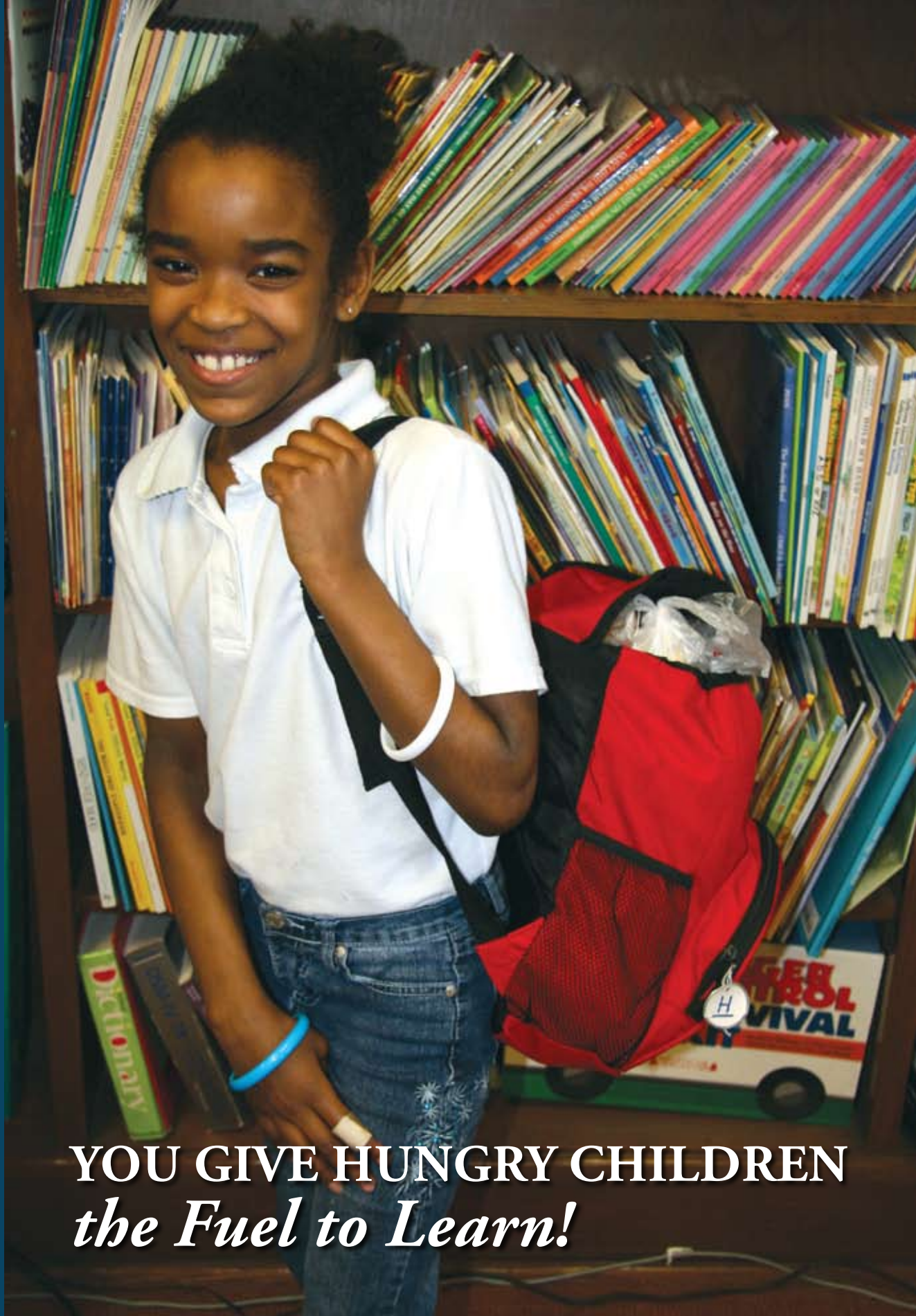




FALL 2008

Feedback

YOU'RE FEEDING THE HUNGRY IN OUR COMMUNITY!



YOU GIVE HUNGRY CHILDREN
the Fuel to Learn!

Look inside to find out how you're easing back-to-school stress for families in need...



www.taafb.org

YOU'RE FILLING THE TABLE FOR FAMILIES LIVING IN POVERTY



BO SODERBERGH
Executive Director

Dear Friend,

I know you've seen lots of reports about rising food and fuel prices in recent months. It seems like every time you pick up a paper or turn on the news there's another story about the increasing cost of milk or the skyrocketing price of crude oil.

The state of our economy affects all of us. But the effects are devastating for families in our community who live on the edge of the poverty line. There are thousands of parents right here in our North Central Texas neighborhood who can't afford to buy enough groceries to make dinner for their children. Seniors living on fixed incomes have to choose between medications and meals. There is no doubt that rising food prices in combination with rising transportation costs are hurting low-income families.

That's why I'm so grateful for friends like you. Your support of Tarrant Area Food Bank allows us to provide hungry children and families with access to the food resources they need. Whether it's a backpack of weekend food through the BackPacks for Kids program, a sack of groceries from a food pantry or a filling meal at a senior center, your gifts are making a difference in the lives of our hungry neighbors.

In this issue of Feedback, as you read the stories and see the pictures of the people whose lives you've helped to change, I hope you'll be encouraged by the impact your support is making in our community.

Thank you for partnering with us to make life a little brighter for those in need here in North Central Texas.



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YOU GIVE KIDS

WORRY-FREE WEEKENDS!

At Sam Rosen Elementary School in Fort Worth, social worker Jackie Fritzel is affectionately known as “The Food Lady.”

It’s not because she works in the cafeteria or sells snacks in the hallways. Ever since Jackie became involved with Tarrant Area Food Bank’s BackPacks for Kids program at Sam Rosen, she’s become a symbol of hope for the 136 chronically hungry students who receive backpacks full of nutritious and kid-friendly food on Fridays.

Jackie says most of these children come from large families and usually have three to five other siblings who need food, too. For these families, BackPacks for Kids is a lifeline.

She shares the story of one family in the community who has been especially impacted by the program. Two adult sisters and their respective families live with their elderly mother in a small house – 14 people in total, including nine children. There is hardly ever enough food at home for everyone, so the kids all make sure to take home their backpacks of food every Friday so they’ll have enough to eat over the weekends.

“It makes a big difference,” Jackie says. “They love getting their food!”

Jackie stresses the importance of the nutritional value of the food the children receive. Because these kids are at critical stages of development, it’s important for them to fill up on healthy snacks like fruit cups and peanut butter instead of junk food – especially because most of them don’t have access to these wholesome foods at home.

“Having a healthy diet is so important,” says Jackie. “These backpacks have specific foods that have nutritional value.”

Your gifts to the Food Bank ensure that the students of Sam Rosen Elementary and 13 other schools across North Central Texas have enough to eat over the weekends.

“I hope you realize how much this benefits the kids,” says Jackie. “Thank you so much. It really is appreciated!”

“I hope you realize how much this benefits the kids!”



Your Gifts are Lifting Spirits this Fall



Now that school days are here again, your generosity will help provide backpacks of nutritious food for hungry kids through the BackPacks for Kids program. Your gifts also provide hot meals for senior citizens and groceries for families and individuals in need. Thank you!



Your gifts mean filling meals for hungry seniors

You provide backpacks of weekend food for children in need

Hungry children are all smiles because of you

Families in need have nutritious groceries thanks to you

North Central Texans in need are so grateful for the help you provide

THANK YOU!

TXU Energy



Thank you to employees of TXU Energy for partnering with the Food Bank as part of their company-wide volunteer effort, "Energy in Action." TXU employees helped pack nearly 60 cases of food, donated more than 2,000 canned food items and presented the Food Bank with a check for \$12,500 to help fight summer hunger! Thank you, TXU!

Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital

A huge thank you to Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital for raising more than \$30,000 and 230 backpacks for BackPacks for Kids!

Pier 1 Imports

Thanks go out to Pier 1 Imports for raising more than \$8,600 and 145 pounds of peanut butter to help feed hungry children and families through their recent food drive!

¡Adiós, Hunger!

Thank you to everyone who participated in our last ¡Adiós, Hunger! event, presented by Albertsons. We are grateful to all who have helped support this event over the past 10 years – your generosity has provided 2,500,000 meals for North Central Texans in need!

Stamp Out Hunger

Thanks to all who participated in the 14th annual National Association of Letter Carriers Stamp Out Hunger Food Drive on May 12. We are so grateful to each household who donated food, all letter carriers and United States Postal Service drivers, as well as Coca-Cola and Coors, who helped deliver the donations. Thank you!

Mrs Baird's "Pass the Bread"

Mrs Baird's recently kicked off its "Pass the Bread" program, distributing 500,000 loaves of bread to regional food banks across the southern United States. Tarrant Area Food Bank was the kick-off site for the program. Thank you, Mrs Baird's!

SAVE THE DATE!

Chili Pepper Magazine's Zest Fest

September 5-7

Mark your calendars now for Chili Pepper Magazine's Zest Fest at Will Rogers Memorial Center, September 5-7.

Canstruction®

October 12-18

Don't miss this year's Canstruction®, where canned food items become art in the form of life-size sculptures created by local design, engineering and architecture firms. Sculptures will be on display at Northeast Mall from October 12 through 18. Come out and vote for your favorite!

Kick the Can

November 7

A longstanding Tarrant Area Food Bank tradition, Kick the Can is back for another year on November 7 – don't miss out on the fun! Meet us downtown at Sundance Square to kick hunger out of North Central Texas.

Thank you to the following groups for donating their time and talent to help fight hunger:

American Airlines
Azle Senior Center
Best Buy
Burlington Northern Sante Fe
Christ Church
Community Link Mission
Cowntown Corvette Club
Deloitte LLP
Desk and Derrick Club
Eastern Hills High School
Fellowship Church
Fidelity Investments
First Presbyterian Church Youth Group
First United Methodist Church of Granbury
Fort Worth Mom's Club
Fort Worth Paralegal Association
Genesis United Methodist Church
Haven of Rest
Hunter Plaza
International Newcomers Academy
JC Penney Department Stores
Kennedale Senior Center
KPMG
Lifegate Church
Lockheed Martin
Lutheran Campus Ministry
Marian Ft. Worth
Medical Clinic of North Texas
New Mount Calvary Baptist Church
North Fort Worth Baptist Church
Optimist International, Zone 6
PriceWaterhouseCoopers
Sabre
South Fort Worth Rotary Club
South Haltom Senior Center
Southwest Christian Church
Tarrant Area Food Bank Board and Staff
Tarrant County Employees
TCU Business Students
TCU Preceptors
Texas Health Resources
Tom Thumb
Travelocity
Trimble Technical High School
TXU Energy
University Christian Church
Upward Bound Student Group
Wedgewood Academy
Western Hills Baptist Church
Westminster Presbyterian Church
Westside Unitarian Universalist Youth Group
White Settlement Seniors

If you or a group you're a part of would like to know more about how you can serve the community through Tarrant Area Food Bank, please contact JoAnn Biggers at (817) 332-9177, x109 or joann.biggers@tafb.org.

HARDWORKING STUDENTS MAKE SERVICE A PRIORITY



Iram Ledezma



Mildred Dominguez

Mildred Dominguez figured volunteering at Tarrant Area Food Bank would be just like any other service project. But this past spring, she and her classmates from Riverside Middle School in Fort Worth learned a unique lesson about putting “service above self” – a lesson that Mildred says she’ll carry with her for the rest of her life.

As a part of the Rotary Club of Fort Worth’s STARS (Service Through Active Rotarians and Students) program, the students spent an entire day learning about the work of Tarrant Area Food Bank and packing boxes of food for those in need. Mildred says she never realized how many families just like hers go without enough to eat every day.

“There are so many things that we take for granted,” she says. “When someone is whining about the food they ordered at McDonald’s, someone else is going to sleep with an empty stomach.”

Mildred’s classmate, Iram Ledezma, says the experience not only helped him learn about the need in his community, but also taught him about the importance of giving back.

“I experienced the joy of helping others, even if it was for a short time,” he says. “I felt good about myself that day. I think everyone should have days like that.”

Iram says young people can have a huge impact in helping those in need if they choose to put their minds to it.

“If kids right now were to start volunteering, the future would be better,” he says.

Mildred says her experience at the Food Bank helped to shift her focus from thinking of herself to thinking of others, and she hopes this will be a lifelong change.

“I am very happy that I got to help make this happen for those families out there,” she says. “I know this is going to lead me to be a better person for the rest of my life.”

We are so thankful for the hardworking students of Riverside Middle School, as well as the many other dedicated volunteers and community leaders who help make our work possible.

Memorials and In Honor Of Gifts

A gift to Tarrant Area Food Bank in memory of or in honor of a loved one is such a meaningful way to pay tribute to that person and at the same time provide nourishment to people in need right here in our community. Thank you to those who have made contributions in this way.

IN MEMORY OF:

Peggy Burnett

*Mr. and Mrs. Gerald
Boyd*

*Mr. and Mrs. Bruce
Hatch*

*Mr. and Mrs. William
Howard*

Rev. Scott Sharman

Jim Beebe

Mr. Edward Pieksen

Hal Brown

*Mr. and Mrs. Martin
Miller-Hessel*

Herman L. Brown

Ms. Teddy Brown

Harold Calhaun

*Mr. and Mrs. Robert
Cartwright*

Mrs. Martha Clark

*Mr. and Mrs. Steve
Munday*

James S. (Bill) Cook

*Mr. and Mrs. Mike
Vineyard*

Charlie Dixon

*Mr. and Mrs. Michael
Dixon*

Imagene Fawcett

*Mr. and Mrs. Van
Burroughs*

William Ford

Mrs. Wilson Vaughan

Mrs. Norma R. Hootman

Mr. Gene James

Lena Huse

Ms. Martha Wilson

Elizabeth Kapsos

Dr. Joseph Kapsos

Mrs. Velma King

*Mr. and Mrs. Rodger
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Mrs. Gloria Underwood

Teresa Wallace

*Mr. and Mrs. Donald
Watson*

Thomas Walsh

*Mr. and Mrs. William
O'Leary*

Ms. Denise Zink

Your Mom and Dad

IN HONOR OF GIFTS:

Stephen Cumbie's

Wedding

Ms. Elizabeth Alexander

Garry and Andrea Barresi's

Marriage

Mr. Tommy Gore

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest

Clemons

*Ms. Rita Cooper,
Transystems Corps.*

Selma Corbin's Birthday

Ms. Barbara Weinberg

David Eisenman

Mr. Hortense Deifik

Price H. Harris

Mr. Lee Harris

Mrs. Donna Housey

Mr. Don Rogers

Mrs. Isabel Miranda's 60th
Birthday

*Mr. and Mrs. Harold
Cooper*

Linda Reed's Retirement

*Mr. and Mrs. Carl
Scherrieb*

Jere Robertson

Ms. Jane Monell

Bruce Springsteen and the

E Street Band

*Mr. and Mrs. Mary
Gladstone*

Stewart Title

*Ms. Michelle Henri,
CRRG, Inc.*

Gayland W. Taylor

Mr. Gayland Taylor

Mr. and Mrs. Campbell F.

Thomasson

*Mr. James Schwartz and
Ms. Sherry Schwartz*

Unknown Soldier's Tomb

Ms. Mary Hanna

Melissa and Hoyt West's

50th Anniversary

*Mr. and Mrs. Daniel
Luby*

Maddi Williams' 8th

Birthday

*Mr. and Mrs. Brent
Williams*

Thanks to the following groups for volunteering to host a food drive:

99 Cent Store

Alcon

American Airlines

American Eagle Airlines

American Legion Post 6262 Ladies Auxiliary

AmeriCredit

AT&T Pioneers Trinity Club

Benbrook Antique Mall

Bennigan's Restaurant

Best Buy

City of Euless

Computer Science Corporation

Dunbar High School

Girl Scouts

Harris Methodist Fort Worth Hospital

Heritage Elementary-Keller ISD

House of Hot Rods

J3

Kindred Hospital

La Petite Academy

Macy's

Medical Clinic of North Texas

Montessori Children's House

Office Depot BSD

Pier 1 Imports

Society of St. Vincent De Paul

St. Andrews Society

St. Demetrius Greek Orthodox Church

Stars & Stripes Door Service

State National Co.

Tarrant County Sherriff Department

Tarrant County Bar Association

TCC SE Campus Student Dietetic

Organization

TCU Hunger Week Campaign

TCU Student Nutrition & Dietetic Association

Texas Health Resources

Trinity High School

TXU Energy



If you would like to give a Memorial or a gift in honor of a loved one, please send it to Tarrant Area Food Bank, 2600 Cullen Street, Fort Worth, Texas 76107. Please indicate whether it is a Memorial or In Honor Of gift and include the name of your loved one and an address where we may send an acknowledgement of your gift.

Kids are Full and Focused

THANKS TO YOU

At Fortress Literacy Center in Fort Worth, children spend most of their time working on improving their reading comprehension or finishing homework from school. But as many of them know all too well, these important tasks are nearly impossible to complete on an empty stomach.

Fortress Literacy Center, a partner agency of Tarrant Area Food Bank, runs an after-school program for children in kindergarten through 2nd grade Monday through Thursday and every other Friday. Children receive a healthy snack each day.

Director of Programs Dr. Kristen Guillory says that 98 percent of the children they serve come from low-income families, many with only one parent at home and several siblings. Most of the children depend on the free and reduced-price school meal program, so she knows they don't always have access to nutritious food at home.

Kristen says the healthy snacks are a lifeline for the children she serves. Not only is it crucial for them to eat nutritious food to aid in growth and development, but they need fuel to help keep them focused on school work.

"When the kids are hungry, they can't focus," she says.

Kristen also says the food they receive helps instill positive characteristics like confidence, leadership and sharing. The kids are always eager to help each other and the staff during snack time.

It's your generosity and compassion that enables agencies like Fortress Literacy Center to provide children

in need with the fuel to learn and grow. You're making such a difference in the lives of hungry children!

"A HUGE thank you!" says Kristen. "Your donations are extremely significant. Thank you for realizing the importance of giving back and giving to these kids!"

"Thank you for realizing the importance of giving back and giving to these kids!"



2600 Cullen Street
Fort Worth, TX 76107
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