

For Immediate Release

April 13, 2010

NEWS RELEASE

Thursday, April 22, 2010

**Local businessman, retired City of Fort Worth employee, Walmart, parenting couples
to be named outstanding volunteers**

FORT WORTH, TX (April 13, 2010) – Tarrant Area Food Bank this month will honor its 5,000 volunteers and present awards for exceptional volunteerism to Fort Worth businessman BILL JOHNSON, WALMART in the greater Tarrant County area, City of Fort Worth Botanic Gardens retiree BOB PRESLEY and 40 Fort Worth parenting couples.

A reception honoring all food bank volunteers and recognizing the award recipients will be held THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2010 from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. at 2600 Cullen Street, Fort Worth 76107.

Last year, some 5,800 VOLUNTEERS DONATED 55,000 HOURS OF SERVICE to Tarrant Area Food Bank in its efforts to eliminate local hunger.

The DEBBY BROWN VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR AWARD will be presented to H. W. (BILL) JOHNSON, owner of Infrared Diagnostics LLC in Fort Worth. A retired oil company executive, Mr. Johnson began donating his time in the Tarrant Area Food Bank warehouse in 2003. Since then, the food bank has been able to count on Bill every Monday and Thursday all year long. To date, Bill has logged more than 1,695 hours on the distribution dock. In addition, his commitment has extended to advising on warehouse operations and serving on the food bank's Board of Directors, including serving as president during 2008-2009. The Volunteer of the Year Award is named for Debby Brown, community volunteer and president of the Tarrant Area Food Bank Board of Directors in 1996.

WALMART and its 45 local stores will be honored for exceptional leadership in support of Tarrant Area Food Bank with the PAT MOHLER AWARD, which is named after the food bank's founding executive director. As a leader in food donations to Tarrant Area Food Bank, Walmart has donated more than 1.1 million pounds of fresh and frozen food through its Store Donation Program

since January 2009. To support the program, Walmart presented the food bank last November with a new 24-foot refrigerated truck for picking up temperature-sensitive foods. In addition, in 2009 and 2010 Walmart was the presenting sponsor for the Tarrant Area Food Bank children's festival, Breakfast with the Stars, a fundraiser for the food bank's BackPacks for Kids weekend feeding program. As though this weren't enough, Walmart employees also volunteer in the Tarrant Area Food Bank warehouse, sorting and packing donated food for distribution to the food bank's partner charities.

BOB PRESLEY, who was one of the first employee champions of the City of Fort Worth's Food Drive for Tarrant Area Food Bank, will be honored with the IMA STRAIN VOLUNTEER AWARD for his dedication and consistent commitment. While a senior groundskeeper at the city's Botanic Gardens, Mr. Presley brought both energy and excitement to the city employee food drive, which remains one of the largest drives held for the food bank. After retiring in 2008, Mr. Presley began volunteering in Tarrant Area Food Bank's warehouse, driving a forklift two to three times a week. So far, he has contributed 948 hours in the past 20 months.

The PATTIE VERKAMP VOLUNTEER FUNDRAISING AWARD will be presented to the creators and organizers of Tarrant Area Food Bank's newest special event, Breakfast with the Stars, a children's festival that supports the food bank's BackPacks for Kids weekend feeding program. The fundraising event has expanded the audiences involved with local hunger-relief and raised enough funds to support two new backpack locations next school year. Breakfast with the Stars was the brain-child of 40 parenting and grand-parenting Fort Worth couples who were led the first year in 2009 by Stacy and Matt Posey, Laurie and Steve Wade and Michelle and Dirk Weeks. This year the volunteer organizers were led by Tyler and Brian Crumley and Cynda and Eric Wroten.

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK and its network of 300-plus hunger-relief programs, each month, distribute emergency food to more than 40,000 families and serve more than 575,000 meals and snacks on agency sites. From July 2009 through March 2010, the amount of food distributed to partner charities has increased from 1.5 million pounds per month to 2 million pounds in March.

###