



Nourish North Texas

Our vision for a hunger-free, healthy North Texas





Together, let's Nourish North Texas



Forty years ago, the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) embarked on a mission to feed our hungry neighbors. This remarkable journey was founded by visionaries who believed in a simple yet powerful promise to serve those in need. And, for four decades, it has been sustained by the tremendous support of our caring community.

Today, the hunger crisis in our region has changed dramatically. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed unprecedented food insecurity and presented one of the greatest challenges our organization has ever faced.

Thanks to those who invested in the capital campaign and strategic plan to reach 92 million meals by 2025, we were able to provide additional capacity through our Perot Family Campus and dedicated feeding network. This last fiscal year, with the long-standing and generous support of so many, we doubled down on our efforts to provide access to more than 125 million meals, far exceeding our goal to serve current historic needs.

We've learned a lot from our COVID-19 response. Most importantly, our community doesn't want their neighbors to go hungry. We are ready to support this challenge through a new strategic plan and campaign that will provide the needed operating resources to serve: Nourish North Texas.

Nourish North Texas is an ambitious campaign with a simple goal: provide Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow for our North Texas neighbors.

While providing access to nutritious food will always be at the center of our work, we know that lasting change requires solutions that also address the root causes of hunger. This campaign allows us to invest in and expand our Feeding Network and to build new bridges to educational, workforce and community health resources that help our neighbors become self-sufficient and not just survive, but thrive.

With the goal of raising \$500 million in food and funds over three years, Nourish North Texas is the largest campaign for a social services organization in the history of North Texas. It's also the largest effort undertaken by a member of Feeding America - a national network of more than 200 food banks. On behalf of the NTFB family and those we serve, thank you for your support during a time of great need in the community. As we work toward creating a brighter future, we hope you'll join us in transforming lives in North Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trisha Cunningham". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Trisha Cunningham
President & CEO

Campaign Chairs

Flauren & Jason Bender
Renee & Jeff George
Gunjan & Anurag Jain
Katherine & Eric Reeves



40

years of nourishing North Texas

Since 1982, the North Texas Food Bank has been a leader in addressing food insecurity in our community. What started as a vision four decades ago has grown into a movement.

Today, according to Feeding America, approximately 800,000 North Texans do not know where their next healthy meal will come from – an increase from 675,000 since before the COVID-19 pandemic – despite our efforts that doubled food distribution to the region over the past year.

This means **1 out of every 6 people** – and **1 out of every 5 children** – in our region will go to bed hungry. The North Texas Food Bank region is the 6th highest in the nation in food insecure people.

We believe:

-  No one deserves to be hungry
-  Nourished people create communities that flourish and thrive
-  Hunger starves human potential
-  Hunger is unnecessary and unacceptable

The face of hunger today

Most people are surprised to learn that food insecurity exists in every zip code. Put simply, the term food insecurity means that neighbors do not always know where their next healthy meal will come from, and many have to make tough choices: Can I afford healthy groceries and my medicine this month? Will my income cover my utilities, plus meals for all of my family?

This has been the reality for many of our neighbors, and the problem has only gotten worse since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the issue of hunger has grown, so have our efforts alongside a dedicated Feeding Network. The Food Bank had established a 10-year plan with a goal of providing 92 million meals annually by 2025. In response to unprecedented demand, we exceeded that goal 5 years ahead of schedule through our COVID-19 response.

Community support provided the resources to help the NTFB and our feeding network to ensure no one went hungry during the pandemic. Hunger persists and it will take continued community support to address the elevated need for food assistance.

Neighbor spotlight: Elyshia

Elyshia is a hardworking single mother who balances three jobs to support her family. When the pandemic began, she tried to look on the bright side of months spent at home, focusing on spending quality time with her children.

Even with a rosy outlook, it was a stressful time, especially since having enough work was unpredictable. There were moments when she did not have enough money to keep food on the table for her two growing boys. Elyshia found out about the School Pantry at her son's campus and the food received became a lifeline.

“The food is fantastic,” Elyshia says. “The School Pantry is great for families who need a little extra help and extra food just to be able to make a complete meal.”





The hunger crisis continues

The COVID-19 pandemic reversed the last decade's progress towards closing the hunger gap. And while the pandemic has shown signs of receding, its impact on food insecurity persists.

In 2021, 42 million people, including 13 million children, across the nation may face hunger due to the ongoing effects of the pandemic. This represents a 55% increase in the number of people seeking help from food banks as compared to before the pandemic began.

In North Texas, more than 800,000 individuals in the NTFB's service area still face food insecurity today, as many people continue to cope with unemployment and families struggle to pay bills like housing, utilities and medical care.

Even as our economy improves, it will take time for food insecurity levels to recover. According to Feeding America, changes in the number of people facing hunger tends to lag years behind economic improvements. This is especially true for communities of color who face higher rates of unemployment, poverty and food insecurity.

Caring for our most vulnerable neighbors

Neighbors, especially the senior community as well as children, experience unique challenges when dealing with food insecurity. For neighbors like Vickie who has health challenges, accessing healthy food is critical. Vickie is a cancer survivor who also has a heart condition.

She is able to access healthy foods at her local food pantry and gravitates towards fresh produce. The Food Bank also provides our agencies with social services team members that can help seniors and other neighbors sign up for services like SNAP and other benefits.

“We are so grateful for all the people that help donate to people in need...They are not just feeding someone, but giving a gift to someone who they might not ever see.”



15.4%
of North Texans are food insecure



21.9%
of children in North Texas are food insecure



300,000
children in North Texas are food insecure
• 5th in the nation by number of children

Source: Feeding America Projections released March 2021

We are at an inflection point in the fight against hunger.

To meet and reduce the growing need in our region, we are embarking on a bold new effort- Nourish North Texas. This campaign aims to provide Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow for those we serve. We believe that closing the meal gap today while also addressing the root causes of food insecurity are both critical to creating lasting change for those that we serve.

Our vision is grounded in innovative approaches, pioneering partnerships and deeper community engagement. More practically, it will require transforming how we operate across key areas: from how and where we source our food, to how we streamline our logistics and distribution, to how we empower others to realize lasting change.

And, just as we will reimagine our role in the fight against hunger, we will also reimagine the expected outcomes as measured in community health and wellness, and in lives changed.

Together, we've created a network of compassionate and committed partners, advocates, donors and volunteers in the fight against hunger. As we plan for the next 40 years of service to our community, we know that addressing hunger in North Texas will be a significant challenge which will require significant investment.

For our community and our neighbors, however, the cost of inaction is even greater.



Providing more than just food

A key component of our campaign is ensuring that our Feeding Network has the resources they need to thrive; from chiller space for fresh produce, to trucks for deliveries, to expanding key partners' facilities, the Food Bank is working to build capacity across the 13 counties we serve - and these investments go beyond just food.

This includes partners like CitySquare, a Dallas based partner agency that provides food, as well as job training, housing support and even healthcare. According to the team at City Square, neighbors might first visit their location for food assistance, and are then introduced to other critical services.

During a recent visit to the CitySquare Food Pantry, we met Glenn. Throughout his life, Glenn has struggled with health issues, and has often had difficulty paying for both medicine and nutritious foods. Support from CitySquare has included food, and other services that help Glenn make ends meet.

“I just don't have enough money to pay for it all. And instead of just eating rice and beans, and stuff like that, I'm able to eat other healthy foods too. Thankfully, the other day I was able to get eggplant, zucchini, yellow squash and peppers.”

Providing hope for tomorrow starting today

As an organization dedicated to creating a hunger-free, healthy North Texas, we know the true cost of food insecurity is measured not just in meals, but also in broader issues such as health outcomes, educational attainment, and the ability to earn a living wage.

If we want to make a lasting impact in our community's fight against hunger, we have to do more than provide food. We have to think boldly and act with a renewed sense of purpose.

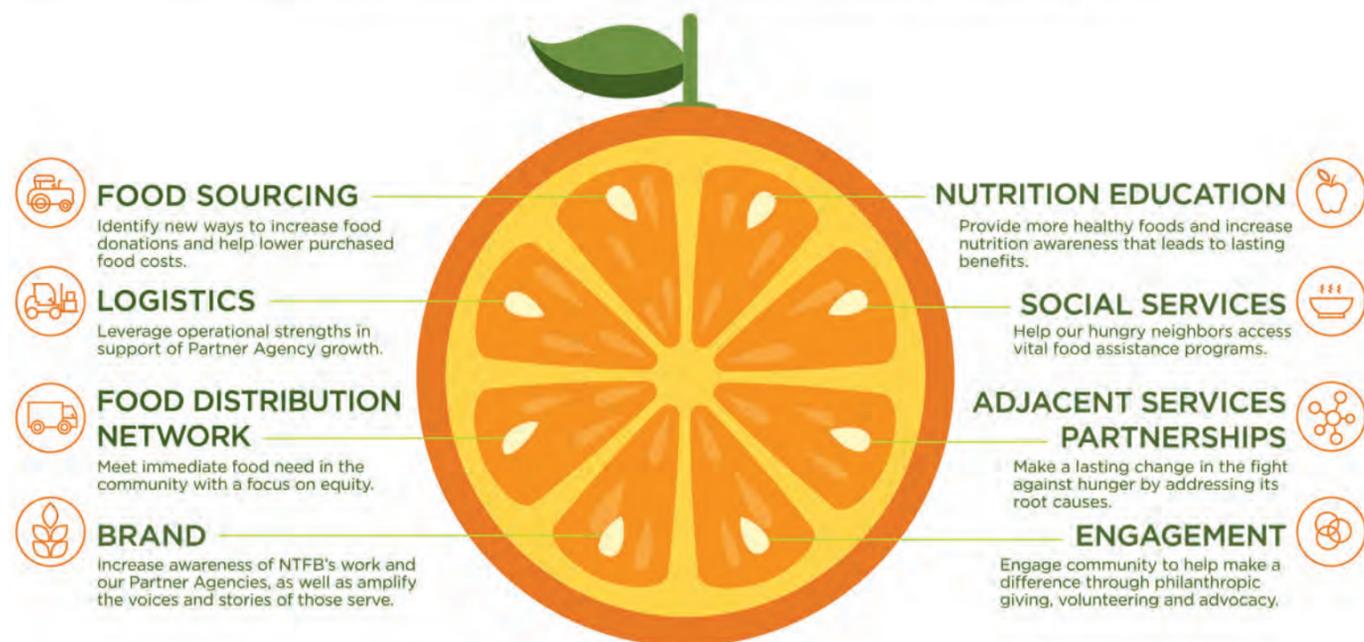
We must expand beyond traditional approaches by forming new and innovative partnerships. We must invest in the growth of our Feeding Network and in our proven programs. And, we must ensure more equitable service by engaging and empowering those who support us, those who benefit from our services, and those who want to make a difference.

The Nourish North Texas campaign, implemented alongside our new strategic plan, will help us meet our mission. We will be better able to provide resources to families in need today, while creating the foundation for lasting change in the communities we serve.



Nourish North Texas

Food for Today, Hope for Tomorrow



Bridging the college hunger gap

We know that access to education is one of the key underlying factors that impacts food insecurity. But sadly, community colleges and universities are not immune to the daily struggles of hunger that so many of our neighbors face, and the COVID-19 pandemic only intensified these challenges. According to a national study called Hunger on Campus, 53 percent of college students report missing a class due to hunger or housing issues and 25 percent have dropped a class for the same reason. In short, students cannot learn on an empty stomach.

The North Texas Food Bank is addressing this need by supporting community colleges and universities through Mobile Pantry distributions on campus and by adding college food pantries into our Partner Agency network to provide them with additional resources and support that allows them to better serve their students. For example, NTFB has a long-standing partnership with Dallas College, hosting mobile pantries on its seven community college campuses and providing students the nourishment they need to learn, grow and thrive. Expanding this support is critical for helping our future leaders escape food insecurity.

Make hunger history

With a goal of raising \$500 million in both funds and the donated food required for the North Texas Food Bank to serve the current needs in our community, Nourish North Texas reflects the scale of the hunger crisis and the broad solutions that are required.

Through this three-year campaign, our goals are to secure:

\$150M in cash donations

- Provides food for today by supporting our core mission of sourcing, collecting and transporting food to 200+ agencies across the 13 counties we serve.
- Expands our ability to get food directly to children, seniors and families through Mobile Pantries, Food 4 Kids and School Pantry programs and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.
- Provides hope for tomorrow through new and expanded partnerships that address root causes of food insecurity and help our neighbors become more self-sufficient. This includes helping NTFB Partner Agencies build capacity to serve more people more effectively.

\$300M in donated food products

Offsets the greatest expense to the NTFB - the cost of purchased food - by sourcing nutritious food from retail partners, food manufacturers, and the community. Purchased food has increased by six times the amount prior to the pandemic.

\$50M for an endowment

Provides a permanent, sustainable source of income to supplement annual dollars raised to grow capacity to serve through the North Texas Food Bank and our Feeding Network.

On top of our \$500M goal for Nourish North Texas, we will recognize the significant value that volunteers provide, which we estimate at \$3M over the course of three years. Nourish North Texas began quietly in July of 2020 amidst the pandemic, and thanks to the generosity of supporters who recognized the unprecedented crisis so many families faced, in the campaign's first year we raised nearly \$53.4 million toward our \$150 million public support goal, nearly \$84 million toward our donated food goal, and \$13 million in endowed funds.

Investing in the future

The pandemic-related spike in food insecurity has reminded us that the need for food assistance can shift suddenly along with the economic environment. Now is the time to make a strategic investment that will help our hungry neighbors for years to come.



Building an endowment is a vital and responsible means for NTFB to supplement annual dollars raised and sustain our mission. The endowment, which will hold permanently invested monetary gifts and temporarily restricted funds for emergencies, provides a safety net to feed our hungry neighbors during a crisis and allows the NTFB to invest in growth capacity.

Join the movement

To provide Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow, we need the support of our community.

By supporting the Nourish North Texas campaign, you will help create a hunger-free, healthy North Texas. Your gift will ensure that our neighbors have access to nutritious foods and that our partners will be able to meet increased need for years to come.



Give

Your generous support helps provide food for today and hope for tomorrow. To give, please visit ntfb.org/nourishnorthtexas.



Volunteer

Your time and talents make a real difference for the NTFB and our neighbors. To join, please visit ntfb.org/volunteer.



Advocate

Your voice is a powerful ally in the fight against hunger. To help raise awareness of the ongoing hunger crisis, please visit ntfb.org/advocacy.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to create lasting change and transform lives in North Texas.





ntfb.org/nourishnorthtexas