

FEEDBACK



Tarrant Area Food Bank Newsletter

Holiday 2023



You Give Hope for the Holidays

YOU GIVE FOOD TO FILL NEIGHBOR'S TABLES

Never one to be idle, Lorena makes time to help at her daughter's school – South Hills Elementary – whenever she can. One of her favorite ways to give back is by volunteering for the Tarrant Area Food Bank's school pantry at South Hills.

That's where we met Lorena on a distribution day, and she told us more about what the pantry means to her, her family and the community.

Lorena and her husband, Javier, are the proud parents of Mia, 8. In addition to giving her time to help South Hills families, Lorena is able to pick up food from the school pantry for Javier and Mia, as well as for her niece, nephew and sister, Gisellia.



Lorena displays some of the food she's taking home from TAFB's South Hills Elementary School Food Pantry.

Both Lorena and Gisellia are very grateful for the role you play in helping make sure all the school's children – including their own kids and their classmates – have enough to eat this holiday season.

(continue on page 2)

(continue from page 1)

“We are super appreciative because this is a huge help for the family,” Lorena says. “We really need the help.”

Javier works in landscaping and is paid by the hour, so he doesn’t have any income on days that the weather is bad and he’s unable to work. Now that Mia is older, Lorena hopes to return to work as a house cleaner as a second source of income for the family.

In the meantime, Lorena loves coming to the school pantry because she has made friends there and enjoys giving back.

“THIS IS A HUGE HELP FOR THE FAMILY.”

“This is a blessing,” she says of both the food she picks up and the opportunity to serve our community.

The family especially enjoys receiving fresh eggs from the pantry, but Lorena says they “love all of it.”

This holiday season, and throughout the year, thank you for joining with neighbors like Lorena to alleviate hunger for children, families and older adults.

YOU GIVE JOY WITH MAHJ FOR MEALS

What’s another way to Give Joy? Playing Mah Jongg with a cause, of course!

In 2016, a unique event called the Mah Jongg Play Day was launched, simultaneously allowing attendees to play a game that they loved while also supporting a cause close to their hearts.

“It’s a great game for a great Food Bank,” says Frasher Pergande, chair of the Mah Jongg Play Day.

In 2021, Mahj After Dark was launched to engage the “next generation” of players with support of TAFB and a love for the game.

“It’s an incredible way to meet new friends and benefit the Food Bank,” says Adair Shannon, chair of Mahj After Dark. “It’s a two for one.”

Now, the Mah Jongg Play Day hosts 150 players, with several rounds of Mah Jongg, a seated lunch, raffle and live auction. Mahj After Dark hosts 150 players who also enjoy several rounds of the game with cocktails, hors d’oeuvres and a raffle.

This year’s event took place in September and benefitted TAFB’s Ready to Learn program, raising



Members of the Mah Jongg Play Day Committee.

\$365,000 to help provide more than 1 million meals! In just seven years, the two combined events have raised more than \$1 million, providing more than 5 million meals.

“How insane is it that the Food Bank supplies one million meals a week, and that we get to help them by playing Mah Jongg?” Adair asks.

For more information about this annual day of play, you can visit tafb.org/mahj4meals.

Thank you to each and every Mahj for Meals participant. You are truly giving joy this holiday season.



Yun shares a warm smile of thanks while waiting in her car at TAFB's Mobile Food Distribution at Six Flags.

YOU GIVE HOPE TO LOCAL FAMILIES

Angelina, 16, is in the JROTC program at her high school and plans to join the U.S. Navy after graduation. Her mother, Yun, couldn't be prouder — or more grateful for friends like you who help fuel her hard work and dreams.

"I make sure my kids are taken care of before me," says Yun, who along with her husband, Bruce Lee, is also the proud parent of Bruce Lee Jr., 9.

We met Yun on her first visit to a TAFB Mobile Food Distribution at Six Flags in Arlington.

"Anything at the market is expensive," she says. "We are just hoping we can get more food."

Bruce Lee works at a local movie theater to support the family, but Yun says the children need more food now — especially while her daughter is in the JROTC program.

"I'm worried about my daughter getting enough to eat to be healthy," Yun shares.

Yun says the family volunteered at the children's school prior to the start of the pandemic. After just one visit to the Mobile Distribution, Yun is inspired by your kindness and plans to pay it forward by volunteering again.

"Just a little bit helps," she says.

Thank you for joining TAFB to make holidays brighter for so many neighbors. You are a shining example of what this season is all about.

"JUST A LITTLE BIT HELPS."



ADD "ENDING HUNGER" TO YOUR WISH LIST!

You can help fight hunger this holiday season while also honoring someone special in your life. Flip through our *Holidays of Hope* Gift Catalog online to learn about different foods and programs offered by TAFB year-round, then select items to donate for our neighbors facing hunger.

Once a donation is made, your honoree will receive a special e-card to notify them of the gift.



LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

Through your willingness to give your time and show up with a smile, your generosity to share what you have, your voice to advocate...you **give joy**.

With the assurance that there will be somewhere to turn for our community members when all else fails and that together, we are all working for a future without hunger...you **give hope**.

Through your kindness not only during this special season of sharing, but all year long...you **give food**.

It is exactly because of this spirit of giving across this community that we can look to the year ahead with great anticipation. Amazing things are coming our way.

In fact, amazing things are already happening. In this edition of *Feedback*, I've selected a few stories about your generosity already at work across our shared communities.

As we turn our focus to this season of sharing, I hope you'll continue to join TAFB to *Give Joy, Give Hope and Give Food* to children, families and older adults in this amazing place we call home.

Thank you for your steadfast support. Wishing you and yours the happiest of holidays and looking forward to partnering with you again in the new year!

Sincerely,

Julie Butner
President & CEO



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 nourish our community for many years to come. To learn more about legacy planning, visit our website at 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.



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