

# FEEDBACK



Tarrant Area Food Bank Newsletter  
Summer 2024



You're *servicing up* **SUMMER** and Fueling our Future!

## YOU GIVE FATHER A BOOST OF SUPPORT

It's not uncommon for Christopher to begin his workday at Amazon at 3 a.m., or to extend his hours late in the day and on weekends, too. He will do whatever it takes to provide for his son, Malachi.

But despite his best efforts, his income still hasn't been enough lately to keep up with the high cost of living. That's why it was a pleasant surprise when he stumbled upon the Central Storehouse Food Pantry, a TAFB Partner Agency.

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*Christopher and his son, Malachi, pose outside the Central Storehouse Food Pantry.*

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“We happened to look, and I said, ‘What is that place?’” he recalls of first seeing the food pantry and stopping by just 30 minutes before it closed that day.

Now, Christopher can supplement his food budget with the nutritious groceries he picks up at the food pantry. The pantry is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and Malachi, 16, can also help his dad pick out food for their family.

When Christopher isn't working and Malachi's not in school, the two enjoy playing sports together as well as watching sports like wrestling. Malachi says his favorite wrestler is Roman Reigns.

## “WE HAPPENED TO LOOK, AND I SAID, ‘WHAT IS THAT PLACE?’”

Thanks to you, Christopher and Malachi can spend more quality time together this summer, free from worry of where their next meal will come from.

Thank you for joining TAFB in Serving Up Summer with healthy food for our neighbors like Christopher and Malachi!

## “IT’S WELL WORTH YOUR TIME.”

Jean Benson has spent the last several years volunteering for TAFB helping with everything from quality control to garden work and mega mobile distributions. Now, she's stepping into a new role as a volunteer ambassador.

“It's well worth your time,” Jean says, encouraging everyone to volunteer.

As a volunteer ambassador, Jean speaks at various community events and encourages attendees to volunteer with TAFB — something she first encountered through her 30-year career with First Rate, Inc., a corporate volunteer partner of TAFB.

After retirement, Jean has turned her attention to both her family — especially her grandchildren — and volunteering with TAFB.

“Tarrant Area Food Bank is well run, and they care about everything they do,” Jean says. “You can make new friends, and it's an opportunity to help your neighbors.”

Thank you, Jean, for giving your time so generously to make sure every neighbor has plenty of nourishing food on the table!



*Jean works on a volunteer shift in TAFB's Learning Garden.*



## MAHJ FOR MEALS 2024

**Thursday, Sept. 26 | River Crest Country Club**

**Mahj for Meals 2024** — Save the date for the ninth annual Mahj for Meals! Join us on Thursday, Sept. 26 at River Crest Country Club as we also celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Co-Chairs, Meredith Ray and Mackenzie Zwick, have many new surprises at this year's event, including the addition of the Mid Day Soiree and the option to play Canasta. Sponsorships available now! Individual tickets available June 3.

Visit [tafb.org/event/mahj-for-meals](https://tafb.org/event/mahj-for-meals) for more information.



Victoria shares a smile of gratitude while picking up food from Arlington Charities, a TAFB Partner Agency.

## YOU FUEL STUDENTS OF ALL AGES

Victoria's daughter, Tyler, is 22 years old, but that doesn't stop Victoria from still wanting to provide her daughter with nourishment to fuel her learning – just like she did when she was a child.

Tyler will soon graduate from cosmetology school and she's already working to pay off student loans.

"I want what's best for my daughter, so I try not to have her use her income unless absolutely necessary," Victoria says.

Thankfully, Victoria can visit TAFB Partner Agency Arlington Charities to pick up nutritious food for her family. The visits take a big weight off her shoulders after her job drastically reduced her work hours.

**"IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU, WE WOULD BE LIVING OFF RAMEN."**

"My job cut down to one day a week, causing our financials to take a toll," she says.

Thanks to friends like you, she can pick up plenty of healthy food for her and her daughter, including fresh fruits and vegetables that Tyler can eat on her vegetarian diet, and meat for Victoria.

Victoria is careful to share whatever the two can't eat with neighbors in their apartment complex. She's grateful for all the food they receive and shares a special word of thanks to friends like you who make it possible.

"If it wasn't for you, we would be living off ramen," she says.

Thank you for joining with TAFB this summer to provide nutritious food and hope to neighbors of all ages.



## EMPTY BOWLS 2024 A SUCCESS!

Thank you to everyone who attended this year's Empty Bowls, which was held on Friday, April 26 at Will Rogers Memorial Center. Guests enjoyed tastings from 26 restaurants. For over 20 years, the Fort Worth community has supported TAFB's signature event, and this year was no different. We raised over \$300,000 in support of our Ready to Learn Program!

# LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

If there's one thing I know for certain, it's that this community deeply values its children.

Everywhere I turn, I see examples of ways friends like you have worked and continue to work to make sure our children are protected, encouraged to grow and develop, and given the very best chance for successful futures.

That's why, in the second season of our Serving Up Summer campaign, I'm excited to see how your generosity will continue to flow into the lives of children, families and older adults alike across our communities.

In fact, your kindness is already at work, stopping hunger in its tracks before the long break from school when kids lose access to free and reduced-price school meals.

Because you care, TAFB has already been hard at work preparing for this expected time of greater need, and I hope you'll enjoy hearing a few examples in this special summer edition of *Feedback*.

In it, you'll hear from neighbors like Christopher (on the front cover) who is working hard to make sure his son has his every need met — and thanking you for giving him a little help along the way.

I am so grateful for your ongoing partnership as we continue to empower our communities to alleviate hunger. Thank you for *Serving Up Summer* with healthy food and a happier community for us all.

Sincerely,

**Julie Butner**  
President & CEO



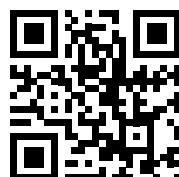
## MAKE A LEGACY GIFT



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, 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).



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