

# FEEDBACK



Tarrant Area Food Bank Newsletter

Fall 2024

## You're Fueling Our Future



*Melanie and her son, Eloy, 3, share smiles of gratitude on a visit to a TAFB Mobile Food Pantry.*

### “EVERY LITTLE BIT HELPS”

Addison, 12, enjoys playing in her school band, while Michael, 13, prefers spending spare time outdoors. The siblings' mother, Melanie, is grateful both kids will have fuel for favorite activities and a return to the classroom this fall.

“Every little bit helps,” says Melanie. In addition to Addison and Michael, Melanie and her husband, Jeffrey, are the proud parents of Eloy, 3, and Grayson, six months old.

Jeffrey works as a crane technician in construction, but his jobs can fluctuate, sometimes leaving the family's finances strained.

Melanie hopes to return to work outside the home once all four kids are in school. In the

meantime, she's so grateful she can visit TAFB's Mobile Food Pantry at Arlington Charities to pick up nutritious food for her family.

The food Melanie receives from the Mobile Food Pantry has been crucial to supplement what the family can afford, she says — especially when it comes to fresh produce. All four kids are big fans of bananas right now.

“Thank you for everyone that donates and everything you do,” she says to donors like you.

We are so grateful for your enduring support for our neighbors. Your kindness is creating a healthier and happier community for us all.

# JANET RODRIGUEZ CREATES LEGACY OF VOLUNTEERISM

Janet Rodriguez has created many a beautiful piece of pottery as owner of Hart Street Pottery in Fort Worth, and she's also created a legacy of hunger relief through her volunteer work with TAFB's annual Empty Bowls event.

"I love the energy at the event," Janet says of Empty Bowls, which she has been volunteering at since its inaugural fundraising event 20 years ago.

Since then, Janet has enjoyed watching Empty Bowls expand its reach each year and being a part of the team that comes together to make it all happen.

After all these years of serving alongside TAFB, Janet says she is still "so impressed by TAFB and how they steward their money."

With that in mind, she encourages more community members to volunteer with TAFB.

"It's one thing to raise funds, but TAFB needs help distributing the food to the community," she says.

**"IT'S NECESSARY FOR THE INFRASTRUCTURE OF THE ORGANIZATION TO HAVE VOLUNTEERS"**

Thank you, Janet, for your generous gift of time to TAFB and the incredible community members we serve together.



Janet and Joe Rodriguez



Janet at this year's Empty Bowls event



## MAHJ FOR MEALS 2024

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

**Mahj for Meals 2024** — Save the date for the 9th annual Mahj for Meals! Join us on Thursday, Sept. 26 at River Crest Country Club as we also celebrate the Year of the Dragon. Event chairs, Meredith Ray and Mackenzie Zwick, have been hard at work to bring you an event full of guaranteed fun and surprises at any of these three events — Morning Play, Mid-Day Soiree or After Dark. Patron and individual ticket sales are available now, but hurry! We're anticipating another SOLD OUT year. Visit [tafb.org/event/mahj-for-meals](https://tafb.org/event/mahj-for-meals) for more information.

## 'POP POP' GIVES THANKS FOR YOU

It's safe to say that the role of 'Pop Pop' is Richard's favorite position to date. Whether he's swimming, fishing, camping or cooking, he prefers to spend his time these days with his grandchildren by his side.

Richard, 63, currently lives with his daughter, Cassidy, her husband Michael, and their four children, Caden, Kyler, Daten and Avery. Michael works at a pest control company, but it's especially difficult keeping up with the high cost of living right now.

To help, Richard visits Water from the Rock Food Pantry, a TAFB partner agency where he can pick up nutritious food for the whole family.

Richard receives some SNAP benefits, Supplemental Security Income and Social Security Disability Income after he suffered a severe work accident years ago, but he says the income he receives "is not enough."

That's why he's so grateful he can help his family out by visiting the food pantry – where it's particularly helpful to find food that his youngest grandchild can eat with her food allergy.

Richard has a special word of gratitude for partners like you who join TAFB to ensure every neighbor has access to nutritious food, every day.

**"THANK YOU. GOD BLESS YOU."**



*Richard packs his car with groceries he received on a visit to Water from the Rock Food Pantry.*



## A SUCCESSFUL PEACHES IN THE WAREHOUSE!

Thank you to all who attended the 3rd annual Peaches in the Warehouse on July 10th, benefiting the Tarrant Area Food Bank West in Weatherford. Over \$30,000 was raised as guests meandered through the warehouse for a behind-the-scenes look at our distribution center while sampling decadent, peach-themed eats and drinks. It was a night to remember in the peach capital of Texas! Visit [tafb.org/west](http://tafb.org/west) to learn more about the Tarrant Area Food Bank West.

# LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

Back-to-school season is always a special one around here. I see this community come together in amazing ways to make sure every child has the very best tools for a successful year ahead.

That is certainly true when it comes to access to nutritious food. Around one third of neighbors served by TAFB are children – children who are returning to school this fall better prepared to learn because friends like you stepped up this summer when free and reduced-price meals were on a scheduled pause.

This fall, your generosity is still hard at work, helping ensure local kids are *Ready to Learn* through the expansion of in-school markets and kids' programming.

In this edition of *Feedback*, I hope you've enjoyed reading about 'Pop Pop' (page 3) and his grandchildren – he clearly adores his family, and your generosity is helping keep every one of them healthier this fall.

And I hope you didn't miss reading about how grateful Melanie (page 1) is for the kindness you've shown her and her family.

The stories here are examples of your support at work in our community. Your generosity makes a vital difference for children, families and older adults across our communities.

Thank you for partnering with us to alleviate hunger!

Sincerely,



**Julie Butner**  
President & CEO

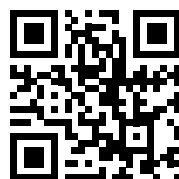
## MAKE A LEGACY GIFT



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



2600 Cullen Street  
Fort Worth, TX 76107  
817.857.7100  
[tafb.org](https://tafb.org)



Connect with  
Tarrant Area Food Bank:

