

# THE DISH HARVEST

## REGIONAL FOOD BANK

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

2021  
SPRING  
NEWSLETTER

## A YEAR OF FIRSTS



2020 was a year like no other. For millions of people across the country, it was the first time a global health crisis has ever “hit home.” It was the first time city streets were almost empty and the first time businesses, schools, and churches were closed indefinitely. And it was the first time no one, not even the best and brightest, knew what the next day would hold.

It was a year of many firsts at Harvest Regional Food Bank. It was the first time we nearly doubled our distribution from a previous year – in 2020, Harvest distributed a record 5.4 million pounds of food. In many cases, we had just days to respond to and adjust our existing programs to meet the growing needs in our community. Our child nutrition programs were offered for the first time as “Grab & Go” for weekend meals and the summer feeding program. It was the first time we implemented large-scale mobile pantries to serve our most populated areas and the first time we operated all pantries as a “drive-thru” system to ensure safety in the new COVID-19 reality.

Harvest directly partnered for the first time with national, regional, and local vendors to distribute family food boxes to those in need through the USDA’s Farmers to Families Food Box Program, under the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. We partnered with local fire and police departments for the first time to provide emergency boxes to have on-hand when in the field responding to calls.

The unprecedented year brought Harvest support from some special new friends. The Food Bank welcomed its first visit from Arkansas’ Governor, Asa Hutchinson, as well as its first visit from Feeding America CEO, Claire Babineaux Fontenot. Harvest made national news for the first time when we were hand-picked by American philanthropist, MacKenzie Scott, to receive COVID-19 relief funding.

We are still feeling the effects of the many “firsts” of 2020 – we were forced to cancel all fundraising events last year, and we are working to come up with new events for 2021 that will allow us to raise funds that are vital to our programs and operations while also ensuring the safety of our staff and the community. The firsts aren’t over yet, and neither is Harvest’s commitment to fighting hunger and providing hope to those who need it most.





## LETTER FROM THE CEO

What a year it has been. Last March, our lives were turned upside down as news of a new pandemic came ever closer to Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas and began impacting our everyday lives. We knew early on that we would have to be flexible and adapt our services in order to reach those who need hunger relief the most, and our

team began contacting our community partners right away to establish new ways of distributing food to our ten-county service area.

Overall, we provided nearly 5.5 million pounds of food to Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas, compared to 3.2 million pounds in 2019! We saw a 50 percent rise in the need for food across our ten-county area, and the number of first time visitors doubled. However, through the generosity of friends, near and far, we were able to respond to the sudden changes in the way we provide hunger relief. In addition to the adjustments in our backpack and school pantry programs, we began implementing new large mobile pantries in our more populated areas, giving out 3,000 boxes of nutritious food at each distribution.

From day one, our local community members stepped up with generous donations to help us fill the need and allow us to purchase emergency food and supplies. We gained over 1,000 first time donors who, no doubt, became keenly aware of the issue of hunger during this challenging time. With their support and the dedication of our team in securing outside help, we were able to tackle these issues head-on, as a community.

But we are not out of the woods yet. We hope that the medical advances being made and diligence of individuals in being socially safe will result in a faster economic recovery for us all, but we are preparing for the need to remain high for several months to come. For that reason, we ask our friends and neighbors to continue helping us, so that we can continue helping others who need it most. I have faith in our team, our friends, and our community, that together, we will do just that.

Thank you for your commitment to fighting hunger ... one meal at a time!

Camille Coker Wrinkle  
CEO/Executive Director

## STATEWIDE GIFT, LOCAL SUPPORT

To help support hunger relief during the current COVID-19 crisis, Southern Farm Bureau made a statewide gift of \$500,000 to the food banks of Arkansas. Their generous donation was divided among the six organizations based on the number of counties served and resulted in a grant of \$60,000 to Harvest Regional Food Bank. "We are proud to be a part of an organization that provides our neighbors with much needed support in times of crisis," according to Ray Tipton, Little River County Farm Bureau manager.



**"We are also fortunate to have a partner like Harvest Regional Food Bank, serving millions of meals to hungry children and families throughout this region."**



# RECENT 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:



## **Townsquare Media**

The local media group partnered with BankOZK to host a radiothon across their stations, along with a month-long “virtual” food drive on Harvest’s website.



## **Red Nose Day Campaign**

As part of its mission to end child poverty, a gift from Red Nose Day is providing weekend meals for 120 children in Harvest’s Backpack Program for the entire school year — that’s 4,320 backpacks throughout the year.



## **Carl B. and Florence E. King Foundation**

The King Foundation has made a commitment to COVID-19 relief efforts and improving economic outcomes for its grantmaking areas and gave another round of COVID-19 relief funds to Harvest, which will provide 55,000 meals.



## **Wells Fargo Foundation**

The national charitable organization made a generous donation to Harvest, which provided 220,000 meals to children, families, and seniors across our region.



## **Albertsons**

Through its yearly in-store “Turkey Bucks” program, the Texarkana Albertsons stores provided complete Thanksgiving and Christmas

dinners, including turkeys and all the fixings, to 212 families in need, enough for over 1,500 servings. This year, they also partnered with KTAL to raise awareness of the needs in our area and collected food and monetary donations at both locations.



## **Regions Bank**

Texarkana’s last mobile pantries of the year were sponsored by Regions Bank. With their support, 82,500 meals were distributed in Southwest Arkansas through our mobile pantries, and area individuals and families had access to fresh produce, meat, and shelf-stable foods at a critical time of need during the holidays.



## **Patterson Troike Foundation**

With a gift from this local foundation, Harvest purchased new donor management software.



## PACKING COMPETITION

Leaders from both sides of the state line battled it out in December in an effort to help Harvest Regional Food Bank prepare for its last mobile pantry event of 2020. Teams had 30 minutes to pack as many pantry boxes as possible, with the winning city earning the “Harvest Hunger Hero Packing Champions” title.

The city of Texarkana, Arkansas, won by a slim margin of 52 to 50 boxes, but everyone was a winner that night, especially Harvest. It was a fun night of teamwork between the two cities to help meet the needs in our community. Hunger doesn’t take a holiday, and neither do these hardworking city leaders.

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FOOD BANK 2021  
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**DRIVE  
OUT HUNGER  
GOLF TOURNAMENT**



**May 17, 2021**  
**Northridge Country Club**  
**Texarkana, Texas**

**INAUGURAL DRIVE OUT HUNGER  
INVITATIONAL GOLF TOURNAMENT!**

Harvest Regional Food Bank is thrilled to announce its inaugural Drive Out Hunger Invitational Golf Tournament! Join us for a day of fun on the green and help fight hunger in Southwest Arkansas and Northeast Texas.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. Visit [hrfb.org](http://hrfb.org) for more information. To secure your team, call (870)774-1398 or email [development@hrfb.org](mailto:development@hrfb.org).

**THANK YOU, DONORS!**

**Grants Received (August 1, 2020 – December 31, 2020)**

**Regions Bank**  
*\$15,000 for Mobile Pantry Support*

**Carl B. and Florence E. Foundation**  
*\$15,000 for COVID Hunger Relief*

**Red Nose Day Fund**  
*\$15,195 for Childhood Hunger programs*

**Walton Family Beacon Fund**  
*\$100,000 for Expanded Hunger and COVID Relief*

**Wells Fargo**  
*\$40,000 for Hunger Relief and Distribution Costs*

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

Chris and Debbie Alkire  
Kate Anderson  
AT&T  
Avery's Chapel Church  
Alvin and Janie Beaird  
Beauty Outlet Mall, Inc  
Bobbie Bradley  
Robert and Sue Braley  
Brentwood  
Mike and Anita Brisco  
Bryan Powell Drywall, Inc  
Kirby and Diana Bunel  
Scottie Burnett  
Jo and Carl Burns  
Cardinal Revenue Solutions LLC  
Christ United Methodist Church  
Blake and Allie Cogbill  
Gail and Gene Cogbill  
Cabe Cook Foundation  
Diane Cooper  
Rozan and Milton Cowling  
Red River Federal Credit Union  
Drs. Emily and Tom Cutrer  
Sharon and Walter Davis  
Diamond Bank  
DMP Investments  
Domtar  
Natasha Dowd  
Joseph Drewery  
Lesley and Adam Dukelow  
Norma and Fay J Durrant  
Eagle Distributing Of Texarkana, Inc  
Express Employment Professionals  
FA Financial Partners LLC  
First Baptist Church Nash  
First United Methodist Church Ashdown  
Curtis Garner  
Dorenda M. Garner  
Dr. Minh-Ly and Aaron Gaylor

Greg Giles  
Howard and Barbara Glick  
Delia Goins  
John Grams  
John and Diana Gregory  
Iris Hackett  
Halmar International  
Darla and Jim Bob Hambleton  
Sylvia Hatridge  
Health Care Express  
Mishal Hemphill  
Robert and Cindy Holmes  
Delbert Hostetler  
Lester and Anne Houk  
David Hudson  
Riggs Employees Fund  
Jim Lind Investments  
Danny and Brenda Jones  
Wallace Jones  
Junior Charity League, Inc Of Magnolia  
Dr. Susan Keeney  
Kelley Morgan Foundation  
Elaine LaGrone  
David and Bonnie Lamb  
Gary and Annell Langdon  
Constance Lawson  
Jauan Lewis  
David McAdams  
Grady McAlexander  
Gary and Cathy McCrary  
Dolly McGinnis  
Jimmy McLaughlin  
Judy and Larry McNeal  
James McPherson  
Ministries Of Harvest Temple Inc  
Frances Moore  
Mary and Joseph Morriss  
James Murphy  
Perry and Teresa Newton

Northside Assembly Of God Church  
William R Palmer  
Michelle Pearson  
The Honorable and Mrs. Leon Pesek, Jr.  
David Rauls  
Red River Employees Federal Credit Union  
Riata Land & Cattle Company  
Road Runner Stores  
Rose Hill Baptist Church  
Rotary International  
Randy Sarrett  
Alan and Debbie Schimming  
Betty Scoggins  
Marjorie Smith  
Arthur Smith  
Malcolm and Deirdre Smith  
Smolarz Law Firm  
Claudia and Henry Snow  
Cynthia Soyars  
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State Bank of Dekalb  
Anita and Michael Stevenson  
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Texarkana Emergency Center  
Thomson Proprietorship  
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David and Barbara Vershaw  
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