



AMERICAN MOMENTUM BANK

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Brazos Valley Food Bank, American Momentum Bank Ask Community to Help Hungry Neighbors this Holiday Season *Food Bank's Capital Campaign receives \$250,000; lead corporate gift*

Bryan, Texas — December 9, 2014 — Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) and American Momentum Bank joined together Tuesday to announce a major capital contribution and to ask the community to continue to help the growing number of hungry families in the area this holiday season and beyond.

American Momentum Bank presented the Brazos Valley Food Bank with a \$250,000 cash donation, the lead corporate contribution to the non-profit organization's *Because Hunger Won't Wait* capital campaign.

"Last year, BVFB distributed almost 6 million pounds of food to over 60,000 hungry neighbors in need in the Brazos Valley," said Theresa Mangapora, Executive Director, Brazos Valley Food Bank. "We are doing this important work in a warehouse suitable to store only 1.5 million pounds of food, nowhere near what is currently needed. We have outgrown our current space and it is putting limitations on our ability to grow our resources and programs to meet the growing need."

Because Hunger Won't Wait is the Brazos Valley Food Bank's \$4.125 million warehouse expansion project maximizing current space and addressing several critical needs:

CRITICAL NEED #1: More space, for more food: The Brazos Valley Food Bank has experienced a nearly 150% increase in demand for food from its hunger-relief partners over the past 5 years. Despite this impact, the Brazos Valley Food Bank distributes less food than is needed to hungry children, seniors and families in our community because we are limited by the size of our facility. The warehouse expansion more than triples the amount of dry food that can be received, distributed and fed to those in need.

CRITICAL NEED #2: More cold space to capture the freshest food available: BVFB frequently must turn away a donation of food for lack of space, despite cycling through our food every 30 days. Regrettably, donations most frequently turned down are fresh items, like produce, because BVFB's refrigerator and freezer capabilities are maxed out. The new design will allow us to store five times the amount of fresh and frozen foods; the foods, such as fresh produce, needed to combat chronic diseases and childhood obesity.

CRITICAL NEED #3: More designated volunteer space to maximize output: The Brazos Valley Food Bank is fortunate to benefit from over 14,000 volunteer hours annually. To maximize the Brazos Valley's commitment to service, the new design can accommodate up to four volunteer groups at any given time.

With American Momentum Bank's gift, the Campaign has raised almost \$2,600,000, (63% of the total goal of \$4,125 million). The Campaign has just over \$1,500,000 left to raise. If the Campaign can secure the outstanding \$1,500,000 by October of 2015, it will be granted a \$500,000 Challenge Grant from the Mabee Foundation out of Tulsa, OK. Therefore, time is of the essence. The goals are to complete all fundraising by October of 2015, and then commence the expansion project, which is expected to take 8-12 months to complete.

"The Brazos Valley needs this new facility so that we can adequately serve those in need with the freshest, most nutritious foods available," said Mangapora. "American Momentum Bank is leading by example with this very generous gift," said Mangapora. "We can raise the rest of the funds by fall of next year, but we need your help."

"I am proud to represent the Board of Directors, our staff of professionals and clients who jointly made this donation possible," said Frank Varisco, Market President for American Momentum Bank.

"Despite a better economy, many vulnerable families are still living paycheck to paycheck, making tough choices about what expenses to pay, and, oftentimes, food is the option that is foregone," Varisco added.

“Through our donation today and continued partnership with the Brazos Valley Food Bank, we hope to promote additional community support for the Food Bank’s Capital Campaign, so that no Brazos Valley resident will ever have to face a day wondering where his or her next meal will come from.”

The program concluded with American Momentum encouraging the community to join in its support of the *Because Hunger Won’t Wait Capital Campaign* to help the BVFB secure the outstanding challenge grant. While the capital campaign for a new facility continues, the mission is still ongoing to provide nutritious, regular meals for local individuals and families. As a result, supporting the KBTX-TV Food for Families Food Drive tomorrow is impactful in providing immediate support for the Brazos Valley Food Bank and its constituents of grateful families.

For more information on how to support the Brazos Valley Food Bank’s *Because Hunger Won’t Wait Capital Campaign*, go to www.becausehungerwontwait.org.

For more information about KBTX-TV’s Food for Families Food Drive on December 10, go to <http://www.kbtx.com/kbtxcares/foodforfamilies>.

For more information on how to donate or volunteer with the Brazos Valley Food Bank, go to <http://www.bvfb.org>.

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About the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB)

The Brazos Valley Food Bank is a central distribution site that unites food donors, volunteers and hunger-relief agencies. As the hub of over 36 different agencies that feed the hungry throughout Brazos, Burleson, Grimes, Madison, Robertson and Washington Counties, the Brazos Valley Food Bank is on target to distribute over 6 million pounds of food this year. In addition to supplying food to partner agencies, the Brazos Valley Food Bank oversees Children’s BackPack and Senior Bag Programs, School-Based and Mobile Food Pantries, as well as Social Service Outreach programs to reach those in need. To learn more, please visit www.bvfb.org.

About American Momentum Bank

As the largest locally owned and managed bank in the Brazos Valley, American Momentum Bank, headquartered in College Station, has 19 full service banking centers and total assets of \$1.0 billion as of September 30, 2014.