

# The Story:

*Solving hunger today for a hunger-free tomorrow*



SUMMER 2022

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***Fighting Summer Hunger with You!***



**Theresa Mangapora**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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## Dear Friend,

While summer brings vacations for many of us – and hopefully a lot more of us now that the pandemic is less of a scare – the summer can be a time of uncertainty for neighbors living paycheck to paycheck and/or on fixed incomes.

Air conditioning costs mean soaring electric bills, and, because of pandemic-related supply chain issues, food prices are through the roof. Something will have to give. For many families, healthy food is the thing sacrificed to make other ends meet.

That’s why it’s so important to ensure BVFB and our partner agencies are fully stocked with nutritious food, School-Based Food Pantries stay open over the summer, and gift-giving doesn’t “take a vacation.”

Read on to learn more about how getting further engaged with BVFB, either by volunteering or donating, can truly impact lives during the summer months – and beyond!

In this issue, check out how your gifts are helping volunteers like Jody and Audri make a difference in countless Brazos Valley lives this summer. You can also read about Linda and her grandchildren, who you’ve helped keep well-fed with your generosity.

Thank you for truly caring for our neighbors facing hunger.

Gratefully,

Theresa Mangapora  
Executive Director

## School Pantries Provide Relief to Families

Jody has been the coordinator of A&M Consolidated High School’s School Pantry Program since day one – that was eight years ago. This incredible resource is the first like it in College Station ISD and second in the state of Texas.

“There is such a need. We have about a 40-50 percent free and reduced-price lunch student population,” Jody explains. “I had a student [who] would come to me and ask for food to feed her younger siblings. So, I would go to the store and buy her groceries and give them to her.”

Jody shares that the student came back every four weeks or so. Jody would go to the store again and buy more groceries. “I later found out that in those three to four weeks when she wasn’t coming to me, she was going to a different teacher every week because she had no other way to feed herself and her siblings. We were all happy to do it, but realized it wasn’t sustainable.”

Thanks to funding from friends like you, this critical resource is available for students without enough to eat at home. Students are encouraged

to take whatever is needed, and families can even access the pantry over summer break when school isn’t in session!

*“We are blessed with a healthy budget and stocked shelves.”*

“We are blessed with a healthy budget and stocked shelves,” Jodie says. “Funding from the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) helps with that.”



Jody smiles in front of A&M Consolidated High School’s School Pantry.

## Audri and Her Teammates Make a Difference



Audri encourages other young people to get involved in the community.

Audri is a senior, varsity volleyball player at Rudder High School. She’s been playing volleyball for nine years, and her team is like her family.

One way for the team to stay connected over the summer break is by volunteering together.

“We get a lot of donations and support from the community, so we like to give back,” Audri says.

Audri and her teammates especially like volunteering at the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) because it brings everyone closer while doing some good for neighbors.

While volunteering, they assemble bags full of shelf-stable, child-friendly, nutritious food for our Backpack Program, which distributes through school during the academic year and through Recreation Programs over the summer months. She’s excited to be able to help out younger kids in particular.

For other young people looking to get involved in the community, Audri encourages, “Do what feels good, give back and help people!”

A big thank you to all of our incredible volunteers! The work you do from your heart has a huge impact on our community. BVFB is grateful for your active commitment to fighting hunger for local children, families and seniors.



*Linda preferred not to have her photo shared. Image shown represents the many neighbors we serve with your support.*

## Linda Thanks You for Helping Feed Her Grandkids

For the last seven years, Linda\* has been caring for her son who is disabled and her two grandsons, age 11 and 13. Right now, she's teaching her grandkids important lessons on how to be self-sufficient.

"The boys like frozen chicken fajita strips," she says. "It's something they can cook on their own and it's good for them to learn how to cook for themselves."

Her grandsons also like to eat – a lot.

"They're growing boys," Linda says. "Almost teenagers. They are always hungry!"

But taking care of a household of four has made things very tight financially for Linda. Linda likes to incorporate as many veggies

as possible when cooking and it's become difficult to do that recently.

Speaking to the cost of fresh produce, Linda exclaims, "Vegetables are very high right now."

***"We really appreciate the food pantry. So much."***

Linda feels very fortunate to have the Madison County Mobile Pantry at Madison County Fair Grounds available as a resource for healthy food for her family. She especially appreciates getting milk and vegetables from the Mobile Pantry.

"We really appreciate the food pantry," Linda says gratefully. "So much. Thank you."

*\*Name has been changed to protect privacy.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS



#### BVFB'S 29TH ANNUAL FEAST OF CARING

Wednesday, August 3, 2022

11 am – 1 pm

The Brazos Center,  
3232 Briarcrest Dr,  
Bryan, TX 77802

A modest meal of beans, rice, sausage, salad, and dessert is served. The meal is free and served by local celebrities, but donations are gratefully accepted.



#### KBTX'S SUMMER HUNGER CAMPAIGN

Unfortunately, hunger does not take a vacation.

June 2022

More details coming soon!



BRAZOS VALLEY  
**foodbank**

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