

FEEDBACK



Tarrant Area Food Bank Newsletter

Summer 2025

YOU PROVIDE A COMMUNITY OF SUPPORT

Adrianna has her hands full as mother to five children ages 8 months to 15 years old, but while her husband is often out of state for work, she has learned to look to her community for a little extra support.

Thankfully, that community now includes friends like you.

“We’re very blessed that you’re here to help the community when we need help,” Adrianna says to donors like you.

Adrianna’s husband works as a roofer, which is a seasonal job that unfortunately means the family’s income is rarely stable. That’s why Adrianna began visiting the Center of Hope in Weatherford, a TAFB West Partner Agency.

Parker County residents can visit the Center of Hope each month to choose from an assortment of nutritious groceries, including meats, fruit, vegetables and dairy products.

Adrianna says she especially appreciates the community aspect of the Center of Hope, where she also has access to additional services as well as essential items like diapers, formula and feminine hygiene products.

Adrianna is thankful for the nutritious meals she can cook for her children with food she receives from the Center of Hope, a TAFB West Partner Agency.

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And with the assurance that she can keep plenty of nutritious food on the table for her family, Adrianna can spend even more quality time with her kids, Celeste, 8 months, Jasmine, 2, Natalia, 5, Damien, 10, and Mariana, 15.

Thank you for joining TAFB in *Serving Up Summer* with healthy food for our neighbors like Adriana and her beautiful family!

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YOU EASE FAMILY'S BURDENS



Amanda and her daughter, Kiera, share smiles of gratitude while picking up food from the TAFB Mobile Pantry at Arlington Charities.

Family is of utmost importance to Amanda — thanks to friends like you, she can continue providing loving care for every one of them with a little less worry on her plate.

We met Amanda and her daughter, Kiera, on a trip to a TAFB Mobile Pantry at Arlington Charities, where she was picking up food for her family. She says she's been visiting the Mobile Pantry on and off for about a year now.

Amanda and her husband, Jason, have three children, including Roland, 6, Katherine, 8 and

Kiera, 18. Amanda's mother lives with Amanda and her family, and works full-time as a nurse.

Both Amanda and Jason also work hard to support the family, but Jason recently transitioned to a new career and the family's finances are still settling from the move.

Last year, Amanda's father underwent a serious surgery and had to have part of his femur removed. While he awaits Social Security disability benefits, Amanda and Jason are helping provide him with an apartment and necessities.

And on top of everything, the family's vehicle needed major automotive work done, which took a big chunk of the family's budget as well.

That's why Amanda is so grateful she can turn to the Mobile Food Pantry to supplement her family's grocery budget right now.

“There were so many times in the past year when things just felt so overwhelming,” Amanda says, thanking donors like you.

“TO KNOW THAT THERE WAS THIS LITTLE
BIT OF HELP MADE IT ONE THING I DIDN'T
HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT.”



TAFB AND THE BIG GOOD TEAM TO BRING IN-SCHOOL MARKET TO CROWLEY MIDDLE SCHOOL

Thanks to the partnership of TAFB, THE BIG GOOD and community partners like you, we recently unveiled the newest *Ready to Learn*™ In-School Market at Crowley Middle School.

The *Ready to Learn*™ in-school pantries are on-campus markets that provide families and students with access to healthy, kid-friendly groceries to take home and prepare nutritious meals all school year long.

With this opening, TAFB has now opened 100 school markets through its *Ready to Learn*™ initiative. THE BIG GOOD's gift provided funding to open and now operate the Crowley Middle School pantry.

"Since its inception in 2020, THE BIG GOOD has granted over \$3 million to community partners," shares Camille Kelly, director of programming and fundraising at THE BIG GOOD.

The organization combines two North Texas community leaders — Grammy-Award-winning recording artist Leon Bridges and legendary football coach Gary Patterson.

"Through annual events and community efforts, THE BIG GOOD supports and partners with local organizations that are focused on addressing critical unmet needs in our community," Camille says.

THE BIG GOOD was formerly the Gary Patterson Foundation before bringing Leon Bridges on in 2020, and the Foundation had a longstanding relationship with TAFB.

That relationship has continued through THE BIG GOOD's inception through meal distributions and eventually through support of the *Ready to Learn*™ program, with Crowley Middle School being chosen as the first school to be sponsored by THE BIG GOOD.

Quentella Knox serves as middle school principal at Crowley Middle School and says the in-school market is already meeting a big need for students and families. The pantry provides food for around 35 families each month, and that number continues to grow!

"IT IS A BLESSING," SHE SAYS OF THE PANTRY. "A FED CHILD IS A FOCUSED CHILD."

Additionally, the pantry provides a unique opportunity for students throughout the community to serve at the in-school market by restocking shelves, bagging groceries and managing inventory.

Together with partners like you, TAFB launched our *Ready to Learn*™ initiative in 2021 to ensure that the 1 in 4 children facing hunger across our communities are ready to learn with daily access to nutritious food.

This new pantry brings us one step closer to that goal. Thank you for joining TAFB and THE BIG GOOD to make this new in-school pantry and ALL of our in-school pantries a reality!

TAFB is expanding *Ready to Learn*™ to schools in its North and West service regions. To learn more about sponsorship opportunities, please contact Stephen.raeside@tafb.org.



The ribbon cutting ceremony for the newest *Ready to Learn*™ In-School Market at Crowley Middle School.

LETTER FROM JULIE



Dear Caring Community,

TAFB has been hard at work ensuring children across our communities have enough nutritious food to eat this summer when free and

reduced-price meals are no longer available.

The amazing thing is — **we know you've been right there, working alongside us.**

It's evident from the way you've partnered to make it possible for more students and families to have access to nutritious food through our *Ready to Learn™* program.

You were also integral to the opening of our Sid W. Richardson AgHub last year, which will soon be followed by the creation of our *Ready to Learn™* Community Resource Center, a home for our children's programs.

We still have our work cut out for us this summer, as the cost of living remains critically high, families face missed school meals and federal funding cuts impact food-purchasing programs. To fill the gap, we need your help.

It's clear that your support has already made an impact in *Serving Up Summer* with plenty of nutritious food — I hope you'll enjoy reading a few examples on these pages of our summer edition of *Feedback*.

Be sure to flip to page 3 for a special look at the opening of our latest *Ready to Learn™* in-school pantry, in partnership with THE BIG GOOD and friends like you. I hope that you will consider joining our efforts to open 20 more new *Ready to Learn™* in-school markets. If you are interested in sponsoring a *Ready to Learn™* in-school market, please reach out to me directly or contact Stephen Raeside.

Together, we are working to alleviate hunger and improve health. Thank you for unwavering support.

Sincerely,

Julie Butner
President & CEO



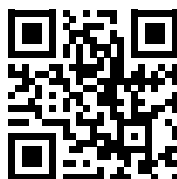
MAKE A LEGACY GIFT



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.



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Connect with
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