

The Story:

Solving hunger today for a hunger free tomorrow.

2020 NEWSLETTER 2020



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*You're Sharing
Hope for
the Holidays*



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Dear Friend,

As we near the end of 2020, I can not help but reflect on how the coronavirus has profoundly changed everything. From school and education, to the workplace, to how we got the basic supplies we needed, we have survived these months by constantly adapting, being extremely flexible and by making decisions with the best information we had at the time. I doubt anyone would say it has been easy. The loss of connectedness to our communities and to each other is real.

Unfortunately, experts believe the COVID-19 pandemic will still be with us for the holidays, so we will still be living with social distancing rules and mass gathering bans. While holiday traditions are truly comforting, this just might be the year we have to try something new. And, you know what? We will make it through.

But what about our neighbors in need? The unemployed and underemployed because of COVID, facing hunger AND constant anxiety with the holidays fast approaching. My heart breaks for these individuals, families and seniors. How much more can they take? It must feel hopeless at times.

Hopelessness in the Brazos Valley is not acceptable – not during COVID, not ever. With your support, the [Brazos Valley Food Bank \(BVFB\)](#) ensures that free, nutritious food is accessible to those who need it. Together, we provide hope that there is kindness in this world.

This newsletter highlights what the gift of food means to those in need - possibility, gratitude and delight - because food, at least for that day, that week, was one less worry.

Let's enjoy our new COVID holiday traditions. But, let's also make this season about connecting to those who need security now more than ever.

Gratefully,

Theresa Mangapora
Executive Director

“Food is our common ground, a universal experience.”

— JAMES BEARD

Annie and Shelly Share Their Gratitude



Shelly & Annie

Shelly and Annie are best friends. They've been so grateful to have each other during this difficult year. Unfortunately, the two don't just have friendship in common – they've both been without work.

Shelly, who adopted her three granddaughters – ages 8, 13 and 14 – still had her retail job until she tore the meniscus in her knee. She needed time off to heal.

Annie worked in housekeeping and at the local amphitheater but was laid off from both jobs. She's been donating plasma for income. Between such expenses and time out of work, both she and Shelly are struggling to afford enough food right now.

“What can I do – what can I cook?” Annie asks herself daily.

“A lot of people would be hungry [without this],” Shelly adds of their local BVFB Fresh Food DROP.

The friends found out about the [BVFB](#) Fresh Food DROP that visits Peace Lutheran Church in College Station. Shelly especially appreciates the fresh fruits and vegetables she picks up to fill her

grandkids' plates with balanced meals.

“Thank you very much,” she says to friends like you. “You really are feeding the hungry!”

“God bless you,” Annie adds.

During the holiday season, your support is a true lifeline to local families who are facing hunger. Thank you for sharing what you have!

Spotlight on You, Our Donors

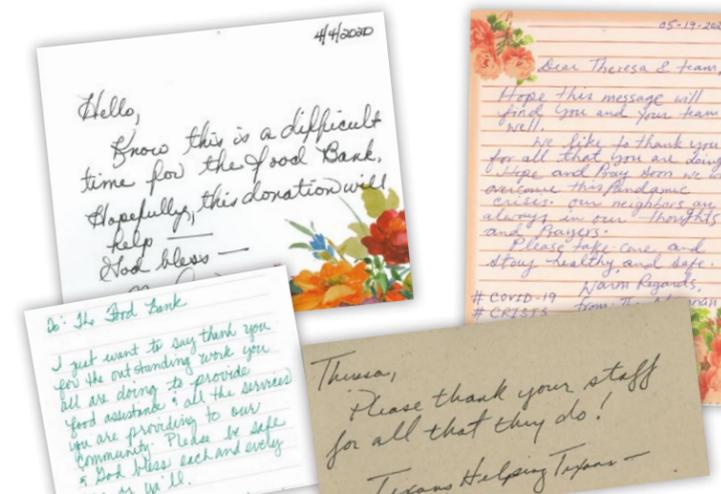
The COVID-19 pandemic has made *uncertainty* the norm. Despite that, what IS certain is that the Brazos Valley has some of the most generous and gracious donors.

So many new individuals and companies have financially supported [BVFB](#) since the pandemic started. We are proud to have earned your trust and hope that we can keep it.

What has especially touched our hearts is that so many of you have written notes, sent cards, added special messages to the donations that you mailed to us. Themes emerged from these writings – your gratitude to BVFB for what we are doing during the pandemic, your concern for our safety and wishing that you could give more.

We cannot express the profound impact each of these special notes has had on us. To know that our work is being noticed, and that our extra efforts are appreciated, boosted our spirits and spread such positive energy among the BVFB team that we could not help but continue on.

Please know that without you, your donations and your words of encouragement, we could not do all that we do. Thank you!





Veronica and her mother, Florina, are excited to pick up healthy groceries from the BVFB mobile pantry that visits Navasota.

Thank You for Making Sure Local Families Are Fed

“I just lost my husband in March,” Florina says. “I miss him so much.”

Adjusting to life without her late husband, Clinton, has been incredibly difficult for Florina. Clinton had multiple health concerns including diabetes and heart failure. His passing has been a real challenge — both emotionally and financially.

“These bills are [overwhelming]...I don’t have enough,” Florina says.

Clinton worked in the oil field, and without his income, Florina is having a hard time making ends meet. Her grown daughter, Veronica, is also struggling. Since the lockdown began, Veronica’s fiancée, Miguel, hasn’t been able to work nearly as many hours at

his mechanic shop. The couple’s been having a hard time affording groceries for their growing boys — ages 8, 11 and 12.

“We all need help — we have no one to turn to but the Food Bank,” Veronica says.

Because you choose to give, this mother and daughter, and so many others like them, can visit the BVFB Mobile Food Pantry that sets up monthly in Navasota.

Your support brings relief in the form of healthy food — during a pandemic, the busy holiday season and whenever there are people in the Brazos Valley seeking help.

“Thank you!” Florina says.

PHASE I: COVID-19 RESPONSE
(MARCH 15 - JUNE 19)



BVFB DIRECT DISTRIBUTION

75,600
Meals



Children

24,838
Meals



Seniors

321,137
Meals



Families



BRAZOS VALLEY
foodbank

Contact Us:
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www.bvfb.org

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Bryan, TX 77803

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PO Box 74
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