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# AROUND *the* TABLE

Fall 2020



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Trisha Cunningham  
President & CEO

## Record Number of Hungry Neighbors Need Our Help



Across North Texas, parents are wondering how they will be able to feed their families. Unemployment remains high, and many people are facing food insecurity for the first time. The demand for food has exponentially increased.

Yet in this difficult time, we also have incredible news to share. In 2015, we set a goal to provide access to 92 million meals for hungry North Texans by 2025. As the need increased in recent months, so did our food distribution. And because of gifts from generous friends like you, we reached our goal this summer . . . five years ahead of schedule.

Thank you for making this possible!

As we celebrate the milestone, we know our work is far from over. In fact, this fall we expect to help more people than ever before. **No one in our community should face hunger.** That's why we are working hard to restock our shelves for our neighbors who will depend on us in the coming months.

It's not easy to provide meals for so many people — but with your help, I know we can do it.

In this issue of *Around the Table*, you'll meet Lourdes and Amanda, two mothers who struggled to keep their children fed but received nutritious food thanks to you. You'll also learn about our response to the pandemic and how we've been able to safely provide food for those reaching out for assistance.

**It is only because of your support that we can continue to provide nourishing meals to our North Texas neighbors.**

Gratefully,

Trisha Cunningham  
President & CEO

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Because of you, Lourdes's children won't go hungry.

## Providing Relief and Hope to Mothers in Need Thank you for helping hungry families

When Lourdes was expecting her fourth child, she looked forward to having another baby to raise and love. Her other children were 11, 14 and 15 at the time, and they were growing up so fast. But when pregnancy complications sent her to the hospital, the cost of treatment and medicine threatened to put her in a terrible position — either pay bills or buy food for her family.

Lourdes made the difficult decision to put her car up for sale, and she tries to save money wherever she can.

"I grew up hungry," Lourdes says. "I know what it's like. It scares me to think my kids would feel like that."

Like Lourdes, Amanda was also worried about feeding her family. With young children and another on the way, the rising cost of food overwhelmed her budget.

"Meat and produce can be expensive," Amanda says. "We needed help."

Lourdes and Amanda were both relieved and thankful to receive the nutritious food their growing children needed at their local food pantries, run by two of our Partner Agencies. After receiving meat, bread, fresh fruits and vegetables, Lourdes and Amanda can sleep soundly at night knowing their children have nourishing food in order to grow up healthy and strong.

Lourdes shares that she has been truly moved by the generosity she's seen from North Texas Food Bank supporters and says she will teach her children to give back to others.

"I'm grateful there are people like you who are willing to help," Lourdes says. "Please keep helping because there are a lot of people that need it."

Your gifts ensure families in North Texas receive healthy food when they need it most, especially now. Thank you!

# Feeding Hungry Children and Families in North Texas

This school year is very different for children across North Texas. Change can be scary. With your support, we are able to give these young ones one less thing to worry about. Your gifts today help ensure that children and their families have healthy meals this fall.



Every \$1 you give provides three meals for children in need.



Armonte knows what it's like to not have enough to eat. Thanks to you, he doesn't have to worry.



Thank you for placing food on the tables of hungry kids and their families.



Without the help of people like you, children could struggle to learn and reach their full potential.



This fall, your support of the North Texas Food Bank will give children and families nutritious food.

## This Grandmother Is So Grateful for You

Cynthia has worked hard her whole life to provide for her family. She raised two children as a single mother, and today she is a proud grandmother of six.

Cynthia does her best to make ends meet on a fixed income, but it isn't always enough to keep her from going hungry.

Thankfully, she discovered a food pantry run by one of our Partner Agencies. Cynthia is now able to receive the nutritious protein, fruits and vegetables she needs to stay healthy.

"I love this pantry," she says. "We are a community."

Many seniors like Cynthia turn to the North Texas Food Bank for help due to their small, fixed incomes or expensive health conditions. And the pandemic has been especially difficult for this vulnerable population.

That's why we are grateful for caring people like you — and so is Cynthia.

Thankful for the food she receives, she decided to join the food pantry as a staff member so she could help others get the same assistance.

Cynthia spends her days helping children, seniors and families by providing the healthy food they need to thrive.

"It is fulfilling to help others," Cynthia says, smiling. "It is a blessing."

**Your support of the North Texas Food Bank allows seniors like Cynthia to have access to the nutritious food they need.**





## Increased Demand Across North Texas Leads to Unexpected Early Milestone

Thanks to the support of our donors, community partners, staff, volunteers and Partner Agencies, the North Texas Food Bank reached its 2025 goal of providing **92 million meals** for hungry North Texans.

When setting our goal in 2015, we never imagined we'd be able to reach it in half the time. But as the demand for food increased in recent months, friends like you gave generously and made this achievement possible.

There's much to celebrate, yet we know **the need continues**.

Your support fuels our work so we can serve our neighbors, no matter the circumstance. Thank you for feeding children, seniors and families in our community.



## Help Us Feed North Texas Neighbors This Holiday Season

Since the COVID-19 pandemic began, we've seen a 75% increase in the amount of food we've provided to those in need. And the people experiencing the biggest economic impact are those who were already struggling before.

We are also helping many families who are facing food insecurity for the first time, as unemployment rates remain high. Demand will only continue to increase this fall and as we get closer to the holiday season.

**Your generosity will allow us to provide healthy food now and into the holidays to feed hungry neighbors across North Texas during one of the busiest times of the year.**

To make a gift today, please visit [ntfb.org/fallnewsletter](http://ntfb.org/fallnewsletter).



VIRTUAL • 2020  
**SPREAD THE HOPE**  
**COLLIN COUNTY PEANUT BUTTER DRIVE**

**SEPTEMBER 1-30, 2020**

Every year during the month of September, the Spread the Hope Collin County Peanut Butter Drive aims to provide peanut butter for those in need across our 13-county service area. This year, due to the pandemic, we have gone VIRTUAL! Although started by the mayors of Collin County, all are encouraged to participate to help us reach our goal of collecting 220,000 pounds.

### Ways to get involved:

- Organize your own virtual peanut butter drive campaign.
- Collect peanut butter and drop off at NTFB's Perot Family Campus.
- Spread the word and help our hungry neighbors.

**For more information, visit [ntfb.org/peanutbutterdrive](http://ntfb.org/peanutbutterdrive).**

## Your Support Gets Food into the Hands of Growing Children and Their Families

When schools closed earlier than ever due to the COVID-19 pandemic, thousands of children no longer had access to free school breakfasts and lunches, which left many parents worried.

To help ensure that these kids and their families continued to receive much-needed meals, while still maintaining social distancing guidelines, the North Texas Food Bank and its Mobile Pantry program brought food directly where it was needed most, including schools.

More than 30,000 pounds of food were distributed in one day this summer by a Mobile Pantry site at DeSoto High School. In fact, it was the students who requested the Mobile Pantry to come out because they wanted to serve and give back to their community. The food

provided included dry goods, fresh produce, snack bags for kids and gallons of milk.

“On behalf of the DeSoto community, DeSoto ISD is grateful for the support of the North Texas Food Bank’s distribution of food to families in our community,” said Tiffanie Blackmon-Jones, DeSoto ISD’s director of communications. “During this time, families are experiencing a number of hardships, and it’s always a positive when we can come together with partners to address the needs of our communities.”

Thank you for supporting programs like our Mobile Pantry through your gifts to the North Texas Food Bank. **Together, we can continue to provide food, and hope, to hungry children, seniors and families this fall.**

**NORTH TEXAS GIVING DAY**  
**9.17.20**

**Join us for an online 18-hour day of giving on September 17!** North Texas Giving Day is the largest community-wide giving event in the nation, and you can **help us reach our goal of providing 2.4 million meals**. It's easy to schedule gifts online ahead of time starting September 1. Together, we can provide nutritious meals to hungry neighbors right here in North Texas.

To be part of the movement, visit [ntfb.org/givingday](http://ntfb.org/givingday).



Because of you and volunteers like Susan (left), the North Texas Food Bank is able to get healthy food into the hands of struggling families during this difficult time.

## Food Insecure for the First Time You are helping feed our neighbors during the crisis

As North Texans continue to feel the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, children in our community are among the most at risk of hunger. The North Texas Food Bank has nearly doubled its food distribution in recent months due to schools closing and unemployment skyrocketing.

**Thanks to you, we've been able to provide millions of pounds of nutritious food each week at Mobile Pantry distribution sites.**

And it's for people like Elda, who received food when our Mobile Pantry came to UNT Dallas, that we must continue to be there for the community.

**"The pandemic has made things really hard for us," Elda says. "We have all lost our jobs, except for my husband. Before this, we never needed assistance. This food will really help us. From the bottom of my heart, thank you."**

Our drive-thru model at our Mobile Pantry sites is a safe way to provide boxes of food to our hungriest

neighbors. **Support from friends like you, and volunteers like Susan, makes this possible.**

Susan is a student at El Centro College and a regular volunteer when our Mobile Pantry comes out to the school. At a Fair Park distribution during the pandemic, Susan was at the front of the line holding signs and waving to every car that came through to receive food.

"I know how hard a time our community is having right now," Susan says. "I just want to spread some love and happiness to everyone I can. **Seeing all those smiles and waves of the people who drove by made it all worth it.**"

The long-term effects of the pandemic will continue for the foreseeable future. This will mean many more families in North Texas will be facing tough choices like buying food or paying their bills. That's why your continued support is so important. **You are helping the North Texas Food Bank feed our neighbors at a time when they need our help the most. Thank you!**



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**Our Vision:**  
A hunger-free, healthy North Texas

