



North Texas Food Bank Honors Golden Fork Award Recipients

Award Winners Announced at Annual Ceremony

DALLAS (Nov. 3 2016) – The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) recognized top volunteers at its annual Golden Fork Award ceremony. The awards are presented each year to individuals, foundations and corporations that have exemplified commitment and dedication to hunger relief in North Texas. Past recipients have included Chef Kent Rathbun, Ruth Altshuler, State Representative Helen Giddings and State Senator Jane Nelson.

“Our Golden Fork winners, past and present, form a dynamic partnership with the Food Bank to ensure the needs of hungry children, families, and seniors in North Texas are met,” said Anurag Jain, Vice Chairman of the Board for the North Texas Food Bank. “This distinction is bestowed upon champions who have made a significant impact and best exemplify commitment and dedication to the pursuit of a hunger-free community. We thank and congratulate our 9th annual Golden Fork winners for all that they contribute to the field of hunger relief.”

The following were honored at the recent ceremony:

Lifetime Achievement Award –The State Fair of Texas has a longstanding partnership with the NTFB, spanning more than two decades. The annual It’s a Fair Deal campaign – whereby fairgoers can bring in canned goods in exchange for a discounted admission – is the NTFB’s largest canned food drive, with more than 267,000 lbs. of food donated in 2016 alone.

Campaign of the Year– For the past nine years, the Dallas Theater Center has raised awareness and funds for the NTFB at their showings of A Christmas Carol. Through this partnership, more than \$538,000 has been donated to the NTFB which has allowed for the Food Bank to provide access to more than 1.6 million meals for hungry North Texans.

The second honoree for the category of Campaign of the Year is The Dallas Morning News Charities. They support organizations that work in the fields of sheltering, hunger relief, emergency services and rehabilitative programs, and provides non-profits – including the NTFB – with the critical funds necessary to meet their missions. Their support of the NTFB has allowed us to grow one of our core child feeding programs, Food 4 Kids. Since 2006, The Dallas Morning News Charities has donated more than \$540,000 to NTFB.

Corporation of the Year– Bank of America is a key corporate partner for the NTFB. The organization donates funds, time and talent to the Food Bank regularly. The bank is one of our top volunteer groups year over year with eager groups coming to donate their time year-round. In addition, their employee’s time, Bank of America also donates critical funds to help the Food Bank meet our mission. In 2016 Bank of America will donate \$25,000, which will help provide 5,000 backpacks for our Food 4 Kids program, and another \$50,000, which will help provide 150,000 meals for hungry North Texans.

Retail Partner of the Year– The Food Bank’s success depends on the generosity of donors, especially our retail partners. Sam’s Club, our 2016 Retail Partner of the Year provides an invaluable amount of support to the NTFB. They donate a tremendous amount of food product annually – more than 3 million pounds to date in 2016. In addition to food donations, Sam’s Club employees also regularly volunteer at the Food Bank warehouse, sorting and boxing foods for families in need.

Volunteer of the Year– This year NTFB’s Golden Fork Award for Volunteer of the Year is shared by two Dallas philanthropists, Joyce Goss and Joanne Teichman, for their work supporting NTFB’s Letter Writing Campaign. This endeavor helps fund NTFB’s Food 4 Kids program which operates in many local schools, providing a weekend backpack filled with kid friendly, shelf stable foods to chronically hungry children. Thanks to the efforts of these honorees, more than 721,548 weekend backpacks were provided to children in need.

Youth Leader of the Year– The youngest honorees for the evening, Youth Leader of the Year awardees Quinn Graves and Stella Wrubel, took a simple idea of selling mistletoe during the holidays, and transformed the endeavor into a successful business plan which includes support from retailer Highland Park Village. In the two years that the mistletoe sales have benefitted the Food Bank, these 5th graders have helped provide more than 168,000 meals, or \$56,000 in donations.

Partner Agency of the Year– Each year the NTFB honors a Partner Agency that exemplifies service, compassion and hope for our clients. The 2016 Partner Agency of the Year honoree, Mission Oak Cliff – a community ministry of Cliff Temple Baptist Church – has a long history of cooperation with the North Texas Food Bank. As one of our charter members, Mission Oak Cliff has worked with the Food Bank to combat hunger since the early 1980s. They serve an average of 700 families per month and more than 22,000 individuals per year.

Hunger Ambassador of the Year– The Honorable Plano Mayor Harry LaRosiliere is a regular collaborator with the Food Bank. He couples big ideas with a big heart for giving. His work to expand NTFB’s Food 4 Kids program in the city of Plano is just one of the reasons he was selected as Hunger Ambassador of the Year. Thanks to his efforts, now more than 1,400 elementary aged students receive a weekend backpack filled with nutritious foods, and are also offered special holiday meal boxes for Thanksgiving, Christmas, and spring break to ensure these students and their families receive the nutrition they need over the holiday breaks.

ABOUT THE NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit relief organization. Each day, the North Texas Food Bank provides access to 170,000 meals for hungry children, seniors and families through a network of more than 1,000 programs and more than 200 Partner Agencies across 13-counties. In fiscal year 2016, NTFB provided access to some 70 million meals.

NTFB is a member of Feeding America, a national hunger relief organization.

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