



The Story:

Solving hunger today for a hunger free tomorrow.

Holiday 2023



***You're Sharing
Hope for
The Holidays***

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Dear Friend,

The holidays are upon us! The air feels full of nostalgia and possibilities – reuniting with loved ones, gift giving and the joy of eating traditional meals. There is so much to choose from – the familiar items, as well as those special recipes that we only experience once a year.

Holiday traditions help us pass down important values and beliefs from generation to generation. We live in Aggieland, where traditions mean everything, fostering connection, as well as passing down important convictions.

So, I ask you: Do you believe that no one in the Brazos Valley should go hungry? Do you value the work of the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB), its Agency Partners and its direct programming that supports our neighbors facing hunger today?

If you can empathize with a parent not eating so they can fill their children’s plates or the senior on a fixed income, skipping meals so they can take their needed medicines, then I call upon you to establish a new holiday tradition: donating to BVFB.

Please consider making a gift online, through the mail or visit us in person to drop off your generous donation. Involve your children in this custom so they understand the importance of giving.

While the economy is improving, many of our neighbors who live paycheck to paycheck are not feeling it. Through your generosity, BVFB is serving record numbers of local people – more so than during the pandemic. You can read a few of their stories on the next pages.

This holiday season, more than ever, our community needs you. Thank you for your vital support.

Happy Holidays,

Theresa Mangapora
Executive Director

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Your Generosity Is a Lifeline for Emily's Family

But with the ongoing high cost of living, Emily's greatest challenge right now is finding affordable, healthy food options for herself and her husband, who has diabetes. Emily is especially careful to choose food to help manage his condition.

Thanks to generous friends like you, Emily visits the BVFB supported Grimes County Mobile Food Pantry to pick up needed food. There, she finds plenty of fresh produce, as well as healthy staples to nourish her family.

For the last decade, the Grimes County Mobile Pantry has been a lifeline for Emily.

To generous supporters like you who continue to make a difference in the lives of children, families and seniors right here in the Brazos Valley, Emily says, "Thank you for all that you do."

Emily has spent the last 25 years living in Grimes County, raising a family, and volunteering in her spare time at organizations that support local seniors in various ways.

"Thank You for all that you do."

Now, she focuses her time on caring for her husband, 95, and checking in on their 10 adult children and 50 grandchildren.

Generations Joining to Volunteer

Volunteering at BVFB has not only given Gerilyn an opportunity to enrich her community but also provide a meaningful bonding experience for her and her grandchildren.

"Service is what life is all about," Gerilyn says. "I want to teach my grandchildren that."

Gerilyn hosts "Granny Camp" every summer, a week where her out of town grandchildren get to spend time with each other and experience the best of the Brazos Valley. This year, that included a trip to BVFB during its "Family Friday" volunteer days – spending quality time with Granny and giving back to the community around them.

"Service is what life is all about – I want to teach my grandchildren that."

Wanting her grandkids to carry on the goodwill of volunteerism long into the future, Gerilyn hopes



"to instill the value of community service" as a tradition in her young family members.

"People do not realize the need that is right in our own backyard," Gerilyn says, encouraging fellow neighbors interested in giving back to join her and her grandkids in volunteering.

Caring volunteers like Gerilyn, passing down acts of generosity for future generations, are helping build a hunger-free Brazos Valley.

To join our volunteer team, please visit www.bvfb.org/volunteering.

You Help Sharmin Support Her Son

On Sharmin's life-changing journey from Bangladesh to the Brazos Valley, she overcame great hardship to ensure she and her son Sharfin could lead healthier, happier lives. Thanks to friends like you, her burden is a lot lighter now.

In Bangladesh, Sharmin worked as a school principal for 17 years. When her husband wanted to pursue his education further, she came to College Station with him and their young son. Tragically, her husband grew violent towards them and ultimately was arrested, leaving, she and her son safe but alone without a support system.

"It is so helpful."

Despite her outstanding experience and qualifications, Sharmin is facing an uphill battle in her search for employment since she does not have citizenship.

"I am looking for work every day," Sharmin says. "I have to provide for my son."

Thankfully, Sharmin has a pro bono attorney who when hearing about her lack of transportation and employment, referred her to BVFB's Project GotEM home food delivery service.



Sharfin is thriving, thanks to you.

"I had a headache all the time trying to figure out how to get food [before enrolling in Project GotEM]," Sharmin says.

Now Sharmin receives a box filled with nutritious food every week that helps her provide well-balanced meals for her son. She couldn't be more grateful for the food.

These critical programs and services wouldn't be possible without the support of generous friends like you, joining our efforts to uplift neighbors, like Sharmin and Sharfin.

"It is so helpful," Sharmin says happily.

By partnering with BVFB again today, you can help take hunger off the table for the holiday season and beyond.

Mark your calendars for...



THE KBTX MEDIA'S ANNUAL Food for Families Food Drive is Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Join KBTX Media in supporting BVFB and its agency partners this December! We need your participation to make this event a success!

Collect non-perishable food items and/or monetary donations to drop off at any one of these convenient locations:

- The Brazos Center, Bryan
- Washington County Expo, Brenham
- St. Mary's Church Hall, Caldwell
- Navasota Valley Electric, Franklin
- Hearne Railroad Museum Depot in Hearne
- Sonshine Outreach Center in Madisonville
- MidSouth Electric Co-op Operations Facility, Navasota

For more details, or to donate online, visit <https://www.kbtx.com/food-for-families>

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