



# EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK



FY 2022 ANNUAL REPORT



The Mobile Pantry in Palestine feeds between 400-500 East Texas households each month.



#### MEET DOMINICK

Dominick immigrated to the United States after the Vietnam War. He moved to Tyler to be closer to family after Hurricane Katrina swept through his home in New Orleans. Dominick and his wife live on a fixed income and it is difficult to stretch his dollars. “We greatly appreciate the food we receive each month. Prices are so high in the grocery store and it’s hard to make ends meet.”

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# MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

## Dear Partners and Friends,

The East Texas Food Bank has seen larger segments of our population seek assistance with food, this past fiscal year, than during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic. The economic crisis, coupled with supply chain issues, have resulted in rising prices in goods and services. Grocery prices soared 10.4 percent—the largest annual increase in 40 years, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

During one of our Mobile Pantry Distributions in Longview, we served almost 1,200 families with produce and meat. We are seeing middle class people in our lines as well as many East Texans who have never had to ask for help. The sky-high prices of food, fuel and rent is especially hitting our seniors hard who already live on a fixed income. Some tell us they only eat once a day, and ration what little food they have so they can also have money to pay for essentials, medicine and electricity.

According to new numbers from Feeding America's Map the Meal Gap, 1 in 6 East Texans are food-insecure including 1 in 4 children. This means they lack access to adequate, nutritious food. When individuals are hungry, they are stressed, sick more often and have little energy to work or go to school. The burden of hunger falls more heavily on low-income people, rural communities, disabled individuals and minorities.

**“In the past year, we increased how many meals we served from 25 million to 27 million meals helping 117,300 households.”**

Single-parent households also struggle more and are likely to face hunger.

We are so thankful to the many generous individuals, businesses, foundations and organizations along with thousands of volunteers who help us fulfill our mission of fighting hunger and feeding hope.

In the past year, we increased how many meals we served, from 25 million to 27 million meals, helping 117,300 households. ETFB also provided 14 million pounds of produce to hungry East Texans in



**“Some tell us they only eat once a day to ration what little food they have...”**

Tyler, Longview and Lufkin and added several new mobile pantry locations including Quitman, Gladewater and Palestine.

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of the opening of our Deep East Texas Resource Center (DETRC) in Lufkin and are making plans to open more branches in Tyler, Longview and Texarkana. DETRC helped 3,168 households and served 753,254 meals.

As we look to the future, ETFB's strategic plan is aimed at expanding our programs and services to more effectively meet the needs of our neighbors. “The T.L.L. Temple Foundation awarded a \$4 million dollar grant to ETFB, over four years, to combat hunger and



poor nutrition in our Deep East Texas region.”

Partnerships like this will help us reach our goal of making sure every East Texas family has access to healthy food and other resources to thrive.

We appreciate your support and look forward to making a difference in the lives of East Texans.

Sincerely,

Dennis Cullinane  
Chief Executive Officer

# WHO WE ARE

## OUR MISSION

The East Texas Food Bank exists to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas.

## OUR VISION

The East Texas Food Bank's vision is a hunger-free East Texas.

## OUR STORY

Established in 1988 by a group of Tyler community leaders, the East Texas Food Bank covers 26 Northeast Texas counties. ETFB provides over 27 million meals each year to 200 partner agencies and feeding programs.

## HOW WE HELP

According to Feeding America's recent Map the Meal Gap, 1 in 6 East Texans, including 1 in 4 children, are hungry. The East Texas Food Bank feeds our community, provides nutrition education and benefits assistance. According to Feeding America, 204,040 East Texans including 70,560 children face hunger.

By 2025, ETFB hopes to increase distribution to 32 million meals annually.



### MEET SHERIAN

Sherian came to our distribution in Longview. "The drive helps my family a lot. The vegetables are too expensive in the grocery store. You either don't pay utilities and feed your families or you pay utilities and your family doesn't get fed, its hard trying to make it, period. To people donating, making this happen, I just want to say thank you."

# MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM

**THE MOBILE PANTRY PROGRAM TARGETS COMMUNITIES WITH A HIGH PERCENTAGE OF PEOPLE WHO LACK REGULAR ACCESS TO NUTRITIOUS FOOD.**

ETFB partners with organizations to find a distribution site. Volunteers from local businesses, churches and schools help give out the food.

The goal of the program is to offer fresh fruits and vegetables. In our last fiscal year, 14 million pounds of produce was given out, a 30% increase over the previous year. Mobile Pantry locations give out food once or twice a month, with no documentation or eligibility requirements to participate. Over 8,400 households received food through the program in 25 East Texas communities. New Mobile Pantries were added in Palestine, Quitman and Gladewater.





# BackPack PROGRAM

## BackPack Program Helps Feed East Texas Children

NBC Nightly News with Lester Holt: Kids Edition came to Tyler this year to profile child hunger programs. Sarah, a fifth-grade student at Bell Elementary was profiled in the national news story. She is part of the Backpack Club.

“Every Friday, I receive lots of delicious food to take home for the weekend in my backpack including lasagna, beans, ravioli, fruit, cereal and snacks,” said Sarah. “It helps me to

have food when we don’t have enough and it’s easy for me to heat it up myself or for my younger siblings when my mom is working.”

School counselor Kimberly Collum says hunger can impact children. “If they come into the classroom hungry then it’s difficult for them to be ready to learn.”

The East Texas Food Bank Backpack Program was designed to close the weekend hunger gap for children. Last year, **ETFB served 8,757 children** and provided **198,670 Backpacks** filled with food.



# SUMMER FOOD PROGRAMS

## FREE MEALS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED

Children receive free lunch and/or breakfast as part of the Summer Food Program. This summer, ETFB served 32,791 meals to 2,280 children at 27 different locations in East Texas. Favian, a Tyler father with four young children appreciated the program. “With the high prices of groceries, this helps me a lot to feed my children and the best part—it’s free.”



## CHILDREN’S PROGRAMS FY 2022 Stats:

<b>198,670</b>	<b>8,757</b>	<b>342,983</b>	<b>31,747</b>
backpacks distributed	children served	meals	snacks served in Kids Café and Afterschool Snack Programs



# HELPING OUR NEIGHBORS

## Partners in Health

The Partners in Health Program is an innovative partnership with local healthcare providers. The goal of the program is to impact food-insecure individuals at their place of healthcare by providing healthy foods and nutrition education.

## Benefits Assistance Program

The Benefits Assistance Program helps eligible East Texans apply for state social service benefits. Programs we offer include SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program), Medicaid, TANF (Temporary Aid for Needy Families), CHIP (Children's Health Insurance Program), Healthy Texas Women and Medicare Savings Program. Additionally, the Benefits Assistance Program provides referral services for other social service agencies, such as WIC (Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children) and housing, shelter and utility assistance programs.

## MEET MARY

Mary started coming to the pantry out of necessity when she became a caregiver for her ailing mother. "My philosophy is simple. When your stomach starts rubbing your backbone, it's time to put your pride in your back pocket and get in line." Mary says she can barely make ends meet and is grateful for organizations like the Deep East Texas Resource Center. "Every time I come, I'm thankful for everything I get."



# EAST TEXAS STORIES

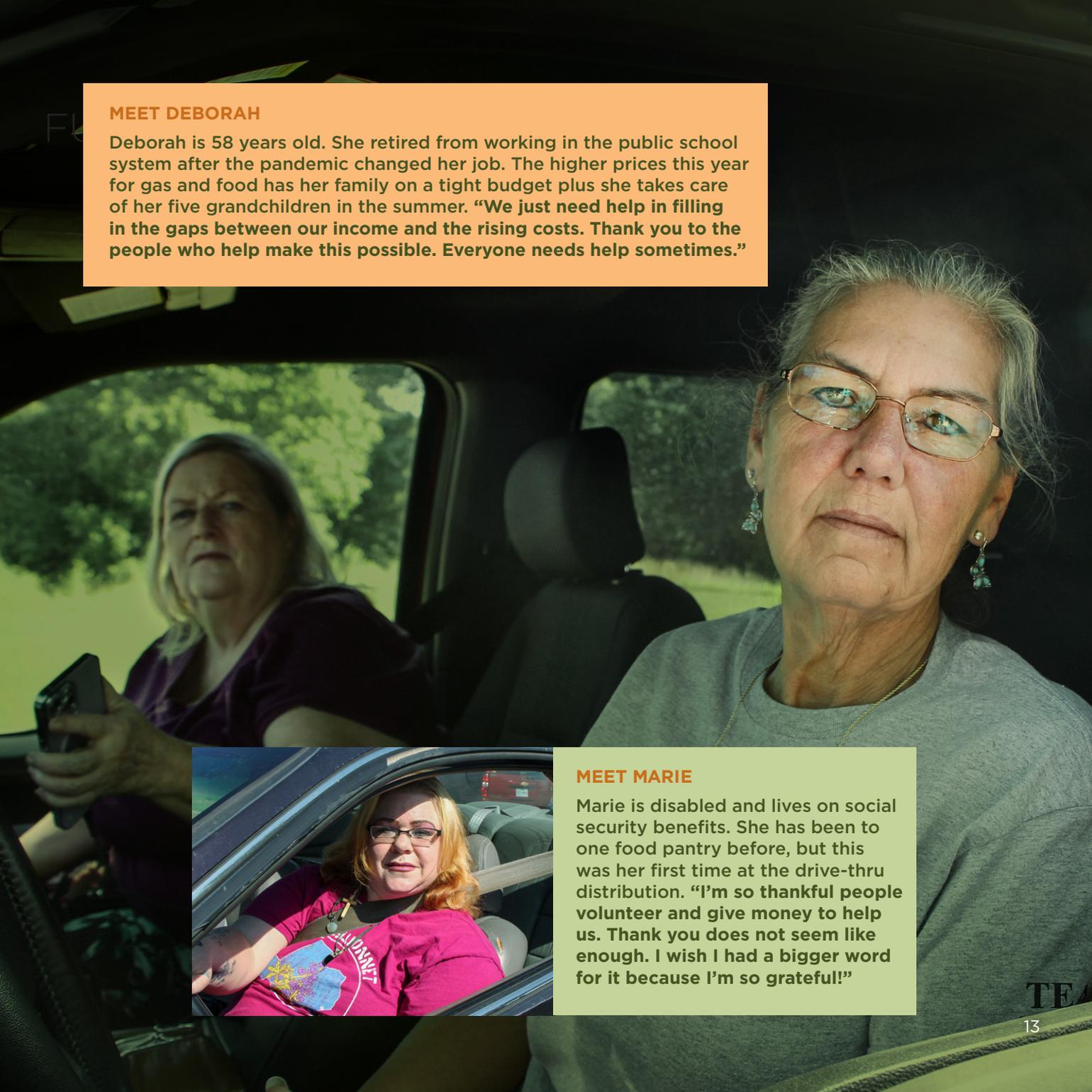


## MEET BETTY

Betty is retired and lives on a fixed income. She cares for her granddaughter, Serenity. With costs of housing, food, and gas way up, she's been struggling to find ways to pay all of her bills and keep enough food in the house for them. A friend of hers told her about the drive-thru, and she is incredibly thankful. "Thank the Lord for these people. Your help is a very good thing!"

## MEET DEBORAH

Deborah is 58 years old. She retired from working in the public school system after the pandemic changed her job. The higher prices this year for gas and food has her family on a tight budget plus she takes care of her five grandchildren in the summer. "We just need help in filling in the gaps between our income and the rising costs. Thank you to the people who help make this possible. Everyone needs help sometimes."



## MEET MARIE

Marie is disabled and lives on social security benefits. She has been to one food pantry before, but this was her first time at the drive-thru distribution. "I'm so thankful people volunteer and give money to help us. Thank you does not seem like enough. I wish I had a bigger word for it because I'm so grateful!"

# HUNGER HERO AWARDS

## EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK GIVES OUT 2022 HUNGER HERO AWARDS

September is Hunger Action Month—Feeding America’s nationwide campaign designed to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of hunger. During this month, the East Texas Food Bank honors outstanding supporters whose generosity made a real difference in the lives of our neighbors in need. Four supporters received the “Hunger Hero Award” this year for going above and beyond in helping the people we serve.

Hunger Hero Awards were given to the Junior League of Tyler (Community Partner Organization), Carroll Greenwaldt (Individual Supporter), American State Bank (Corporate Partner) and the CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Health System and CHRISTUS Community Impact Fund (Ministry Partner).

“We are excited and honored to present this year’s Hunger Hero Awards to recipients who have shown a great amount of support, especially in the past year as we’ve continued to distribute record amounts of food,” said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank. “They really exemplify the kindness and generosity of our community and the commitment needed in the fight against hunger.”



Junior League of Tyler



Volunteer Carroll Greenwaldt



American State Bank



CHRISTUS Good Shepherd Health System and CHRISTUS Community Impact Fund

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

The East Texas Food Bank participated in several signature events throughout the year that helped to support our programs and bring awareness to hunger in East Texas.

Tyler ISD held their annual Empty Bowls initiative. Students created clay bowls and painted them to represent the empty bowls some people have at their table. The bowls sold for \$10 each as a fundraiser for ETFB.

The 11th annual Charlie Brown Thanksgiving event in November at Bergfeld Park in Tyler brought out hundreds of families. Children enjoyed snack bags with goodies like jelly

beans, pretzels and popcorn like what the kids had for their meal in the Charlie Brown classic holiday special. The event reminds people about the true spirit of the holiday season and the needs of so many families impacted by hunger. Families also brought donations of peanut butter.

Tyler High and Tyler Legacy came together for the 31st annual Pantry Raid. The two schools collect food and funds to support the Tyler ISD Backpack Program. Students raised 102,257 meals and over \$12,500. Since the pantry raid began in 1991, students have raised more than 1.5 million meals.



# VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers are an essential part of fighting hunger in our community. They pack millions of meals every month for people struggling to feed their families. Without their support, we simply could not feed as many people as we do.

Volunteers touch most every item of food that we serve. People of all ages pack boxes, sort through food donations, label cans, measure and bag rice and beans or help at a mobile distribution. Over 4,000 East Texans contributed 29,458 hours to help the ETFB. After every shift, our volunteers leave knowing they helped put food on the table for people in need.



## VOLUNTEER FY 2022 Stats:

**4,000**  
volunteers

**29,458**  
volunteered hours

## MEET SANDY

Sandy Nichols has been a volunteer with the East Texas Food Bank for almost nine years. "My husband Jimmy and I, and several other members of my congregation starting helping out when we opened a food pantry at our church," said Sandy.

The group volunteers several times a month. "The hardest task is putting the labels on cans and repacking rice but we will do whatever job they ask us to. I enjoy visiting with the staff and other regular volunteers. It's really one of the best parts of our week."

Sandy says it is so important to make sure everyone in our community has enough food to eat. "I especially have a heart for the children and want to make sure no one goes hungry."

Sandy received the 2022 Outstanding Volunteer of the Year from the East Texas Food Bank. Rosann Blood received the 2022 Volunteer Appreciation Award for 17 years of service.

# EDUCATION

## Nutrition Education Program

The Nutrition Education Program assists with obesity and chronic disease prevention. The program offers nutrition education to low-income community members by partnering with community organizations and social service agencies serving limited-resource clients.

## Direct Education

The Direct Education Program provides nutrition education through cooking classes. Topics include healthy eating on a budget, food safety, meal planning, cooking, physical activity and more.

## Cooking Matters

Cooking Matters for adults is a six-week course focused on preparing and shopping for healthy meals on a limited budget. Each class includes a nutrition lesson, cooking and food safety, and hands-on preparation of a meal. Each week, class participants receive the ingredients to make a recipe they learned in the class at home as a way to try healthy foods.

## Healthy Pantry Programs

The Healthy Pantry Program aims to make “the healthy choice the easy choice” for clients by using marketing strategies to provide nutrition education in the food pantry setting. The goal of the project is to increase the distribution of healthy foods through product placement, signage, recipe card displays, shelf tags and food demonstrations.



## EDUCATION FY 2022 Stats:

<b>1,527,383</b> meals provided through SNAP application assistance	<b>18,345</b> individuals reached through the Healthy Pantry Programs
<b>2,078</b> individuals reached through Direct Education	<b>25</b> partner agencies participated in the Healthy Pantry Program
<b>6,075</b> pounds of food distributed through Partners in Health	

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS 2021-2022

- Michelle Bosworth**  
Health Management Associates
- Jay Brooks**  
Community Volunteer
- Kenneth Cobb**  
amaGoh Smoothie
- Gregg Davis**  
Merrill Lynch
- Jim Daughtry**  
Daughtry Realty Company
- Kristy Everitt**  
Henry & Peters, PC
- Verna Hall**  
Community Volunteer
- Leslie Harrison, Secretary**  
Community Volunteer
- Diane Heindel**  
Law Office of B. Diane Heindel, PC.
- Ann Howell**  
Retired, State Farm Insurance
- Bryan Jacobs, Immediate Past Chair**  
Jacobe Brothers Construction, Inc.
- Jay Jelinek**  
Brookshire Brothers
- Moises Leandro**  
UBank
- Jeff W. Johnston**  
Chick-Fil-A at Broadway Crossing
- Bill Mohl, Chair**  
WMM Enterprises, LLC
- Jim Noble**  
Community Volunteer
- Christie Osuagwu**  
Community Volunteer

- Ivette Zavarce**  
Encouragement Media Group
- Cathy Schreiber, Treasurer**  
Community Volunteer
- Valerie Smith**  
St. Paul Children's Clinic
- Howard Tagg**  
Law Office of Howard Tagg
- Dustin Wilkinson**  
American State Bank
- Lisa Williams**  
Black Nurses Rock



East Texas Food Bank supplies food to 26 counties



# CORPORATE PARTNERS



“Amerigroup Texas understands that addressing health-related social needs, such as access to healthy food and nutrition programs, is the key to improving health outcomes,” said Dr. Cealee Thomas, Medical Director of Amerigroup Texas. “We’re grateful to the East Texas Food Bank for sharing our commitment to creating healthier, stronger communities across the region.”



# FUNDING SOURCES

The East Texas Food Bank had \$49,966,142 in revenue and support, and operating expenses of \$58,795,706 in fiscal year July 2021 - June 2022. Over 96% of all support we receive goes directly to helping feed East Texans facing hunger. For the full financial report, visit [EastTexasFoodBank.org](http://EastTexasFoodBank.org)



## REVENUE AND SUPPORT Total \$49,966,142

- ▼ \$37,521,802  
Donated Food & Commodities
- ▼ \$8,645,060  
USDA Commodities
- ▼ \$3,799,280  
Contributions
- ▼ \$4,215,032  
Federal Grant Revenues
- ▼ \$1,537,591  
Purchased Food Recovery
- ▼ \$800,568  
Shared Maintenance
- ▼ \$57,734  
Other Income

## EXPENSES Total \$58,795,706



- ▼ \$56,156,582  
Program Services
- ▼ \$1,515,782  
Management and General Operating
- ▼ \$1,123,392  
Fundraising



**EAST TEXAS  
FOOD BANK**

3201 Robertson Road | Tyler, TX 75701 | 903.597.3663  
EastTexasFoodBank.org