



# FEEDBACK



# LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

**You are a lifesaver.**

Right now, we are in the midst of the highest inflation rate in 40 years across America. We're all feeling it, and yet you continue to show up to help. It's not just

words: you are quite literally saving lives through your generosity.

Ongoing supply chain issues and inflation have caused a shortage in food donations to TAFB. We rely heavily on donated food from grocers and retailers – those donations have drastically declined, leaving many shelves across our warehouse bare.

On top of this, fuel costs for running 14 food distribution trucks have doubled – all while the number of people looking for resources and support has remained the same as it was at the height of the pandemic.

The good news? **You.** Thanks to friends like you, TAFB isn't slowing down our efforts to meet the need for food across our communities. In fact, we continue to look for opportunities to make sure no one has to go hungry.

I hope you'll enjoy hearing from a few of our neighbors who you've supported through your generosity this fall, just like Ariadra (page 8) who is cooking up healthy meals for her family thanks to your support.

I am so grateful for your ongoing partnership as we weather this storm together. You remain critical to our mission to alleviate hunger.

Sincerely,

**Julie Butner**  
President & CEO



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# YOU GIVE SUPPORT AT A PERFECT TIME

Jonathan and Karina are thanking you for providing a helping hand at the most perfect time.

We met the couple at a TAFB Mobile Food Pantry at Tarrant County College. Karina says this is the couple's third visit to the pantry.

"We love the fresh produce," Karina says. "We love all of it, from the cans to the noodles — all of it is usable and good."

Karina graduated with an associate degree, and says she plans to also get her cosmetology license and learn how to practice microblading.

Jonathan is currently attending classes at TCC while also working. But recently, he was in

a motorcycle accident that left him with significant injuries to his legs and arms.

While he's recovering and unable to work, Jonathan is receiving short term disability benefits. But with less income, the couple is especially grateful for your support to help keep nutritious food on the table.

"The food has come at a good time," Katrina says. "It takes a huge weight off of our shoulders."

Jonathan adds, "It's a big help."

Thank you for your enduring support for our neighbors. Your generosity is creating a healthier and happier community for us all.



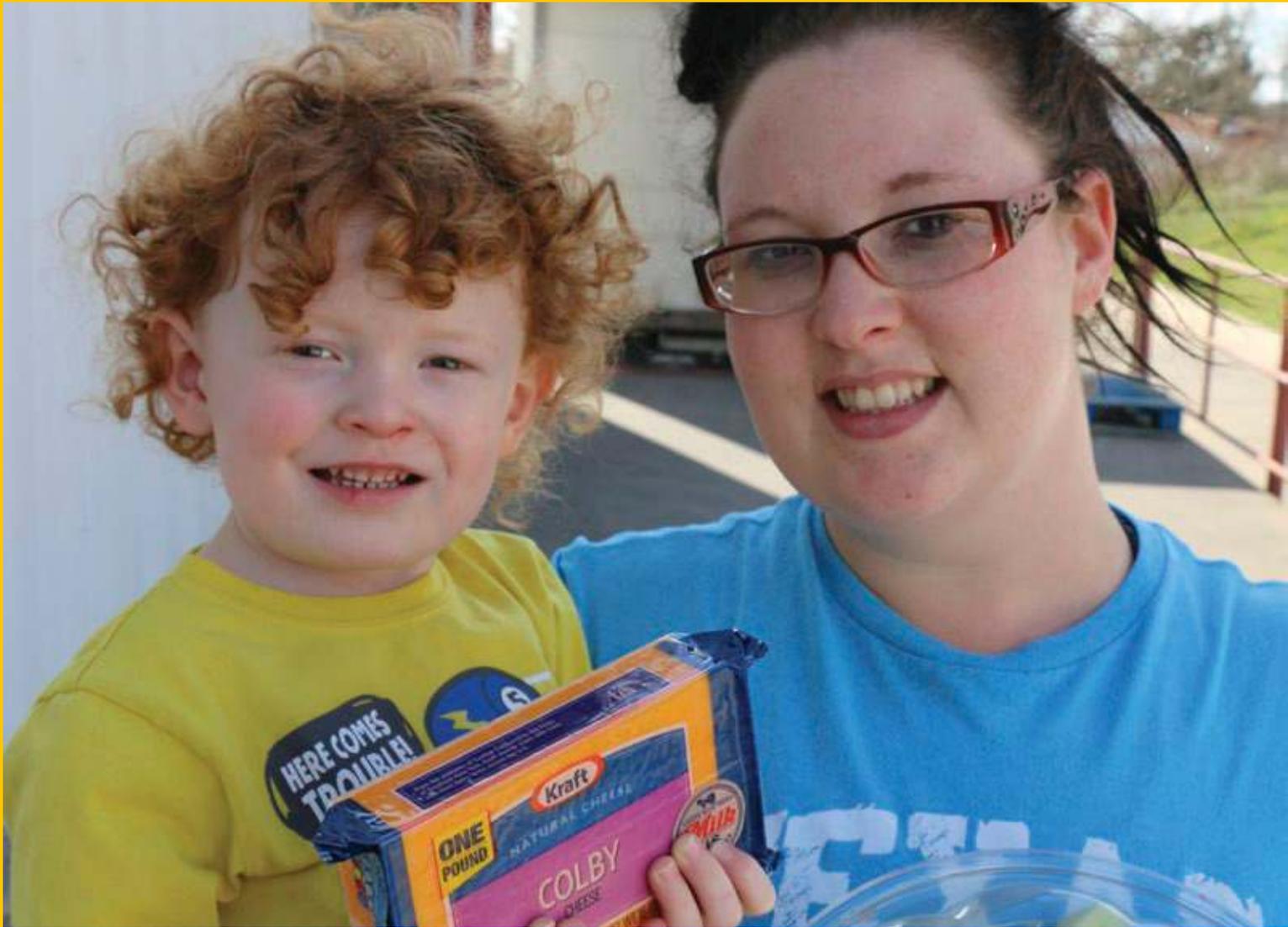
*"We love all of it."*

*— Karina*



Jonathan and Karina hold fresh produce from a recent visit to TAFB's Mobile Food Pantry at Tarrant County College.

# YOU'RE FUELING KIDS' SUCCESS



## Empty Bowls



Our signature and long-standing fundraising event was back after a 2-year hiatus. Empty Bowls returned this past Spring and saw a crowd of over 800 people attend this critical fundraiser for the food bank. Celebrating its 20th year, Empty Bowls once again brought people throughout Fort Worth and surrounding areas in for this unique charitable event. TAFB would like to thank all the restaurants who participated, as well as the

artists who both hard-crafted and hand painted bowls and the art lovers who made this event a huge success.



## Bank on Women

TAFB hosted the 2nd Annual Bank on Women event, honoring both Pam Minnick and Deborah Ferguson. The event celebrates the role women play in supporting the Tarrant Area Food Bank. Guests enjoyed breakfast, they listened to an exhilarating panel discussion from some of Fort Worth most influential women business leaders.



## Join Us for North Texas Giving Day

September 22, 2022

The 2022 NTX Giving Day is critical in helping nonprofits regain their financial stability and resilience. We call upon everyone to do what they can to ensure our communities rise, unite and thrive!

This important day gives us all an opportunity to show our generous spirit and that in these unprecedented times, North Texans can and will take care of each other.

Please scan the QR code to schedule your gift today. Thank you for your continued support in helping our neighbors in need.





Ronnie Walker

## RONNIE WALKER: GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND

Ronnie Walker spent his career in IT work for accountants, and now he's making the most of his retirement by faithfully volunteering his time with TAFB.

Whether he's opening pallets of food or helping distribute what's inside, Ronnie has a love for volunteer work that is apparent anytime he's serving.

In fact, Ronnie often adds extra volunteer hours to his week to help keep the volume of food moving. At a time when TAFB has seen a shortage in overall volunteer hours, Ronnie goes above and beyond to help his neighbors.

Here's to you Ronnie Walker for showing up week after week to help make sure our neighbors have nutritious food on the table! Your dedication is simply inspiring.

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: COMMUNITY STORE HOUSE

TAFB is honored to partner with Community Storehouse, which "seeks to close the gap between opportunity and achievement for children" in northeast Tarrant County.

"Community Storehouse was founded 40 years ago by three local ladies who saw the need and started handing out food in the community," says Louise Baker, nutritional center director.

Through the partnership with TAFB, Community Storehouse provides a food pantry for kids and families as well as weekend Snack Packs. Since the start of the pandemic, services

have increased at Community Storehouse by five times.

"Having the partnership with TAFB brings healthier food to the families," Louise says.

She adds, "We try to treat our clients with dignity and grace and make them feel heard and welcome."

Thank you to the Community Storehouse for your partnership to help end childhood hunger in our community and thank you to donors like you who make it possible.



# FRESH FOOD FOR ALL: FARMER'S MARKET NUTRITION PROGRAM

All summer, TAFB has collaborated with the Cowtown Farmers Market, WIC (Women, Infants and Children) clinics and GROW North Texas to bring a bigger and better Neighborhood Farmers Market, featuring produce locally grown in North Texas.

The markets are held in five Tarrant County locations and are a part of TAFB's Farmers Market Nutrition Program (FMNP). The program runs from May through October and aims to bring fresh, local produce to neighborhoods where access to nutritious food may be limited.

Farmers at participating markets accept WIC vouchers, FMNP vouchers and the Lone Star

Card (SNAP benefits) for eligible items, as well as standard methods of payment.

The Cowtown Farmers Market is partnering with TAFB for the third year and families can use WIC vouchers at Cowtown's signature markets. GROW North Texas supports local farmers and brings local produce to FMNP markets, working to connect North Texans to food, farms and community.

Thank you for helping make fresh produce more accessible across our community through your support of TAFB!



## 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](https://tafb.org/donate). Simply follow the link to "Legacy Gifts" for a wealth of educational resources. Please contact Stephen Raeside, Chief Development & External Affairs Officer, for more information at 817.857.7125 or [stephen.raeside@tafb.org](mailto:stephen.raeside@tafb.org).

# YOU BRING FRESH FOOD TO THE TABLE

“My mom is a great cook,” declares 12-year-old Susan. Thanks to you, her mom has plenty of nutritious ingredients to fill the family’s table. We met Susan and her mom, Ariadra on a recent visit to Neighborhood Needs Food Pantry, a TAFB partner agency. In addition to Susan, Ariadra and her husband, Amari, are the proud parents of Sophia, 4, and Angelie, 14.

Previously, Ariadra worked as a caretaker for seniors and as an Uber driver. But when Susan became sick with the Coronavirus, Ariadra quit working so she could keep a close eye on her until she recovered.

Amari previously worked full-time as an Uber driver, but also became ill with the Coronavirus and had to take time off work. He returned to his job but hasn’t fully healed and can only keep up with a part-time schedule.

Thankfully, they heard about Neighborhood Needs and can pick up healthy groceries for the family when the budget doesn’t stretch far enough.

“We love having a supplement, especially the veggies and rice,” Ariadra says.

And as Susan and Angelie return to a new school year this fall, your generosity means the sisters will have nutritious food to fuel every day.

“We are grateful, and it means a lot to have fresh food for my family,” Ariadra says, thanking donors like you.



Ariadra and her daughters Sophia, 4, and Susan, 12, pause outside the Neighborhood Needs Food Pantry.



*“It means a lot to have fresh food for my family.” – Ariadra*



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