



A Member of Feeding America

MEDIA ALERT

NORTH TEXAS FOOD BANK AFFECTED BY ONGOING FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHUT-DOWN

Essential truckloads of USDA food delayed: 1.2 million meal shortfall over next 5 months

DALLAS (Oct. 7, 2013) – The seven day old U.S. Federal Government shut-down has already impacted the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). NTFB was scheduled to receive 134 truckloads of USDA food between Oct. 1, 2013 and Feb. 1, 2014. Due to the shut-down, 36 truckloads have been approved but are not currently funded. All told, 5.4 million pounds of food were requested, with 1.48 million are at risk of not being delivered. This equates to 1.2 million missing meals over the next five months that NTFB relies on to feed children, families and seniors at more than 1,000 feeding locations and 262 Partner Agencies in 13 North Texas counties.

The USDA shipping delays come at an especially precarious time for NTFB as it struggles to refill its shelves with food after an unusually demanding summer season and prepare for the annual substantial increase in demand during the holiday season.

“The government shut-down, the SNAP cuts on November 1, low food inventory and a lack of volunteers have placed North Texan children, families, seniors and our food bank, in a perfect storm scenario. A continued government shut-down will directly impact moms and children on WIC, while SNAP benefits will be reduced on November 1 forcing hungry families to go to the supermarket with \$34 less. Families who depend on these benefits to feed their children will be most hurt. This is totally unacceptable in modern day America,” said **Jan Pruitt, President and CEO, North Texas Food Bank.**

20% of the North Texas Food Bank’s total food distribution of 1 million pounds of nutritious food per month is **sourced from the USDA’s Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP) and The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).** As of October 1, the USDA said no additional federal funds will be available to support these programs, thus the NTFB will not be reimbursed for distributing this much needed food.

Step up and take action in the following ways:

1. **Donate financially.** Every \$1 provides 3 meals, and a truck load of nutritious purchased food costs \$9,000. 93 cents of every donated dollar goes toward fulfilling NTFB’s mission; 7 cents goes toward administration and fundraising. Go online and donate (www.ntfb.org), or contact:

Colleen Brinkmann (Chief Philanthropy Officer) at 214-347-9594, Colleen@ntfb.org, or Sandra Lewis (Director of Development) at 214-347-9600, SandraL@ntfb.org.

2. **Volunteer your time.** NTFB needs up to 300 volunteers a day to sort and pack food at its distribution centers - from Tuesday through Friday - ages 10 and up. Volunteer at ntfb.org/volunteer; call 214-270-2055 or e-mail volunteer@ntfb.org. If you are already scheduled to volunteer, please show up! Every set of hands will help to get the food to our Partner Agencies.

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked nonprofit relief organization. Leading the fight against hunger in our community, we distribute donated, purchased, and prepared foods through a network of more than 1,000 feeding programs and 262 Partner Agencies in 13 counties. Since 1982, NTFB has distributed more than half a billion pounds of food. NTFB supports the nutritional needs of North Texans through research, education, advocacy and strategic partnerships. In fiscal year 2013, NTFB provided access to 62 million nutritious meals. NTFB is a member of Feeding America, a national hunger relief organization (feedingamerica.org).

Visit www.ntfb.org and follow NTFB on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest, LinkedIn, YouTube) for more ways to contribute to the Food Bank.

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