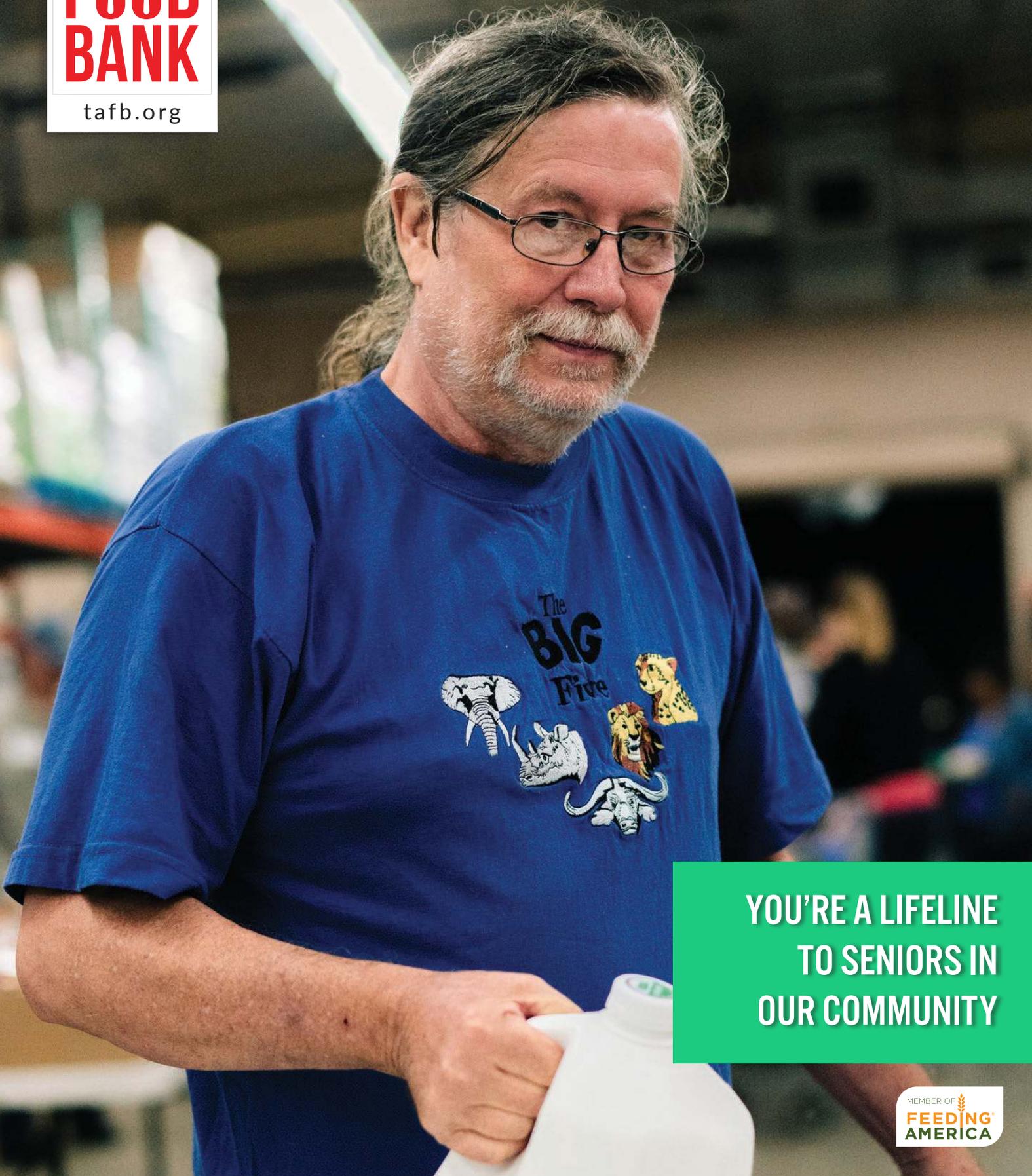


# FEEDBACK

Spring 2020



**YOU'RE A LIFELINE  
TO SENIORS IN  
OUR COMMUNITY**



# WELCOME, JULIE!



Dear Friend,

It's difficult to put into words what the past 22 years of leading TAFB's hunger-relief efforts have meant to me.

With your generous support we've created innovative programs, forged important partnerships and developed procurement strategies

to connect more nutritious food with more neighbors as effectively and efficiently as possible.

I feel honored to pass the helm on to Julie Butner. A TCU graduate, Julie has spent most of her career in the healthcare and hospitality industries, focusing her skills on supporting food and nutrition programs. A licensed, registered dietitian, former Army Captain and community servant here in Fort Worth, Julie has a breadth of experience and leadership that will help advance the thriving organization we've built together.

I can't thank you enough for what you've helped make possible during my term as executive director of this incredible food bank. I'm forever grateful for your support.

All my best,

**Bo Soderbergh**



Dear Caring Community,

I am absolutely thrilled to join this amazing team! I have always admired the great work that Tarrant Area Food Bank has made in the fight against hunger in our community. I am honored to work alongside you to continue to advance these efforts.

Nutrition is critical to a healthy life. During my years in health care, I saw firsthand the impact that access to wholesome food can have on good health, healing the body and providing hope and security in the most fundamental way.

With support from our partners, donors and generous local community, I look forward to continuing TAFB's strategic initiatives and programs. I hope to grow this organization's work and support, so we continue to advance our shared mission to end hunger in our community.

Hunger is a problem we can solve together. I cannot wait to see what we accomplish in this new decade!

Very truly yours,

**Julie Butner**

CEO

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# YOU'RE BRINGING HOPE TO MARTHA



Martha shows off the healthy groceries she found at Azle Community Caring Center.

Martha has called Azle home for more than 40 years. It's only recently that she's noticed how high cost of living in her community has become. Now in her 80s, Martha often finds her Social Security checks can't stretch to cover all her monthly expenses.

She says after paying for utilities, taxes, insurance and transportation, her budget is usually spent.

That's why Martha's so glad she found out about Azle Community Caring Center, which partners with Tarrant Area Food Bank to fill empty plates. The Center provides food for around 30 families a day.

"This has become a great way of supplementing my budget so I can spend it on other things, like bills," Martha says.

At the Center's food pantry she's able to pick up nutritious items — like fresh produce — to keep her healthy and active. Martha has a nerve condition that affects her memory and needs good nutrition to support her cognition.

"I feel sluggish when I don't eat enough," she says.

Martha has been on her own since her husband passed away more than 20 years ago. With no family in the

area, most days, her only interactions are with her home healthcare workers.

Visiting Azle Community Caring Center gives her a chance to socialize, in addition to filling her kitchen with healthy food. She's so grateful you choose to give.

"You are so nice to donate, taking care of me and others in need," Martha says to friends like you. "May God bless you every day for the rest of your life."



# THANK YOU FOR FEEDING HOPE HERE IN NORTH TEXAS!

## Empty Bowls—Tickets on Sale



The 18th annual event is set for Tuesday, March 17, from 11:00 to 1:00 at Will Rogers. Hunt for the perfect handmade keepsake bowl from local artists as you sample dishes from 45 local chefs. Tickets are on sale at [tafb.org](http://tafb.org). To participate as a sponsor, restaurant or artist, please contact Francie Cooper at 817.857.7110 or [francie.cooper@tafb.org](mailto:francie.cooper@tafb.org).

## Motorists Fight Hunger



Caliber Collision took a huge dent out of hunger through a \$120,000 donation to TAFB. That will fund

600,000 meals this winter. Enterprise Rent-A-Car provided \$45,000 to feed hungry Fort Worth families through its *Fill Your Tank* program.

North Texas Express donated \$15,000, a portion of TEXpress toll lane revenue on a designated day.

## TAFB on ESPN



As part of Lockheed Martin Armed Forces Bowl festivities, the football teams from Tulane and Southern Mississippi stopped by TAFB's distribution center. Televised by ESPN, the teams raced to see which could pack the most bags of food for homeless veterans. And the winner, by a hair — Southern Mississippi.

## Grocers Step Up for the Holidays



Albertsons/Tom Thumb ensured children will have access to nutritious food with a \$121,000 grant for TAFB's Food for Kids program — then donated 2,000 full holiday meals. Sprouts customers contributed 3,000 bags of food through its Bag-n-Grab campaign while Whole Foods provided a holiday gift of \$8,000.



# OUR THANKS TO CINDY



*“Having hunger in our community is not acceptable.”*

“This a great opportunity to be an ambassador for the Food Bank,” Cindy says of her position as chair.

Her favorite part of the event is hearing patrons express gratitude for the good work Tarrant Area Food Bank is doing here in our community.

She’s committed to eliminating hunger here in North Texas and is excited about helping share healthy, wholesome food with her neighbors at risk of missing meals.

“Having hunger in our community is not acceptable,” Cindy says.

In addition to fighting hunger, Cindy serves on the Board of Directors at her church and volunteers there as well. She truly cares about bringing hope to her neighbors.

Thank you, Cindy, for your dedication to hunger relief here in North Texas!

EECU Credit Union has been a generous TAFB partner for many years. Their employees support our quality control department through their volunteer efforts, and the company has been a long-time sponsor of our annual Empty Bowls event. Cindy Baker, retired Chief Commerce Officer at EECU after 45 years, became chair of the Empty Bowls committee in 2017.

Each year, local visual and culinary artists join forces to fight hunger through Empty Bowls. Attendees are able to sample delicious food from more than 40 local restaurants, visit the silent auction, select a one-of-a-kind bowl to take home and watch live art demonstrations!

## 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 [tafb.org/volunteer](http://tafb.org/volunteer).



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL SENIORS' HEALTH

"I'm very grateful for what we receive," Janet says on behalf of herself and her neighbors. "Without this help, many of us seniors would be in a world of hurt."



Janet shares a grateful smile at Northside Inter-Community Agency in Fort Worth.

We met Janet as she waited her turn to take home food from the pantry at Northside Inter-Community Agency (NICA), a TAFB Partner Agency not far from her home. She says if she couldn't visit NICA, she's not sure how she'd afford all the food she needs each month.

Janet worked more than three decades as a teacher with Fort Worth ISD. She had to retire four years ago because she could no longer tolerate the physical demands of her job.

You see, Janet was seriously injured in 2010. After multiple surgeries, she still deals with severe hip and knee pain and isn't able to drive. Janet will soon schedule yet another knee surgery, but she'll still have to rely on friends and neighbors for transportation.

Despite these challenges, Janet keeps a positive outlook. She's also deeply grateful for your support because she knows her circumstances would be so much more difficult if it weren't for your generosity.

"I will continue to persevere and not give up!" Janet says with a warm smile. "Thank you. Programs like this are invaluable."

You make a real difference in the lives of people like Janet, who would be in dire straits without the kindness of others. Thank you for sharing what you have.

***"Without this help, many of us seniors would be in a world of hurt."***



## 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](http://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](mailto:stephen.raeside@tafb.org).

# WORDS OF GRATITUDE FROM BETTY



Betty is relieved to have access to good nutrition at the food pantry at St. Andrew Catholic Church in Fort Worth.

Although she's in her 60s, Betty planned to still be working at this phase of her life. She managed a convenience store and wasn't ready to retire. But after a very serious car accident, things changed.

Betty underwent four life-saving surgeries and now has titanium rods in her neck. Years after the wreck, she's still working to recover – physically, emotionally and financially.

*“Thank you so much for your support.”*

Because she was forced into retirement, Betty didn't have the amount in savings she'd imagined she'd have when she reached her golden years. Since she now has a disability and is no longer able to work, her income is just limited monthly Social Security checks.

Fortunately, a friend from church told Betty about the food pantry at St. Andrew Catholic Church, which partners with Tarrant Area Food Bank to share nutritious groceries on Fort Worth's southwest side.

Betty's able to pick up a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables from the pantry's full shelves. Your support is helping her pave the road back to the healthy, active lifestyle she wants to have. Betty couldn't be more grateful you choose to give.

“Thank you so much for your support,” she says. “Without you, I wouldn't be able to make it.”

Thank you for giving neighbors like Betty the opportunity to thrive with access to healthy food!



**TARRANT  
AREA  
FOOD  
BANK**

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