Dear Caring Community,

I really can’t thank you enough. Throughout this incredibly difficult year, your generous support has offered your neighbors the hope of another meal — and a brighter future.

It’s a real comfort to know we have caring folks like you in our corner during these trying times. Your partnership is especially meaningful during the holidays.

A shared meal can bring a real sense of stability to people facing uncertain circumstances. While you celebrate this special season around an abundant table, I hope you remember all the local families who will soon sit down to a holiday meal prepared with food from a TAFB mobile pantry or partner agency that you made possible.

You can meet just a handful of these grateful neighbors in this holiday edition of Feedback. Flip to the back cover to learn how your gifts are making the holidays bright for Alexandra’s family. Because you choose to give, they can fill their table with good, nutritious meals.

With the ongoing stress of the pandemic affecting everyone’s day to day life, it’s comforting to hear stories of hope. Our community will see brighter days because people like you care so much.

Thank you sincerely for continuing to give as you’re able. You’re feeding our community’s shared future!

Very truly yours,

Julie Butner  
President & CEO

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YOU’RE SHARING HOPE IN HURST

Affording groceries has been tough for Rhonda and her husband, Stephen, since an unsuccessful surgery left him unable to work. Stephen also has COPD which requires him to be on supplemental oxygen. His only income is limited disability assistance.

Rhonda works in reception at a local veterinary clinic. She’d love to work directly with the animals, but she’s also dealing with health problems and is having a hard time with the growing physical strain. She has chronic back pain and now has rods in her neck.

“Mentally, physically and financially, we’ve been in a bind,” she says. “Eating right and staying healthy is difficult. It’s hard to make ends meet.”

Fortunately, Rhonda found out about Mission Central, a food pantry near her home in Hurst that partners with Tarrant Area Food Bank to connect people facing hunger with healthy food.

It’s a comfort to know she can access nutritious groceries to support her and her husband’s health and well-being. Your generosity is putting the couple on the road to better health.

“It’s hard to put into words how appreciative we are,” Rhonda says. “Thank you for providing this service.”

You bring renewed hope to so many people — during the holidays and throughout the year. Thank you for your ongoing support!

“Thank you for providing this service.” — Rhonda

Rhonda’s thrilled to take home healthy food from Mission Central in Hurst.
THANK YOU FOR MAKING THE HOLIDAYS BRIGHT

**Holiday Meals**
TAFB is offering special drive-thru distributions for families in need of a traditional holiday meal and accompanying groceries. Visit tafb.org for dates and times.

**Holiday Cards Now Available**
A tradition for many families, TAFB’s holiday cards are available for a donation in an amount of your choosing. Visit tafb.org or call 817.857.7111 for more information.

**Give Back Through a Virtual Food Drive Fundraiser**
Did you know you can provide food for the hungry this holiday by conducting a virtual food drive online? For each dollar raised, your group will directly fund five meals. It’s easy to do and TAFB provides lots of support to make your drive a success. To learn more and register, visit to help your fundraiser be a success. Learn more and register at teamtafb.org.

TAFB received a much-needed gift of face masks from Frog Mask, a company founded by current TCU students. The PPE will be used by TAFB staff and volunteers to keep our clients and each other safe.
“The Air National Guard are Texans here to help Texans,” says Lt. Colonel Tommy Smith of the Air National Guard. “If we’re needed, we’re all hands on deck!”

Governor Greg Abbott activated the Guard to help distribute emergency food in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Around mid-April, 30 citizen airmen began helping sort and distribute food at our warehouse. Each day they help package up to 50,000 pounds of food.

Over the past few months they’ve expanded their service to help share food directly through our mobile pantry distributions.

“The National Guard’s responsibility is to help frontline domestic support,” Lt. Smith says.

He and his crew recently helped provide bags of groceries for 1,600 families at Dickies Arena. We couldn’t be more grateful for their partnership.

“I don’t want to think about what families would have to do without us,” Lt. Smith says. “With the Food Bank, we’re equipped to provide assistance.”

Thank you sincerely to our dedicated friends from the Air National Guard who’ve worked tirelessly in the Texas heat to make sure local families and individuals have enough to eat. You’re changing lives for the better through your gifts of time!

OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE AIR NATIONAL GUARD!
Your generosity brings real hope to countless people across our community throughout the year. Caring parents like Amber are giving thanks for you this holiday season.

Amber’s raising her four children — Kaylee, 4, Lauren, 6, Maurice, 8, and Laila, 10 — on her own in Arlington. She was able to provide for them working for Forth Worth ISD, but her position was suspended when the pandemic hit.

Amber receives limited unemployment benefits and they don’t go very far. She was excited to learn on the evening news that a Tarrant Area Food Bank mobile food pantry was coming to Globe Life Park.

“It’s a huge benefit and helps a lot,” Amber says of the mobile pantry.

Laila, Maurice, Kaylee and Lauren love fresh fruits and vegetables, and it brings Amber peace of mind to know she can fill their plates with healthy food. Good nutrition is especially important for Maurice, who has a disability.

As you celebrate the holidays alongside your loved ones, I hope you remember families like Amber’s, who are giving thanks for you this holiday season.

“You help goes a long way,” Amber says. “This really helps so many during the pandemic.”

MAKE A LEGACY GIFT

Please consider including Tarrant Area Food Bank in your legacy plans through a will, trust, life insurance or another 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, Executive Vice President of Development, for more information at 817.857.7125 or, stephen.raeside@tafb.org.
Alexandra's looking forward to the future. She's been earning her degree and hopes to soon become an English teacher.

Having an income will be incredibly helpful for her family's budget. Her husband, Vincent, manages a local restaurant, and his wages can't always stretch to cover all the family's monthly expenses. Money doesn't go far with the cost to provide for their four children — Corbon, 4, Triston, 5, Justin, 8, and Vincent, Jr., 9.

The family is energetic and active! They love playing golf, basketball and video games together. Alexandra's excited she can fuel her family's healthy lifestyle with nutritious meals on the table.

Alexandra can pick up a variety of groceries from TAFB's Jackie Carden Mobile Pantry. Your support will be especially appreciated during the busy holiday season.

“It helps a lot!” Alexandra says of the mobile pantry. “I'm so grateful for these resources.”

Thank you for making sure local families can celebrate this special season together. You're sharing hope across our communities — during the holidays and throughout the year!