



The Story:

Solving hunger today for a hunger free tomorrow.

Fall 2024



**Fueling Hope for
Brazos Valley
Neighbors!**

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Dear Friend,

This spring, Feeding America, the national network of Food Banks, released its annual Map the Meal Gap Report, showing that the amount of money neighbors need to be food secure reached its highest level in 20 years.

Rising prices, especially food prices, contributed in part to the increase. Map the Meal Gap builds upon the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) latest report, which showed a sharp increase in food insecurity amid historically high food prices and the expiration of pandemic-era programs.

In summary, pandemic assistance ended right as inflation skyrocketed. Things are tough out there right now and have been for some time now. For some of us, this is an inconvenience. For many, it is more dire.

For single parent Michael of Navasota (page 4), who has two daughters at home who depend on him, the Grimes County Mobile Pantry, a program of the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) provides stability in this time of great uncertainty. For Angel and her family, the Fresh Produce Drop conducted by BVFB at the local Woman, Infant and Children Program (WIC), as well as visits to nearby food pantries, "takes so much stress off" because the family's one income is no longer enough.

Many more families like Michael and Angel live right here in the Brazos Valley and are our neighbors. Thousands of Brazos Valley families facing hunger can only thrive when basic needs – like food – are met. Imagine telling your child there is nothing to eat.

I hope that these local stories of unprecedented need inspire you to continue to give. We need you.

Gratefully,

Theresa Mangapora
Executive Director



Jessica, 11, Dalton, 9, and Everly, 2, are all smiles at BVFB's Fresh Produce Drop at the WIC office.

Thank You for Helping Angel's Family

have anyone that can watch the kids so I can work — so we only have the one income and it's not enough."

The family applied for SNAP benefits, and Angel and her husband are working hard to find a way to pay bills and put healthy food on the table for the children in the meantime.

"It's constant juggling and stretching resources," Angel says. "It's shocking how fast everything adds up."

That's why Angel is so thankful for friends like you who support the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

"We actually need food today, so this is a big help."

"It takes so much stress off of me," Angel says. "Knowing that we have good food to give the kids, not just the cheapest thing you can grab at the grocery store because it's all you can afford."

Thank you for helping Angel and her husband keep nutritious food on the table for the whole family!

Angel and her three children spotted Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB)'s Fresh Produce Drop during a visit to the local Woman, Infant and Children Program's (WIC) Bryan office.

"I didn't know this was going to be here," Angel says. "We actually need food today, so this is a big help."

Angel and her husband are the proud parents of Jessica, 11, Dalton, 9, and Everly, 2. Angel homeschools Jessica and Dalton, so free or reduced-price school meals aren't an option.

Angel's husband works full-time to support the family, but Angel says there are still times when it's a challenge to make ends meet and put enough food on the table.

"We have been in several instances where we didn't have food in the house," Angel says. "I don't

Get Involved: Join the Fight Against Hunger with Brazos Valley Food Bank!

Thank you for your support of Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) as we work together to solve hunger today and end hunger tomorrow.

If you would like more ways to get involved, here are ways to help:

- Lead a **FOOD DRIVE**. Visit www.bvfb.org/give-food for helpful tips on conducting a successful food drive and to register your drive.
- Plan a **FUNDRAISER** like a bake sale, car wash, or neighborhood yard sale. Register your fundraiser at www.bvfb.org/host-fundraiser-food-bank and we can provide logos or other helpful materials.
- **VOLUNTEER**. Visit www.bvfb.org/volunteering to sign up to volunteer.



BCS State Farm Insurance Agents held a food drive with their clients then volunteered to sort food at BVFB!

All 3 ways of getting involved provide an easy way to give back, while having fun and building camaraderie with family, friends, neighbors, coworkers, places of worship and/or with clubs/ organizations you or your family belong to.

Together, we can better ensure that no one in the Brazos Valley goes hungry.



BVFB's Mobile Food Pantries are a lifeline to countless neighbors across our community.



H-E-B's HELP
END HUNGER CAMPAIGN
Fall 2024

Visit your local H-E-B to participate in this tear pad campaign at store registers. Donations directly benefit the mission of BVFB.



TEXAS STATE EMPLOYEE
CHARITABLE CAMPAIGN
Fall 2024

Are you a state employee? If so, now is the time to sign up for a sustaining donation through a payroll deduction that will fuel the important work of Brazos Valley Food Bank! BVFB SECC number: 250005



COMBINED FEDERAL
CAMPAIGN
Fall 2024

Federal, postal, and military employees can make sustaining donations to the BVFB by enrolling in payroll deductions. BVFB CFC number: 24637

You Give Stability to Michael's Family

Michael loves any opportunity to spend time with his daughters. Both are teenagers active in sports, so there's always a game or practice to attend.

He knows good nutrition is important to their growth, especially for the 15-year-old who does power lifting at school. But it's a challenge sometimes to have money for everything...

"This is something I can depend on for help."

At a recent visit to the Grimes County Mobile Food Pantry, Michael received fresh fruit, vegetables and

additional healthy food items that would typically consume all, or most, of his grocery budget.

"I can be more flexible with my income and other necessities," Michael says of the supplement your generosity provides to his grocery budget.

Michael is thankful for the help that makes a more stable home for his daughters. "My girls depend on me to provide for them," he says. "This is something I can depend on for help."

Thank you for your partnership that helps Brazos Valley children, families and seniors access healthy food now and throughout the fall days ahead!

