

BRAZOS VALLEY FOOD BANK

# The Story:

*Solving hunger today for a hunger free tomorrow.*

SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2021



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***Thank You  
for Feeding  
Our Future!***



**Theresa Mangapora**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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# Dear Friend,

Summer, the warmest season of the year, is a time people generally associate with carefree and fun activities.

After a long, hard year battling a pandemic (that is unfortunately still with us), summer is certainly a welcomed time.

I do wonder, however, if this summer will truly be carefree. For some of us, yes. Despite a pandemic, a lot of us are doing the normal things in just modified ways. Businesses are open, and the economy is starting to get back on track. These are all great things.

But, COVID has also caused a lot of long-term damage, even right here in the [Brazos Valley](#). There is of course the loss of life. This is a reality that will have a ripple effect for decades. There are also those who suffered with COVID and who are now dealing with the long-term effects. This too has changed lives.

But the loss of security — income, housing, safety net and food — runs deep for so many here in the Brazos Valley. For some, the consequences of COVID meant spending through savings and retirement to get by. It meant losing a career and now starting over, doing something new, for less pay. Some individuals and families lost housing. Many who had never asked for help before needed help from a food pantry to put food on the table.

These losses can take a long time to recover from.

And while summer means blue skies, summer camps and vacations for some, for those who are still feeling the effects of the COVID pandemic, summer means higher utility bills and children home from school. So, more uncertainty.

But YOU and the impactful work of our staff, volunteers and network of partner agencies, mobiles, fresh food drops and special program partners are a literal lifeline for these neighbors.

And, if we are doing our job right, these individuals, children, families and seniors will have at least one certainty this summer: nutritious food on the table.

Gratefully,

Theresa Mangapora  
Executive Director

## You Give Tammy's Family Healthy Food

Tammy worked hard her whole life until experiencing heart failure in 2011. Her boys, Ke'myreul and Jamal, were only 5 and 6 at the time, and as a single mom, it's been devastating for Tammy not to be able to work to support her family.

Tammy's only direct income is disability assistance and she often has to decide between paying an important bill and buying food.

With only one grocery store nearby, Tammy says food can be very expensive, especially meat.

That's why she and her kids are so thankful for you!

Tammy comes to the [Brazos Valley Food Bank's](#) (BVFB's) Mobile Food Pantry in Madisonville with her aunt and brother. Even though she's at a higher risk of contracting COVID-19 due to her heart condition, Tammy isn't worried — all BVFB food distribution centers take the utmost precautions for our volunteers, including temp checks, mandatory masks and social distancing. Patrons can even stay in their car when coming to pick up food!

There are so many healthy options at the Mobile Food Pantry, which fuel Tammy's growing boys, as well as protects her own health. Without you, Tammy says, keeping good food on the table "would be hard."

She shares her deep gratitude, saying, "It's a blessing from above."



**TAMMY SMILES OUTSIDE THE MADISONVILLE MOBILE PANTRY**

## The BCS Homeschool Group Has Fun Volunteering!

What started as a way for members of the Bryan/College Station Homeschool Group to earn volunteer hours for college applications turned into a sincere passion to serve their neighbors facing hunger.

Garrison Brown, the 17-year-old Volunteer Coordinator for the Homeschool Group, has been volunteering among others in the group since December 2019.

When the COVID-19 pandemic struck, Garrison didn't let it affect his group's volunteer schedule.

"We felt like it was our duty," he says. "We've tried to keep coming weekly."

Garrison says that, ultimately, knowing that the group's volunteer service has a positive impact on the community is what has kept them coming back each week.

"[Food] is one of the most basic needs so that is why it is really important to make sure that need is met," he says.

There's always plenty to do like building BackPacks, sorting food and general cleaning and sanitizing to make sure their environment is safe and free of germs. Garrison encourages, "It's not really work, it becomes enjoyable. Come out if you can — bring some friends!"

We're so thankful to have folks like the BCS Homeschool Group speaking up about hunger and getting involved in the solution!





MARIA, ROSAMARIE AND SILVIA PREFERRED NOT TO HAVE THEIR PHOTO SHARED. IMAGE SHOWN REPRESENTS THE MANY NEIGHBORS WE SERVE WITH YOUR SUPPORT.

**VOLUNTEERING AT BVFB THIS SUMMER**  
**Volunteer Center Summer Hours (June, July & August):**

- Monday through Friday
- 9 am-12 pm & 12:45-3:45 pm
- Evening and Saturday hours resume September 1.
- Visit for more detail: <https://www.bvfb.org/volunteering>



**SECOND ANNUAL KBTX-TV SUMMER HUNGER ONLINE FUND DRIVE**  
 June 2021

- Opportunity to financially support BVFB over the tough summer months!
- More information coming soon!



**FEAST OF CARING**  
 August 2021

BVFB's signature annual fundraising event hopes to make a comeback this summer!

More information coming soon!



## Togetherness is the Secret Ingredient

“I like the healthy food!”

Maria is 14 years old and especially enjoys studying math and science at school. This summer, while she and her sister are away from free school meals, you're helping make sure they have the nutritious food they both need.

We met Maria, her 11-year-old sister Rosamarie and their mom, Silvia, on a visit to the North Bryan New Birth Fresh Food Drop, supplied by BVFB.

Sylvia says nothing goes to waste, emphasizing that they often make soup with the items they receive from the Fresh Food Drop. The whole

family was especially excited to receive a cauliflower once, saying it was an extra treat!

Maria and Rosamarie's dad, Francisco, works in construction. But after testing positive for COVID-19, he wasn't able to return to work until he had a negative test, which took much longer than he'd expected.

The Fresh Food Drop was a great resource for the family while Francisco waited to return to work. Deeply grateful, Silvia says earnestly, “It helps save money for other bills.”

“Thank you for your help and support,” Silvia says to donors like you.



BRAZOS VALLEY  
**foodbank**

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