

The Story:

Summer 2025

*Solving hunger today
for a hunger-free
tomorrow.*



***Your Generosity
Is a Beacon
of Hope***

Page 3 YOU GIVE BRAZOS VALLEY NEIGHBORS HOPE

Page 3 THE NEXT GENERATION MAKING
AN IMPACT

Page 4 THANK YOU FOR FILLING TYLER'S TABLE



Theresa Mangapora
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Board of Directors

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Theodore George, *President, Professor,
Department of Philosophy, Texas A&M
University*
Philip Rodriguez V., *Vice President, Doss
& Rodriquez*
Allan Clayton, *Treasurer, Retired,
Community Volunteer, Brazos County*
Joni Cook, *Secretary, Retired, Community
Volunteer (Burlison County)*
Marcus Alsup, *Immediate Past President,
Branch Manager, Wells Fargo*

MEMBERS AT LARGE:

Jimmy Byrd, *Executive Dean, Blinn
College (Bryan Campus)*
John Cowan, *Senior Vice President,
Simmons Bank*
Dora Cruzan, *Retired, Community
Volunteer (Brazos County)*
Alex Egan, *Director of Special Projects,
KBTX Media*
Leland Gibson, *Project Manager, Office
of Facilities Planning & Construction,
Texas A&M University System*
David Gilbert, *Store Manager,
Brookshire Brothers (Caldwell)*
Ann Gilmore, *Unit Director, H-E-B (Bryan)*
Andrew Kilzer, *General Manager, Maroon
& White, LP*
Ken Krueger, *City President,
Extraco Banks*
Pat Patrick, *Sales Center Manager,
Coca-Cola Southwest Beverages*
Charlie Shear, *Retired, Community
Volunteer, Robertson County*
Byron Sommerlatte, *Retired, Community
Volunteer (Burlison County)*
Arthur Watson, *Executive Director,
Transition Academic Programs, Texas
A&M University*
Deborah Wright, *Associate Vice
President Budget & Planning, Texas
A&M University*
Josh Hampton, *Health & Wellness
Consultant, The Practice of Wellness*

Dear Friend,

The month of May brings joy to many in the Brazos Valley. Public schools let out. Texas A&M University (TAMU) ends its Spring semester. There's often graduations and vacations.

But for some children, the loss of connection to school and its social interactions, mental stimulation, physical play, *and* regular meals can be difficult.

BVFB's many programs, distributions, food pantries, partners, and more mean kiddos can access healthy food throughout the summer. Stories like Kimberly's (page 3) illustrate how important your donations are to providing nutritious food to our neighbors.

As more community members turn to these programs, the demand on BVFB and its partners increases. Volunteers prepare 100% of all the food BVFB distributes. Unfortunately, BVFB's main source of volunteer hours – TAMU students - decreases over the summer.

Thankfully, groups like Brazos Valley Robotics (page 3) help ensure food packs are available over the summer. If you or your child is looking for a team-building service project, volunteering at BVFB's Volunteer Center is the perfect opportunity.

While many neighbors look forward to summer as a time of escape and fun in the sun, it is important to remember that *hunger does not take a vacation*.

Your support through donated food, funds, or time is needed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Theresa Mangapora
Executive Director



You Give Neighbors Hope

What began as a way for Kimberly to put food on the table for her and her daughter became a journey to a fresh new start.

Less than a year ago, Kimberly moved to College Station and has been searching for a job ever since. Thanks to support from partners like you, while she waits to begin earning a paycheck again, Kimberly has found life-changing resources through the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB).

“I feel more confident about my future than I have in years.”

Not only does she regularly visit a BVFB Food Pantry Partner to stock her kitchen with healthy food, but Kimberly has also gained life and career skills through the Together We Grow (TWG) program.

TWG works with our food insecure neighbors who are unemployed to move towards food security by building on skills, setting goals, obtaining employment in their desired career field, followed by a year of support to make actionable progress towards their goals.

“This isn’t just a class,” Kimberly says. “It’s a totally life-changing event.”



Kimberly is grateful for Brazos Valley Food Bank and the Together We Grow program.

Because of partners like you, BVFB can help Kimberly learn about resources to support her current goals and help her prepare for a stronger, hunger-free future with her daughter.

The TWG program has also boosted Kimberly’s confidence. “I feel more confident about my future than I have in years,” she says.

Your partnership makes it possible for so many of our food insecure neighbors to not only access healthy food, but find hope and confidence. Thank you!



The Brazos Valley Robotics team is investing in a healthier tomorrow.

The students and team mentors of the Brazos Valley Robotics team are learning how to lend a helping hand by volunteering with the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

This chapter of the BEST Robotics national organization, (Boosting Engineering Science and Technology), is for students in grades 6-12 that are involved in homeschooling groups or attending smaller Christian schools in the area.

The Brazos Valley Robotics team members get a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes at BVFB

The Next Generation Making an Impact

while sorting food in the warehouse. They also witness firsthand the work that BVFB does in the community while volunteering at a BVFB Food Pantry Partner distribution site.

“We get to be a part of the full circle of what [BVFB] do[es]– from sorting the food to distributing it in the community,” shares one young member of the team.

The Brazos Valley Robotics team members are not only learning how to be good citizens, but they are investing in a stronger future for us all.

Summer is a great time for groups of all ages to volunteer at BVFB! Find more information and fill out a group application at www.bvfb.org/volunteering.

Your support helped fill the gap so Tyler's kids had ongoing access to nourishing food.



KBTX-TV's 5th Annual Summer Hunger Food Drive
Hunger doesn't take a summer vacation! KBTX-TV, several of its partners and BVFB will be collecting food and funds the entire month of June 2025 at various locations around Bryan-College Station.

More details and locations at bvfb.org/kbtsummerhunger

Thank You for Filling Tyler's Table

Tyler* is an Army veteran who works hard to provide for his family of six. Because of the high cost of day care, Tyler's wife cares for the couple's young children full-time right now.

When Tyler started losing hours at work, he sought a civil service job. But while he waited for notification about this opportunity, he needed help keeping healthy food on the table for his family.

That's when Tyler first reached out to the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB)'s Benefits Assistance Program staff, who shepherd individuals through the complicated government safety net program application process. Tyler received help specifically signing up for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), that supplemented Tyler's hard-earned income.

Since then, Tyler has received a promotion at a new job that he enjoys, and he is currently fulfilling his dream of going back to school. **Today, he and his family no longer need SNAP assistance.**

Tyler is greatly appreciative of the help he received that was supported by friends like you during a stressful time. Because of your partnership, neighbors like Tyler have the needed support to bridge the gap when life circumstances become difficult.

We are so grateful for dedicated partners like you. Thank you for ensuring Tyler's table was never empty.

** Name and photo have been changed to protect identity.*



BVFB's 32nd Annual Feast of Caring

Wednesday, August 6, 2025
11am – 1pm
Brazos Center,
3232 Briarcrest Dr.

Join us for this annual, free community luncheon of rice and beans, served by local celebrities! The success of this event depends on friends like you, attending and donating. Save the date and spread the word!