



FEEDBACK



LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

When many of us think of summer we think of all-day fun and the excitement of being free from school. But that's not the experience for one in four children in the Tarrant area when they lose access to school meals.

Every summer, [Tarrant Area Food Bank \(TAFB\)](#) focuses its efforts on preventing childhood hunger. Over 170,000 kids in our communities survive day to day without knowing where or when they will receive their next meal.

Before COVID-19, the main source of food insecurity was simply that the school breakfasts and lunches many kids rely on were no longer available on summer break. But now, what do children do when they have no food, and their parents are laid off?

Throughout the year, but especially during summertime, TAFB prioritizes making kid-friendly food boxes with pantry staples and ready-to-eat

foods that children can independently prepare and enjoy.

We use your donations to purchase wholesale kid-friendly foods that we can provide to community centers, YMCAs, churches, and other local pantries who see children in need. This allows their parents to sleep at night knowing their kids will be sustained by nutritious food and full of energy the next day.

We can't raise the next generation of kids to be thinkers and doers unless we help them thrive with good nutrition when they're young. Please help TAFB feed our future generation. Thank you for joining us on this mission.

Grateful you choose to give,

Julie Butner

President & CEO

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK

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Maria and her children are all smiles as they take home food from TAFB's Mobile Market.



"We are very excited and thankful for all this food."

— Maria

SMILES OF APPRECIATION FOR YOU

One look at the smiles on the faces of Ruthann, 8, Mike, 7, and Malica, 4, at a recent visit to a [TAFB Mobile Market](#) is all you need to know with certainty that your gifts are making a difference in our community.

The kids were with their mom, Maria, and grandmother on their first ever visit to the Mobile Market. Maria works in shipping and receiving to support her family but struggles to keep up with the cost of food.

"I need the food because it's very expensive right now," she says.

When the kids go to school, they receive meals through the free and reduced-price meal program. But when they were home for remote and hybrid learning, Maria had to make up the difference. Now, three months of summer are looming without the safety net of school-provided meals.

That's why the family is so grateful for the food you help TAFB distribute. On the day we met them, Maria's family took home seven boxes of fresh produce, dry goods and other staples.

"Without this food we would have to cut back," Maria says about their ability to eat balanced, nutritious meals.

Your gifts will help make sure Ruthann, Mike and Malica have enough nutritious food on the table all summer long, so they can enjoy their break from school and also be prepared to return to another year of learning in the fall.

"We are very excited and thankful for all this food," Maria says.

Thank you for helping feed the future of our community!

THANK YOU FOR FEEDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE



TAFB Youth Camps Help End Hunger

Just as essential as providing nutritious meals to kids to promote their health is equipping them with the skills to make healthy choices for the rest of their lives. That’s why TAFB is launching its first Youth Camp for middle-school-aged children this summer. The week-long day camp facilitated by TAFB staff will focus on nutrition and gardening education and skills.

By taking the classes and learning new skills, kids can navigate their adolescence and adult lives armed with the knowledge to live a healthy life – just one of the many ways that TAFB is providing education alongside food assistance.

**Quality Control:
Fun for the Whole Family!**

After nearly a year without public volunteers, due to COVID-19 concerns and quarantine orders, families with children as young as 8 now gather at Tarrant Area Food Bank’s Distribution

Center on Wednesday nights for a unique bonding experience that is hands-on, educational, and helpful to the community. With limited occupancy due to social distancing, make sure your family reserves a coveted spot ASAP at [tafb.org/volunteer!](https://tafb.org/volunteer)

Kids Taking Charge of Hunger

One of the most inspiring aspects of the last year amid the uncertainty of the COVID-19 pandemic has been the response of our community and their fundraising efforts. Specifically, for our children.

One day, a sweet young girl stopped by TAFB with a sandwich bag of dollar bills and a note reading, “I hope this helps. I wish I could do more.” Another day, we learned that a twin sister duo named Claire and Catherine had raised thousands of dollars for TAFB by selling homemade chocolate turtles!

These young advocates and many more like them warm our hearts and give us hope.



NEVER TOO YOUNG TO HELP

Keller High School baseball player Christopher Langley has dedicated 2020 and 2021 to volunteering his time and strength with organizations across the Tarrant area. As a natural team player, Christopher says he enjoys working alongside others to make a difference for his local community.

Being one of the first volunteers back in [TAFB's Volunteer Center](#), after a necessary year-long shutdown due to COVID-19 restrictions, this freshman gave hours of his time sorting products TAFB received from the grocery industry.

Volunteers like Christopher are an essential part of the process of sorting and repackaging donated food.

For Christopher and thousands of students like him who are working to receive a green cord at graduation in recognition of 100 (or more!) volunteer hours, opportunities like volunteering at TAFB are rewarding ways to lend a helping hand to a community still recovering from COVID-19.

TAFB wouldn't be able to do it without all generations, younger and older, coming together to make sure all of our neighbors have enough food to thrive.



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: INTERNATIONAL NEWCOMERS ACADEMY

"We are privileged to be the lifeline to families in the community."

Faiha Al-Atrash serves as Community and Parent Coordinator for the International Newcomers Academy (INA) in Fort Worth, which partners with TAFB to help provide nutritious food for students and their families.

"I started working with INA 12 years ago and had never viewed the level of poverty and the need in the society we live in until I started partnering with TAFB," Faiha says.

Many students' families struggle to pay basic bills such as rent and utilities, Faiha says, so the food they receive makes a vital difference.

"TAFB provides a lifeline for these families," Faiha emphasizes. "A lifeline of support."

Your generous support of [TAFB](#) ensures we can continue to partner with the International Newcomers Academy and many other agencies to end hunger in our community. Thank you.

Because caring people like you choose to give, we can provide food, education and other resources to Tarrant area kids. Please continue your generous support!

FRESH, LOCAL PRODUCE ON EVERY TABLE

There's nothing like the joy of taking home a perfectly juicy tomato or beautiful red strawberries, all grown within miles of where you're standing...

Thankfully, the Farmers Market Nutrition Program helps ensure even more of our neighbors can have this experience. The program allows WIC participants to receive vouchers to buy nutritious fresh fruits and vegetables from participating Tarrant area farmers markets.

The program is made possible through a special collaboration with Cowtown Farmers Markets, GROW North Texas and the Texas Department of Agriculture.

"It's a beautiful partnership," says Susan Barker, Program Coordinator of TAFB Community Nutrition, noting that the program also benefits farmers in the community.

One of the most visible signs of the success of the [Farmers Market Nutrition Program](#) is the look on children's faces when they visit a market...

"Children have a huge smile when they get to bring home watermelons," Susan says, noting that the program is specifically designed to help improve the nutrition of pregnant women, children and infants in need.

This year, the program kicked off in April and is set to run through September.

Amazing partnerships like this only work because you choose to give and support them. Thank you.



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/legacy. Simply follow the link to "Legacy Gifts" for a wealth of educational resources. Please contact Stephen Raeside, Chief Development Officer, for more information at 817.857.7125 or stephen.raeside@tafb.org.

DALILAH THANKS YOU FOR HELPING HER FAMILY

“One day you could be living great and the next day, you might need to make some hard decisions, and that is what happened with my family this past year.”

Dalilah and her family are thanking you for being there to help them through one of their hardest years ever. We met Dalilah and her daughter, 11-year-old Bella, at a [TAFB Mobile Market](#) near their home in Fort Worth.

Dalilah worked for seven years at an oil company before being laid off at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Meanwhile, her husband, Dennis, recently had his hours cut at his roadside assistance job.

Now that the family is bringing in so much less income, it’s a struggle to buy enough food for Bella and her siblings.

They will be able to continue to put nutritious food on the table thanks to your generosity. The family practices a vegetarian and dairy-free diet and say the fresh fruit and vegetables they received are especially appreciated.

“It’s a blessing that [donors] can come together to help families in need,” Dalilah says.

This summer, thousands of children and families will have healthy meals on the table because you choose to give. Thank you for your generous partnership all year long.



Dalilah and her daughter, Bella, display some of the food they received from a TAFB Mobile Market near their home.



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