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.
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.
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 hrb.org for more information. To secure your team, call (870)774-1398 or email 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

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

- Chris and Debbie Akhire
- Kate Anderson
- AT&T
- Avery’s Chapel Church
- Alvin and Janie Beard
- Beauty Outlet Mall, Inc
- Bobbie Bradley
- Robert and Sue Braley
- Brentwood
- Mike and Anita Brisco
- Bryan Powell Drywall, Inc
- Kirby and Diana Buneul
- 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 Dukelew
- 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 Goin
- John Grams
- John and Diana Gregory
- Iris Hackett
- Halmar International
- Darla and Jim Bob Hamleton
- Sylvia Hatridge
- Health Care Express
- Mishal Hemphill
- Robert and Cindy Holmes
- Delbert Hostettler
- Lester and Anne Houk
- David Hudson
- Riggs Employees Fund
- Jmilind Investments
- Danny and Brenda Jones
- Wallace Jones
- Junior Charity League, Inc Of Magnolia
- Dr. Susan Keeney
- Kelley Morgan Foundation
- Elaine LaGrone
- David and Bonnie Lambert
- Gary and Annell Langdon
- Constance Lawson
- Jausan Lewis
- David McAdams
- Grady McAlexander
- Gary and Cathy McCrary
- Dolly McGinniss
- Jimmy McLoughlin
- 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
- Howard 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 Shimming
- Betty Scoggins
- Marjorie Smith
- Arthur Smith
- Malcolm and Deirdre Smith
- Smolarz Law Firm
- Claudia and Henry Snow
- Cynthia Soyers
- Sandra Spades
- Terry and Deborah Spivey
- State Bank of Dekalb
- Anita and Michael Stevenson
- John Strunc
- Texarkana Emergency Center
- Thomson Proprietorship
- James and Carolyn Turchi
- David and Barbara Vershaw
- Dr. and Mrs. Tom Wagy
- Joe Walker
- Linda Walker
- Wholesale Electric Supply Co.
- Sarah and Jerry Williamson
- Wisdom Animal Clinic
- Matthew and Cynthia Young
- Margaret Young
- Stephen Zorsch