

For Immediate Release

September 8, 2009

Local elected officials to lunch in food bank warehouse

Officials attending represent 4 counties, 10 cities, various state legislative districts

**Tarrant Area Food Bank to honor city, county, state officials
for their support of hunger-relief**

WHAT: For National Hunger Action Month, **Tarrant Area Food Bank will recognize food drives by cities and counties and honor State Legislators for their votes** that helped pass the "Children's Access to Nutritious Food Program Act," or HB1622. Yet to be funded, this program would grant funds to nonprofit organizations such as Texas regional food banks to provide children at risk of hunger or obesity access to nutritious food outside of the school day.

For this event, elected officials from the Food Bank's 13-county service region will lunch in the Food Bank's warehouse.

WHEN: Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009, from 12 noon to 1 p.m.

WHERE: Tarrant Area Food Bank, 2600 Cullen St., Fort Worth, TX 76107

WHO: The confirmed guest list as of Sept. 8 includes: STATE SENATOR Wendy Davis, STATE REPRESENTATIVES Lon Burnam, Diane Patrick and Marc Veasey, and district or office managers for State Senators Chris Harris and Jane Nelson and for State Representatives Charlie Geren, Kelly Hancock, Phil King (parts of **PARKER and WISE** County), Rob Orr (parts of **BOSQUE and JOHNSON** County), Paula Pierson, Todd Smith and Vicki Truitt.

COUNTY COMMISSIONERS include **TARRANT COUNTY** Judge Glen Whitley and Commissioners Gary Fickes and Marti Van Ravensway, and Roy Brooks' community outreach coordinator; **JOHNSON COUNTY** Judge Roger Harmon and Commissioners John Matthews and Don Beeson; **COOKE COUNTY** Commissioner Leon Klement and **SOMERVELL COUNTY** Commissioner Loyd Writ.

Also attending will be **MAYORS of Colleyville, Forest Hill, Haltom City, Haslet, Keller, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills and River Oaks**, and the Mayor Pro Tem of **Southlake**.

FORT WORTH CITY COUNCIL members attending include Carter Burdette, Joel Burns, Kathleen Hicks and Frank Moss.

WHY: Tarrant Area Food Bank seeks to encourage elected policymakers to lead communities in hunger-relief efforts that will provide healthy and sufficient food for children, elderly and families in need. In the 13 counties served by Tarrant Area Food Bank, one in 5 children lives in an undernourished household. In these same counties, 43 percent of students qualified for free and reduced-cost meals during the 2008-09 academic year. In Tarrant County, alone, during the same year, nearly half (48 percent) of all students qualified. The Food Bank's partner charities report serving 20 percent more people during the first six months of this year than they did the first six months of last year.

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BACKGROUND

During September 2009, Tarrant Area Food Bank joins the nation's regional food banks of Feeding America in the second annual nationwide Hunger Action Month. The local public is invited to give, not only time, food and funds to hunger-relief efforts, but to Give Voice to the hundreds of thousands of community members struggling with hunger in Fort Worth and 13 neighboring counties.

ABOUT TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK

Founded in 1982 to collect and distribute donated food, Tarrant Area Food Bank provides food in 13 counties to emergency pantries, Kids Cafes, after-school programs, emergency shelters, senior centers, children's homes and other social service centers. Each month, this network of hunger-relief charities distributes emergency groceries to 35,000 families and serves 500,000 meals and snacks on charities' sites. The counties served are Tarrant, Denton, Johnson, Parker, Cooke, Wise, Palo Pinto, Erath, Hood, Somervell, Hamilton, Bosque and Hill. To learn more, please visit www.tafb.org.

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