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THE HEAT IS ON FOR HUNGER ACTION MONTH AT THE TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK; HELLO FRESH CELEBRATES ITS 1M MEAL FOR MEANING AT MEGA MOBILE SEPTEMBER 8

FORT WORTH, TEXAS (September 1, 2023) – This week begins the annual Hunger Action Month for the Tarrant Area Food Bank (TAFB) and hundreds of other food banks across the nation. An initiative first developed by the nationwide non-profit, Feeding America, September is deemed as a time to bring forth the issues dealing with Hunger in our communities. We must ensure in both Tarrant County and our underserved rural communities in our service area that everyone is made aware of the impact that food insecurity has on our community. But something else has been taking its toll on all Texans. This has been the hottest summer on record. People across the country have endured intense heat waves for weeks, and the Tarrant Area Food Bank has been feeling the heat too. Already grappling with high food prices and increased demand for services, TAFB is recently finding themselves underfunded when it comes to storing and transporting food. And when temperatures rise, it only gets more expensive to safely store and distribute that food.

This Hunger Action Month, the Tarrant Area Food Bank has several key initiatives to raise both awareness and funding for critical initiatives aimed at both feeding and educating those who are food insecure. They are also using the month to promote volunteering and advocacy when looking to find Hunger Heroes all around us.

“Through our vision of communities where no one has to go hungry, this month we focus on new innovative initiatives such as our Ready To Learn in-school pantries and our Ready to Learn Service Center, which focus on child-centered hunger programs and solutions. Donations from North Texas Giving Days will directly benefit the Ready To Learn program, said Julie Butner President and CEO. It doesn’t stop there, as we will celebrate a milestone when the 1M meal kit, in just 2 short years, from Hello Fresh will be distributed to a family in need, advocate in Congress for the Farm Bill, welcome dignitaries from our 13 counties, and launch our fourth R.E.D. (Resources and Education Delivered) vehicle in Denton County.”

Food insecurity is still an issue that many families in our communities’ face. Many families are still feeling the effects of the rise of inflation and the heat in summer as well as the

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elimination of some government-funded programs which affect single moms, families and older adults alike. As we enter Hunger Action Month in September, the Tarrant Area Food Bank continues to see an increase in the number of families relying on food bank.

Other initiatives include:

1. **One Million Meal Mega Mobile: Friday, September 8, 8-10a Herman Clark Memorial Stadium; 5201 Ca Roberson Blvd. 76119**
2. www.tafb.org/Advocate includes our day of giving campaign, through the North Texas Giving Day platform, Thursday, September 21, where donations can be made on behalf of the Tarrant Area Food Bank's Ready To Learn platform at www.northtexasgivingday.org/tafb.
3. The Advocacy "Be a Hunger Hero" campaign will provide resources for those who want to get involved in Hunger issues, who may need assistance understanding how to qualify for SNAP Benefits or who want to support the Tarrant Area Food Bank in other ways.

TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK (TAFB): Communities where everyone has the food they need. Through our network of over 450 partner agencies, TAFB provides access to over 1M nutritious meals weekly to children and adults facing hunger. This work resulted in access to 40 million nutritious meals in fiscal year 2022. Learn more at www.tafb.org