



FEEDBACK

Summer 2020



THANK YOU FOR
GIVING KIDS
THE OPPORTUNITY
TO THRIVE



LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

Thank you. When I took the helm here at TAFB a few months ago, I felt comfort knowing we have this incredible community of generous friends and neighbors who step up and say, "I'll help."

Your partnership has been especially vital during the COVID-19 pandemic. Local kids have been without access to free and reduced-price meals since March, and parents have been struggling to afford enough food to replace them with income gaps due to recent layoffs and furloughs.

Our response to this crisis persists — with your help, we're providing a food safety net for our community's most vulnerable members. When kids experience hunger, they're put at increased risk of illness, poor academic performance, behavior problems and more. Hungry children simply cannot thrive.

When you give, you help ensure our community's bright future. Your support helps alleviate childhood hunger through local meal sites, partner food pantries and [TAFB mobile pantries](#) that deliver fresh food directly to families in need.

You can meet just a handful of the neighbors you help in this summer edition of Feedback. I hope you'll take some time to learn about the impact you're making here in our community. Flip to page 8 to read about the summer feeding site at Gateway Church in North Fort Worth that makes sure kids can eat a balanced lunch when cafeteria doors are closed.

You're making a real difference in the fight to alleviate hunger here in our community. Thank you sincerely for your partnership in this important work. During these times of uncertainty, it's a comfort to know we can count on generous people like you.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Julie Butner".

Julie Butner

President & CEO

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YOU'RE A LIFELINE TO LOCAL FAMILIES

When you support hunger-relief in our community, you bring hope to countless parents — like LaToya — who sometimes struggle to fill their kids' plates.

LaToya's raising her two children, ages 9 and 12, on her own on Fort Worth's southwest side. She loves her kids dearly and spends as much time with them as she can. In fact, LaToya's looking for a new job for the fall that will coincide better with their school schedule so she can be with them more — and save on childcare costs.

Like many parents, LaToya struggles to find affordable care for her kids while she's at work. But she worries even more about how she'll feed them.

Without school meal programs to depend on for months, paying for groceries has been a real challenge on her single income.

Thankfully, a friend told LaToya about the [TAFB mobile pantry](#) that visits SouthCliff Church in Fort Worth's Foster Park neighborhood. It's a huge relief for her to be able to pick up fresh fruits and vegetables to support her kids' health and well-being.

Good nutrition is absolutely vital to growing children's development, sense of security, ability to concentrate and more.

"We appreciate it."

Your continued support will help so many girls and boys thrive this summer — and give their parents peace of mind.

"Thank you," LaToya says to friends like you. "We appreciate it."

Kids and their families have renewed hope because of your generous partnership. Thank you!

LaToya shares a grateful smile at the Southcliff Church Mobile Pantry in Fort Worth.





YOU'RE FEEDING OUR COMMUNITY'S FUTURE!

Our Response to COVID 19*

- Organizations across TAFB's service range have opened to allow 31 emergency mobile pantries to distribute more food to hungry people out of work and school
- TAFB has increased distribution by 60% above average
- 400,000 meals were provided to school-aged children via drive-thru distributions
- TAFB is feeding 250,000 people each week

*As of April 30

What our TAFB Supporters are Saying...

- "Thanks Tarrant Area Food Bank...appreciate the work done taking food in the community." Bobbi K.
- "I miss volunteering here but I'll be back once this whole craziness dies down! Thank you guys for everything you do and I hope everyone is staying safe!" Crystal B.
- "Our nation's food banks are being struck by shortages of both donated food and volunteer workers. We must do our part and help our food banks deliver food to those who need it the most. Thank you TAFB for all of the great work that you do." Kim O.
- "Thank y'all for being on the frontline, as always for so many!!" Kim J.



IN THE FACE OF COVID-19, OUR COMMUNITY STEPS UP



Every quarter, we feature a volunteer who goes above and beyond to serve our community. In the past few months, however, we have witnessed firsthand how this community itself has stepped up to help its own residents. In times when fear and isolation were easy to give into, our community offered their hands, voices and support to help fulfill our mission to feed people.

When schools closed down, volunteers and staff transformed empty parking lots into drive-thru lines for students and their families to receive meals and emergency food boxes. When volunteer work was discontinued in our Distribution Center, TAFB staff, local restaurant workers and Americorps members stepped forward to help sort and pack food. Even as public fear escalated, the volunteers sharing food at our 330 partner pantry locations revamped their

distribution procedures and food supply to serve the increasing number of people in need of assistance.

These accomplishments were a group effort — they couldn't have been achieved by a single person. A community is made up of individuals, and it's the individual actions of every person contributing who has a hand in our success. Our mission — always and especially lately — is what helped us achieve record numbers at our distributions.

To those determined to serve during one of the most tumultuous times in the Food Bank's history, we sincerely thank you. We're going to emerge from this pandemic stronger than before thanks to the fortitude of all the people who said, "I'll help." We are truly grateful.



INTERESTED IN VOLUNTEERING?

If you or a group would like to serve the community by volunteering through Tarrant Area Food Bank, please register online at www.tafb.galaxydigital.com.

HEALTHY FOOD ON THE TABLE, THANKS TO YOU

Bethzira recently relocated to Weatherford with her daughters — Bryanna, 11, and Elisha, 21. The family was excited for the new opportunities, but the transition has been tough.

Between moving expenses, her lapse in income and the cost to secure housing and transportation, Bethzira struggled. But she knew the move would be best for her family in the long run.

In fact, things are looking up already! Bethzira found a job in maintenance at DFW Airport, and Elisha started a position as a teacher's assistant not long before schools closed.

Your generosity is helping pave the family's path toward self-sufficiency. Bethzira found out about the Proverbs Place food pantry on Facebook. This [TAFB partner](#) shares a variety of fruits and vegetables, pantry staples and other nutritious items with families in need.

The pantry has been especially helpful over the past few months because Bryanna has lost access to free meals at school. Bethzira's economical about the food in her home — she always saves leftovers and makes sure nothing goes to waste. Friends like you are helping her stretch her food budget even further, and she's truly grateful.

"Thank you," Bethzira says as she fills her bag with fresh produce. "This place is welcoming."

You make a real difference in the lives of families facing hunger — during these times of crisis and throughout the year. You change lives for the better every day!



MAKE A LEGACY GIFT

Please consider including Tarrant Area Food Bank in your legacy plans through a will, trust, life insurance gift or other legacy gift. Through these special contributions, friends like you can help feed our neighbors in need for many years to come. To learn more about

legacy planning, visit our website at tafb.org/donate. Simply follow the link to "Legacy Gifts" for a wealth of educational resources. Please contact Stephen Raeside, Senior Director of Development, for more information at 817.857.7125 or stephen.raeside@tafb.org.

YOUR GIFTS ARE FILLING KIDS' PLATES

"Our heart is to let our community know we love them," says Rob Sumner, outreach pastor at Gateway Church's North Fort Worth campus in Summerbrook.

Gateway Church hosts a summer feeding program that provides nutritious lunches for local children every Monday through Thursday during the summer months. The church serves anywhere from 60 to 90 kids daily.

Rob says there are several Title I schools in the area, and Gateway hopes to expand their hunger-relief service in the coming years to connect even more families with health. That's why he's so grateful for the partnership with [TAFB](#).

"TAFB is so accommodating," Rob says. "The Food Bank has been an amazing supporter."

As a single parent and outreach pastor, Rob understands the challenges many families face, especially when kids are out of school and can't eat free and reduced-price meals. Parents of the kids he serves often thank him for the food, as well as the engaging activities and socialization the meal program provides.



Leonardo sits down to a hearty lunch at Gateway Church's North Fort Worth campus.

None of it would be possible without you!

Partners like Gateway Church can only continue providing hunger relief because generous friends like you choose to give. Thank you for helping make sure children are fed!

"The Food Bank has been an amazing supporter."



**TARRANT
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