pay no more than 19 cents per pound for grocery products.

**Contributions:** Free-will gifts from individuals, companies, and other organizations.

**Grants:** Gifts from charitable foundations and government agencies.

**Other:** Income from investments, in-kind contributions, etc.

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<th>Description</th>
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<td>Grants</td>
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<td>Non-Cash (Food)</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
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98% of our resources support immediate food distribution.
THANK YOU, DONORS!

Grants Received (May 1 through July 31, 2020)

Albertson’s
$2,000 for Backpack Program Support

Subaru Foundation
$1,500 for Emergency Food Relief

Darden Foundation
$1,060 for General Support

Patterson Troike Foundation
$5,000 for COVID-19 Hunger Relief

United Way of Greater Texarkana
$6,000 for COVID-19 Hunger Relief

Centene/Ambetter Health
$12,000 for COVID-19 Hunger Relief

Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation
$15,000 for COVID-19 Hunger Relief

Tepper Foundation
$100,000 for Agency Capacity, Equipment & Distribution Costs

Feeding America
$242,000 for Emergency Food and Refrigerated Truck

Donors with Cumulative Gifts of $1,000+ (Over the last 12 months)

Alton and Carolyn Womack
Anita and Michael Stevenson
Arkansas Community Foundation
BancorpSouth
Beauty Outlet Mall, Inc
Beth and Leon Pesek, Jr.
Bobbie Bradley
Bowie County Farm Bureau
Bruce Flint
BWI Companies, Inc.
Cabe Cook Foundation
Cardinal Revenue Solutions LLC
Centene
Chris and Debbie Alkire
Christ United Methodist Church
Cooper Tire & Rubber Company
Cornerstone Counseling Clinic, Inc
Curtis Garner
Cynthia Soyars
Danny and Brenda Jones
David and Barbara Vershaw
David Hudson
David McAdams
Delbert Hostetler
Delia Goins
Diamond Bank
DMP Investments
Dolly McGinnis
Domino Federal Credit Union
Dr. Benjamin & McCarley Dubois
Eagle Distributing Of Texarkana, Inc
Falls Chapel Cumberland Presbyterian Church
Fidelity Charitable
First United Methodist Church — Nashville
First United Methodist Church — Ashdown
Gail and Gene Cogbill
Grady McAlexander
Health Care Express
Ink Custom Tees
James and Carolyn Turchi
James Murphy
Jauan Lewis
Jeffrey Decaprio
Jim Bob and Darla Hambleton
Jimmy McLaughlin
Jo and Carl Burns
Joe Walker
John and Diana Gregory
John and Sue Anthony
Charitable Trust
John Grams
JST Enterprises, Inc.
Judy and Larry McNeal
Julie’s Deli
Kate Anderson
Kirby and Diana Bunel
Lester and Anne Houk
Linda Walker
Lippian Family Dentistry
Margaret Young
Mary and Joseph Worris
Mary Tidwell
Matthew and Cynthia Young
Melovee White Trust
Mike and Anita Brisco
Milway Federal Credit Union
Ministries Of Harvest Temple Inc
Northside Assembly Of God Church
Perry and Teresa Newton
Precision Metal Industries, Inc.
RBIS, LLC
Red River Employees Federal Credit Union
Riata Land & Cattle Company
Riggs Employees Fund
Robert and Sue Braley
Rose Hill Baptist Church
Rozan and Milton Cowling
Sharon and Walter Davis
Shelter Foundation-Bryan Bolt
Smolarz Law Firm
State Bank
Stephen Zorsch
Sugar Hill United Methodist Church
Susan Keeney
Sylvia Hatridge
Terry and Deborah Spivey
Texarkana Emergency Center
Texarkana Oaklawn Rotary Club
The Thomas H Mayme P Scott Foundation Inc
The Woodforest Charitable Foundation
Thomson Proprietorship
Todd Shores’ McLarty Ford
United Way Of Greater Texarkana
United Way Of Hempstead County
W.W. Metal Products
Wallace Jones
Walmart #4367
Walmart #4371
Walmart Store #2123
Wholesale Electric Supply Co.
Windstream
Wisdom Animal Clinic
Youngblood Insurance

BECOME A BACKPACK SPONSOR

Sponsor a Child for the 2020-2021 School Year

Over 29,000 children in our region receive free- or reduced-lunch through the National School Breakfast and Lunch Program. For many of these children, school meals may be the only nutrition they are guaranteed. What happens when they go home over the weekend and on holidays?

For 15 years, Harvest’s Backpack Program has provided supplemental nutrition to food-insecure elementary and middle school students. These easy-to-open, shelf-stable food items ensure kids get enough to eat on the weekends and return to school ready to succeed.

No child should have to worry where their next meal will come from. With a gift of just $125, you can sponsor a local child in Harvest’s Backpack program for an entire school year. Your gift will provide a child with kid-friendly entrees, breakfast items, milk, juice, and snacks for each weekend of the school year, and extra items included over extended holidays and breaks.

For more information or to sponsor a child, call (870) 774-1398 or email development@hrfb.org.
Planning for Hunger Tomorrow
The Rise in Hunger Is Far From Over

By the end of 2020, 1 in 4 of our neighbors will face hunger

In 2019, it was 1 in 5

An additional, 13,350 in our service area will face food insecurity

This includes 5,640 kids and 3,337 senior citizens

Harvest Regional Food Bank will experience a 52% increase in demand

Estimated cost over the next 6 months: $1.3 million

Meeting the need will require 577,000 more meals, over this time last year, a 46% increase

Our Response Plan

Continuing to meet the rising demand.
Advocating for state support to help food banks and our partners meet the need.
Adapting the ways we deliver food to reach each community.
Educating the community and destigmatizing food support.
2020 Wine & Jazz and Taste of Texarkana CANCELED

See you in 2021!

YOU CAN STILL BE A PART OF THE HARVEST FAMILY

If 2020 has taught us one thing, it’s that we are stronger together — even if we are physically six feet apart. Harvest has come to rely more than ever on the support of our community, both near and far, and that’s why we are recognizing our super friends as our #hungerheroes. Now everyone can become a #hungerhero with the purchase of a T-shirt, with proceeds going directly to our vital programs and services. Email development@hrfb.org or call (870) 774-1398 to get yours today!