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**North Texas Food Bank Honors Golden Fork Award Recipients**

*Award Winners Announced at Annual Ceremony*

DALLAS (Oct. 20, 2015) – 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 Ruth Altshuler and retired *Dallas Morning News* columnist Robert 'Bob' Miller.

"We salute the work of our honorees and the contributions they make to provide relief to our hungry neighbors," said NTFB President and CEO Jan Pruitt. "Each individual, company and foundation we honor has been true partners and advocates in our mission to serve one of six fellow North Texans who are food insecure."

The following were honored at the recent ceremony:

***Lifetime Achievement Award: Kent Rathbun***

Celebrated Chef and Restaurateur Kent Rathbun is a longtime friend of the Food Bank, participating annually in Restaurant Week and serving as the founder of NTFB's annual Taste of the NFL (TNFL) event. To date, TNFL has raised some \$2 million to fund NTFB's child programs and other hunger initiatives.

***Lifetime Achievement Award: Hillcrest Foundation***

The Hillcrest Foundation has supported the NTFB for more than 30 years, with gifts amounting to more than \$800,000. The Foundation has a keen focus on contributing to local agencies in the areas of human services.

***Corporation of the Year: Hillwood Corporation***

Led by Joe Bass, the Hillwood Corporation provides the North Texas Food Bank with real estate and architectural consultant services that have been integral to network expansion, part of the Food Bank's strategy to provide 92 million nutritious meals annually in the next ten years.

***Hunger Ambassador of the Year: State Representatives Helen Giddings and State Senator Jane Nelson***

State Representatives Helen Giddings and State Senator Jane Nelson were selected as Hunger Ambassadors of the Year because of their advocacy efforts on behalf of the North Texas Food Bank and other hunger relief organizations in Texas. Both of these elected officials worked tirelessly to help orchestrate the passage of a law that will double the amount of fresh produce Texas growers will provide to Texas Food Banks in the next two years totaling nearly \$6 million.

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***Volunteer of the Year: Deborah Fugit***

Deborah Fugit champions the NTFB and its mission as a dedicated volunteer with the Nourishing Neighbors program that provides grocery delivery service for homebound seniors. Deborah also rallies her friends, family and church group to volunteer at the NTFB warehouse.

***Food Industry Partner of the Year: Ron Campbell***

Ron Campbell, a retired grocery store executive, donates time and knowledge to the NTFB's Retail Team, helping forge key partnerships between the NTFB and food industry partners. His outreach and advocacy helps bring in critical donations that benefit hungry North Texans.

***Partner Agency of the Year: Jewish Family Services***

For more than 60 years, Jewish Family Services has provided stability in times of crisis to individuals and families in need -- by addressing basic needs like food, clothing, and other financial aid. The organization is a key partner for NTFB providing food and hope for clients in need.

**ABOUT THE NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK**

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit relief organization, providing access to 170,000 meals each day for hungry children, seniors and families through a network of more than 1,000 programs and more than 200 Partner Agencies in our 13-county service area. In fiscal year 2015, NTFB provided access to some 63 million meals but the need for hunger relief in North Texas today is much larger. To combat increasing food insecurity in North Texas, the Food Bank recently launched a 10-year plan to provide access to 92 million nutritious meals annually by 2025, a nearly 50 percent increase from the current output. For more information about the 10-year plan, visit [ntfb.org/92million](http://ntfb.org/92million).

NTFB is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.