A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BO SODERBERGH

This snapshot of program activity is a testimony to the dedication, hard work and ingenuity of staff and volunteers. Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) was under construction during the full 12 months of fiscal year 2018. The majority of time we have had use of less than 65% of distribution space.

Challenges frequently provide the opportunity to reflect and innovate. This year was certainly no exception. A lack of consistently available docks and parking lot led to a complete revamping of our distribution system. Traditionally, the vast majority of product was picked up at TAFB by our partner agencies. During FY18 this dropped to just under 20%. The balance was either delivered by us to our partners or picked up by them at the donation point.

The greatly increased cooler and freezer capacity, as well as reconfiguration of product flow, was accompanied by ongoing improvement of inventory systems. At our grand opening on October 11, 2018, we were able to show a distribution center that is more than adequately equipped to handle the 50 million pounds of food that we project for 2020 and beyond.

FY18 also saw the board of directors adopt a strategic plan that will carry us forward to 2025. Our focus is now concentrated on outcomes rather than output. The central theme is Food as Health, which aligns TAFB not only with Feeding America, our national network, but also with the local priorities championed by Mayor Betsy Price and the City of Fort Worth as well as the work of the Blue Zones Project.

As always, we would be unable to carry out our mission without the support of our community of partners, funders, volunteers and all those who contribute toward the wellbeing of those we serve.

Sincerely,

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