



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT:

Jeff Smith

jeff.smith@ntfb.org

469-891-7022

North Texas Food Bank Calls for Volunteers

Volunteer numbers are drastically low as the Food Bank heads into its busiest season

October 28, 2021 (Dallas) – The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) announced today an urgent appeal for volunteers as it heads into its busiest season of the year. Volunteer numbers drastically thinned during the pandemic and have not bounced back, making it difficult to provide food to more than 800,000 food insecure North Texans.

The severe economic fallout from the pandemic drove the NTFB to provide more than 125 million meals last fiscal year with only 9,300 volunteers, compared to 97 million meals with 40,000 volunteers in pre-coronavirus days.

The food bank had to halt its traditional volunteer operations at the onset of the pandemic. Without the help of the Texas National Guard and Get Shift Done team members, the NTFB would not have been able to meet the increased demand for food over the last 18 months. The National Guard moved on to their next mission in September, creating an immediate need for additional volunteers at the food bank.

“The volunteers are the hearts and hands behind our organization. We are so grateful for everyone willing to help us sort, pack and distribute food – and many other volunteer opportunities are available across the Food Bank,” said Cassie Collins Director of Volunteer Operations for NTFB. “Millions of meals are distributed through our Partner Agencies and feeding programs thanks to our distribution center volunteers who sort and pack food in preparation for transport to our feeding network of agencies. And right now, that is where we have our biggest need for volunteers.”

The North Texas Food Bank has two distribution center volunteer opportunities each day Tuesdays – Saturdays that can accommodate up to 100 people each. The morning shift is from 9:00 – 11:30 a.m. and the afternoon shift is from 1:00 – 3:30 p.m. Beginning on November 4th, NTFB is creating a new distribution shift on Thursday evenings from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. that will accommodate 40 people. All shifts are open to individuals and groups.

Volunteers need to be 12 and over and volunteer hours can be tracked for employer matches, schools, scholarships, scouts, and other organizations. NTFB will continue to require employees and volunteers to follow the protocols recommended by the CDC, inclusive of wearing a face covering, frequent handwashing and social distancing.

“The North Texas Food Bank brings hope to so many people throughout our 13-county service area, and volunteers are the help behind the hope,” said Collins. “Whether you are a high school or college student, a professional or a retired worker, we can use your skills and time.”

“I was motivated to volunteer at the North Texas Food Bank because I saw the impact from mobile pantry distributions associated with NTFB on the news and wanted to contribute,” said Jeffrey Cho, an NTFB volunteer. “I got involved with NTFB by volunteering in the distribution center, at least twice every other week, since I appreciate the work NTFB does. I would like to encourage others who are interested in helping with the North Texas Food Bank by saying that the work you do with NTFB really does help someone’s life even if you never meet that person. The help that we do can allow families to eat a proper meal for one more day or even for weeks.”

In addition to volunteering in the distribution center or for mobile food distributions, there are other [volunteer experiences](#) that allow people to utilize their special skills, knowledge and interests in a variety of ways including social media promotion, nutrition education, gardening, special events, advocacy and administrative projects. All these programs contribute greatly to hunger-relief efforts.

Volunteers can register for the Food Bank’s distribution center shifts or other activities at ntfb.org/volunteer.

###

About the North Texas Food Bank

The North Texas Food Bank (NTFB) is a top-ranked non-profit hunger-relief organization that sources, packages and distributes food through a network of more than 200 Partner Agencies across 13 North Texas counties. The organization also provides food to children, seniors and families through various direct-delivery programs, including mobile pantries.

In its last fiscal year, the NTFB provided access to more than 125 million nutritious meals, a 28 percent increase over the prior year. In response to the ongoing elevated hunger crisis, the organization has launched a \$500 million campaign, *Nourish North Texas*, to provide more Food for Today and Hope for Tomorrow by addressing the root causes of food insecurity.

The North Texas Food Bank is designated a 4-Star Exceptional organization by Charity Navigator based on its governance, integrity and financial stability. NTFB is a member of Feeding America, the nation’s largest hunger-relief organization.