

# FEEDBACK



News from Tarrant Area Food Bank  
*Holiday 2025*



**I DIDN'T KNOW WHERE  
TO TURN FOR FOOD."**



## A SINGLE MOTHER'S STORY OF **HELP AND HOPE**

Diana works tirelessly to provide for her children. When her income wouldn't stretch any further, your kindness provided help that filled her heart with gratitude . . .

Diana is one of the hardest workers you'll ever meet. In fact, she works four jobs to provide for her two children. She is Texas-strong and watches every dime carefully to make sure there's no waste. She's incredibly proud of her children, and her work ethic has shaped their young lives. While her daughter is only 17, she's already graduated high school and is now managing a restaurant. Diana's 12-year-old son excels at math and enjoys writing his own comic books.

Despite their constant striving, Diana finds it tougher and tougher to make ends meet. Housing and

utilities, insurance and healthcare — everything is just so expensive. Some weeks, Diana's even been forced to skip trips to the grocery store to pay bills that just can't wait.

### **Finding Help and Hope for the Holidays**

Diana's story mirrors that of so many other people these days. They're working hard and still struggling. That's why she is so grateful for Tarrant Area Food Bank — and friends like you who ensure their neighbors facing hunger can bring home the nourishing foods they need.

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# HIGHLIGHTS FROM LAST THANKSGIVING

Last year's Fifth Annual Thanksgiving Mega Mobile Market was Tarrant Area Food Bank's largest food distribution event of the entire year.

5,417 families received bags of nutritious food, including turkeys or chickens, pantry staples like green beans and stuffing, fresh produce, and other nonperishables to support Thanksgiving and ongoing meals.

**THE EQUIVALENT OF 316,000 MEALS WERE SERVED — ROUGHLY 380,000 POUNDS OF FOOD IN TOTAL!**

Held in collaboration with the Goodyear Cotton Bowl Classic and a number of our community partners, the Market is a relatively recent annual tradition that we hope will bless our neighbors facing hunger for many, many years to come.

Thank you for helping TAFB stage life-changing events like these — and for making the holiday season more joyful for your neighbors facing food insecurity.

## A HOLIDAY MATCH!

Generous friends who share your concern for neighbors facing hunger have just made Tarrant Area Food Bank a wonderful offer — a Matching Gift from the Beaumont Foundation and Albertsons/Tom Thumb that doubles every donation up to \$200,000!

Will you seize this outstanding opportunity with your generous gift today?

**Every \$1 you give now will DOUBLE in impact, providing enough food for 10 meals! That's good, nourishing food that individuals, families, and seniors can take home this holiday season.**

Just imagine how many lives you can touch when you send your generous holiday gift today.

With sky-high prices hitting our fellow Texans hard, your support has never been more important — or impactful. The sting of hunger is often even more painful during the holidays. Your gift can transform this season from one of scarcity to one of abundance for families that may not know where their next meals are coming from.

So please don't wait. Send your generous gift today, as it will double in value — and impact — to provide nourishing food for neighbors facing hunger this holiday season.



## A SINGLE MOTHER'S STORY OF HELP AND HOPE

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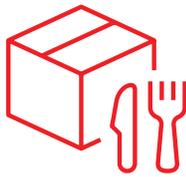


When their income just won't stretch any further, Diana and her children receive groceries from the TAFB West Community Market. There's produce, cereal, dairy, and meat that power this family forward through their busy, challenging days. The support of caring neighbors means the world to them. And this holiday season, they'll have everything they need to celebrate — again, because of good friends like you, who give to bring us closer to the day we end hunger.



Thank you for your partnership with Tarrant Area Food Bank. Because of you, Diana, her children, and so many other neighbors have food and joy this holiday season!

# FOOD FOR TWO — THANKS TO YOU!



Jeff learned early in life about the importance of hard work from his father, who recently passed away, and his mother, who just retired and already wants to start working again. After attending college to become an electrician, Jeff has taken a variety of jobs while working hard to build a business of his own. “I’m a hustler,” he states. Unfortunately, the road has been bumpy — and finances even bumpier. “It’s been one thing after another.”

The latest challenge? His mother is no longer able to live alone. “It broke my heart that my mom was struggling,” he says. As a result, his mom moved in with him. But the increase in bills and food expenses was more than Jeff’s salary could bear, and food insecurity began to rear its ugly head.

## Chance Discovery Leads to Critical Help

Thankfully, Jeff’s job as a warehouse delivery driver led him to Tarrant Area Food Bank, where he discovered our Community Market. “Food prices have been expensive,” Jeff says, and the Market has helped ease their financial hardship. In fact, Jeff even



“**I APPRECIATE . . .  
YOU HAVING A HEART.”**

received the ingredients to cook his mom his special chicken enchiladas.

Thanks to friends like you, Jeff can enjoy a holiday break from the worry of putting food on the table. As you can imagine, he is filled with gratitude. “I appreciate every consideration and for you having a heart,” he says to friends and supporters of TAFB. “It’s not just one person you are helping. It’s a community.”

***Your compassion is making a life-changing difference for Jeff and his mom. Please continue your support to provide help and hope for more neighbors this holiday season.***

# CREATE A LEGACY OF HOPE AND PROVISION



Leave a legacy of help and hope for your neighbors facing hunger.



You can devote a portion of your life’s work to reducing local hunger for generations to come by including Tarrant Area Food Bank in your will or living trust. A legacy gift, also known as a bequest, is a powerful way to continue providing nutritious meals for future generations.

To include TAFB in your estate plans, you can add the following bequest language to your will and share it with your attorney:

*“I, [name], of [city, state, ZIP], give, devise and bequeath to Tarrant Area Food Bank [written amount or percentage of the estate or description of property] for its unrestricted use and purpose.”*

If this sounds like part of the legacy you’d like to leave, we’d love to talk with you. Our Chief Development & External Affairs Officer Stephen Raeside would welcome your call at 817-857-7125 or your email at [stephen.raeside@tafb.org](mailto:stephen.raeside@tafb.org).

# LETTER FROM JULIE

Dear Caring Friend,

I hope you'll consider this special holiday edition of *Feedback* your personal window into the lives of North Texas neighbors facing hunger — often in silence — during this holiday season. People living through food insecurity usually don't make their journey public, so we consider it an honor when they agree to let us share their stories.

While these narratives are certainly diverse, there's a common thread: Each is woven together with the generosity of friends like *you*. Your help provides them with hope for a better tomorrow, along with assurance that when all else fails, they will not be left to struggle alone.

Being willing to step out of the holiday rush and share what we have is, I believe, the true strength of our community. It

also fuels the hopeful anticipation my colleagues and I feel about the coming year. Together, I know we'll continue taking important steps to end hunger.

With your ongoing support, doubled by this wonderful Holiday Matching Gift from the Beaumont Foundation and Albertsons/Tom Thumb, you'll give twice as much joy, hope, and food to neighbors who are struggling to keep meals on the table during this wonderful season. Thank you for caring— and for generously responding.



Happy Holidays,

**Julie Butner**  
President & CEO



**GIVE  
JOY** **GIVE  
FOOD** **GIVE  
HOPE**

## COMMUNITY TOGETHER

On a radiant autumn day, Mitchell and Pam Ward's vision transformed into Tarrant Area Food Bank's largest Thanksgiving Mega Mobile Market, serving 5,417 families with 316,000 meals.

Mitchell, a Lockhart, TX native, sparked this initiative years ago, starting with just 10-15 turkeys. Inspired by his humble roots in one of Texas' poorest counties, he vowed to give back if he succeeded. Partnering with TAFB's dynamic leader, Julie Butner, Mitchell's "crazy" idea grew into a community-wide effort, now aiming to distribute 1 million pounds of food annually.

"It's not just me having a meal," Mitchell says, "we helped so many families have a holiday meal too. That's the blessing." The Wards' generosity, alongside partners like the Cotton Bowl Foundation, continues to nourish North Texas, fostering gratitude and unity.

**TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK**

If you or someone you know needs help securing food, please visit [tafb.org](http://tafb.org) and click "Find Food" or call 817-857-7100 today.

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