

Fighting Hunger.  
**FEEDING HOPE!**



East  
Texas  
Food  
Bank

**Annual Report FY2014**



# East Texas Food Bank

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"The smallest things can mean the most. Even a little bit helps."

- Dachel (Tyler, TX)



"I'm so grateful to those that help. This truly is a blessing."

- David (Palestine, TX)



# From the Chief Executive Officer

Dear Partners and Friends,

Together, we are Fighting Hunger and Feeding Hope in East Texas. In FY2014, the East Texas Food Bank concluded the first full year of our 2014-2016 strategic plan and distributed 20.2 million meals to our hungry neighbors, which is a 17% increase over last year and an all-time record for us.

We are certainly proud of this amazing increase in volume, but even more fulfilled in knowing that many of those additional meals reached our most underserved communities. The need for emergency and supplemental meals across our 26-county service area is among the highest in the nation, as well as in our great state of Texas. We have been blessed by strong food distribution partnerships in our population centers of Tyler, Longview, Lufkin and Texarkana, which are continuing to expand their work in those communities. However, our most notable progress has been made in our rural communities where our Senior Box and Mobile Pantry programs provide emergency support, while we work to establish new permanent partner agencies in these underserved areas. **This is Fighting Hunger.**



The East Texas Food Bank recognizes that hunger is not solved solely by distributing food. It is not only important to feed those in line, but also shorten those lines by attacking the underlying causes of hunger and poverty, such as lack of education, underemployment and other economic factors. That is why we operate nutrition education, outreach programs, and also collaborate with other private and public organizations that serve low-income East Texans. This is difficult and long-term work, but it is an important part of fulfilling our mission. **This is Feeding Hope.**

We believe that a Hunger Free East Texas can be best accomplished through grass roots efforts. We are here to support that through our I'M YOUNified Against Hunger campaign, through which individuals and teams can use social media to engage their communities in the fight against hunger. Through our digital initiatives, the East Texas Food Bank community has been building the reputation as a leader in social media.

Every day I witness miracles that are manifest through the kindness in this community. We have so many blessings for which to be truly grateful for. Most of all we are thankful for our partners and donors who make the work of the East Texas Food Bank possible.

With Gratitude,

Dennis J. Cullinane  
Chief Executive Officer

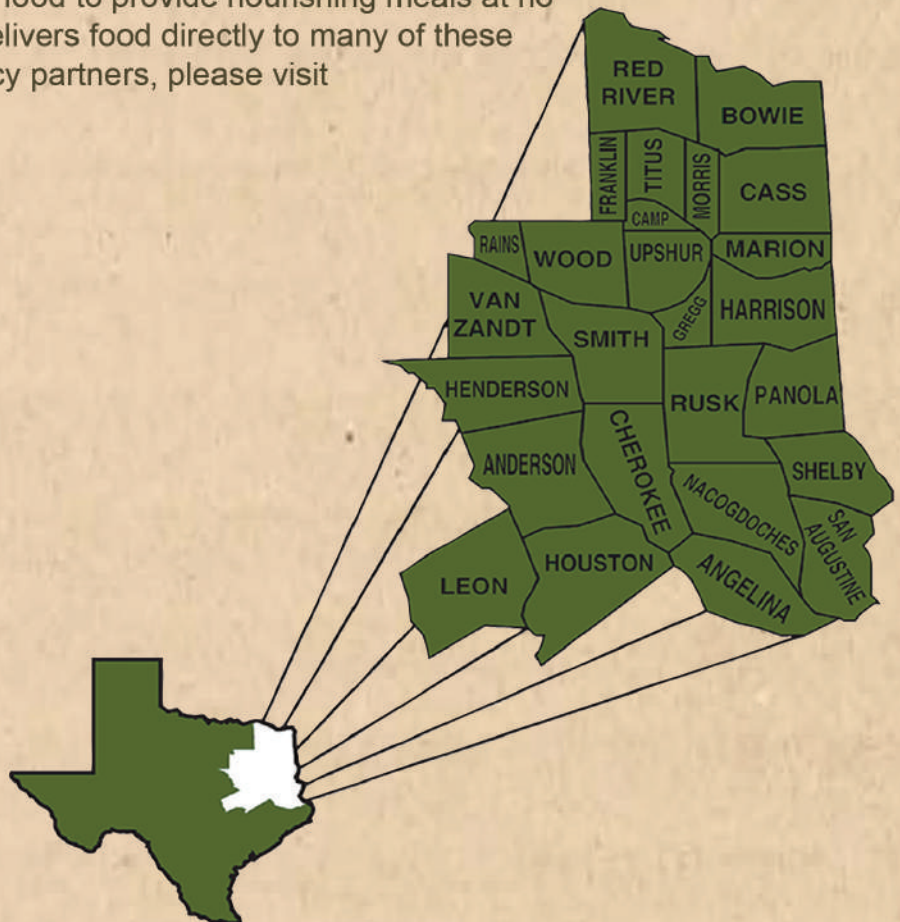


# Who We Are...



The East Texas Food Bank has been feeding the hungry in East Texas since 1988. Headquartered in Tyler, the East Texas Food Bank collects donated and purchased food, which is stored in our 75,900 square-foot facility. We distribute this food to more than 200 partner agencies, located throughout a 26-county service area, and spanning nearly 20,000 square miles - from Lufkin to Texarkana, and from Athens to the Louisiana border. These food pantries, soup kitchens, emergency shelters, and other nonprofit groups then use this food to provide nourishing meals at no cost to the needy. Our truck fleet delivers food directly to many of these agencies. For a full list of our agency partners, please visit [EastTexasFoodBank.org](http://EastTexasFoodBank.org).

The East Texas Food Bank also operates programs that provide healthy meals to low-income children and seniors; presents classes teaching healthy eating and food budgeting; and helps eligible individuals sign up for nutrition programs, such as SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program). The East Texas Food Bank works with larger networks of hunger relief agencies through our memberships with **Feeding America** (the nation's food bank network) and **Feeding Texas**.





# Who We Help...



*"Thank you for giving us what we need - it's a big help," said Agueda.*

Meet Larry and Dixie. Married over 50 years, they have now retired to East Texas. "We loved to travel to all the area lakes in Texas," said Larry. "It was something we did for 15 years." Unfortunately, Larry entered into a bad business deal that put his entire retirement fund in jeopardy. "We were able to keep our home, but we had very little money left to enjoy extra things," Dixie said. "All we have now is our social security and a small amount of food stamps each month."

That's when they turned to an East Texas Food Bank partner agency for food assistance.

"We are so thankful for the food pantries here," said Larry. "The nutritious food we get each month helps us so much."

Knowing they can get help reminds Dixie how "God is at work through others."

The East Texas Food Bank provides emergency food assistance to an estimated 253,000 people each year. We would like for you to meet a few of them who graciously agreed to share their stories.

Meet Agueda and her son Nathaniel. Nathaniel loves to go to the park during the summer to play baseball with his friends. Agueda and her husband work seasonal jobs, and they are still trying to catch up on expenses from the winter when work was especially slow. "It's really hard to keep the pantry full," Agueda said. That's why she visits an East Texas Food Bank partner agency each month.

Agueda's kids also enjoy having meals at the park during the summer, thanks to the Summer Food Program. "Thank you for giving us what we need - it's a big help," said Agueda.



*"The nutritious food we get each month helps us so much," said Larry.*



# How We Help...

Every year, the East Texas Food Bank provides millions of meals through our network of partner agencies, and through our anti-hunger programs. Some highlights from our work in FY2014 include:



**Partner Agencies:** Our network of partner agencies are an integral part of our work, serving as the primary link between food and people. The East Texas Food Bank's partner agencies helped in providing 20.2 million meals to East Texans throughout our 26-county service area.

**Fresh Produce Program:** The East Texas Food Bank distributes fresh fruits and vegetables to low-income families. Since the program started it has grown from 700,000 pounds a year to nearly 7 million pounds.

**East Texas Food Bank Gardens:** The East Texas Food Bank partners with the Smith County Sheriff's Office, the Smith County Agricultural Extension Office, and the Flint Baptist Church to operate two gardens on a combined ten acres of land. In FY2014, the gardens produced more than 55,000 pounds of high-quality fresh produce.



**BackPack Program:** This program provides nutritious meals to low-income children who participate in school meal programs, but face hunger on the weekends. During the 2013-2014 school year we served nearly 4,500 children, distributing more than 143,000 backpacks.

**Kids Cafe:** This program serves nutritious meals and snacks to at-risk children during afterschool hours. During the 2013-2014 school year, we provided more than 38,000 meals and nearly 120,000 snacks to needy children.

**Summer Food Program:** Many children who participate in school breakfast and lunch programs are at-risk of going hungry during the summer. This program serves free breakfasts and lunches to children in low-income neighborhoods. In summer 2014, we served over 140,000 meals at over 60 program sites across East Texas.





# How We Help cont'd...



**Senior Servings™** : This is a proud partnership between the East Texas Food Bank and senior meal programs such as Meals on Wheels Ministries of Tyler. Some senior citizens who receive meal assistance during the week through Meals on Wheels also need help to avoid going hungry on the weekends. Senior Servings™ provided nutritious, easy-to-prepare foods to approximately 230 seniors across three East Texas counties.

**Senior Box Program:** Improving the health and nutrition of senior citizens is the goal of this program. The East Texas Food Bank provided a box of nutritious food to more than 2,000 seniors each month in FY2014. Many of these seniors live in isolated, rural communities.



**Mobile Pantry:** The East Texas Food Bank directly distributes food to clients in communities where the need is high and a partner agency does not currently exist. In FY2014, the Mobile Pantry Program served approximately 760 families in seven rural communities.

**Nutrition Education:** Helping individuals make healthier, more economical food choices is a priority for the East Texas Food Bank. Our nutritionist provides nutrition classes that teach low-income individuals the basics of food budgeting and good eating habits.



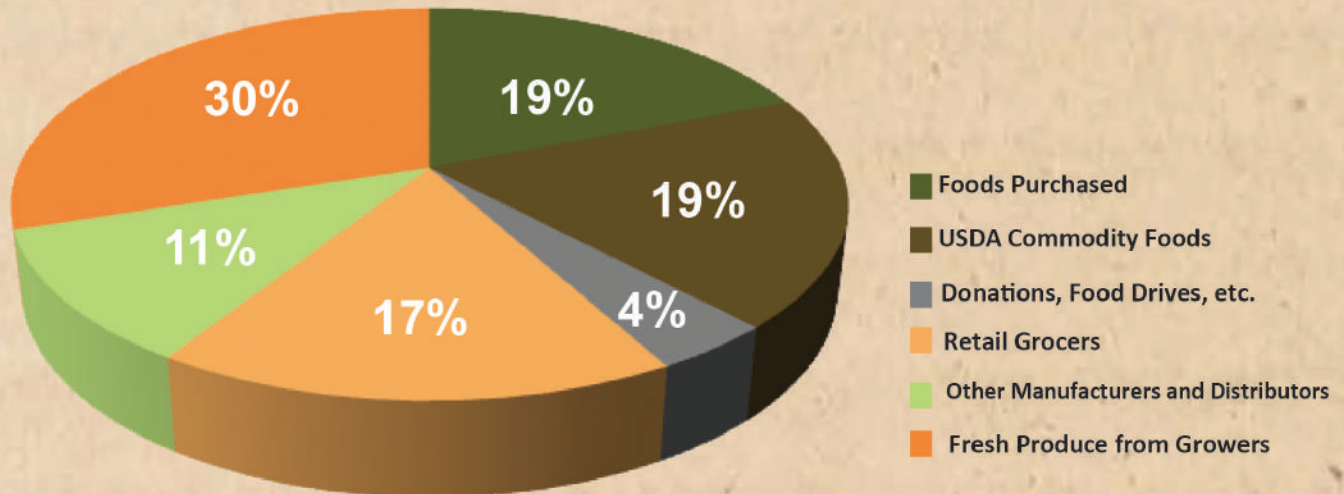
**Outreach Program:** To fight hunger, we encourage our clients to use all resources available to them, such as federal and state nutrition programs, especially the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Through our Outreach Program, we helped more than 2,300 individuals submit SNAP applications in FY2014.



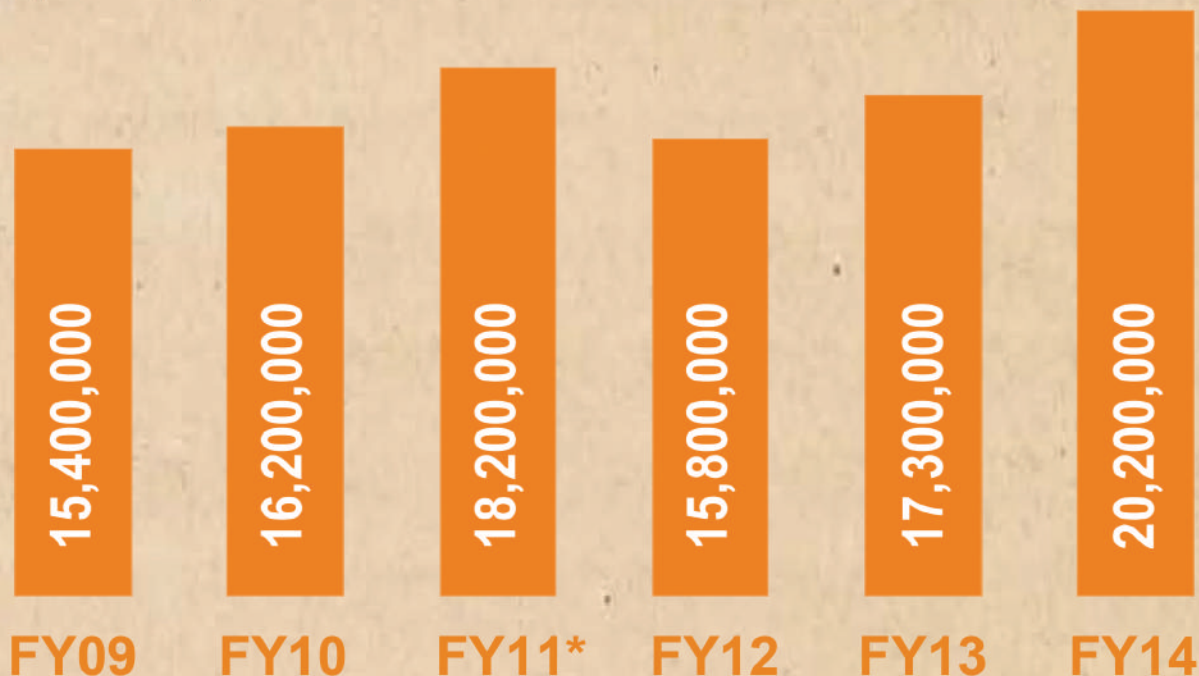
# Where the Food comes from...

The East Texas Food Bank strives to provide a diverse selection of wholesome, nutritious foods. We source this food from many channels including private donations from local and national manufactures; distributors and grocers; government programs such as USDA surplus commodities; donations from farmers; low-price bulk purchases, negotiated with individual companies; and food drives.

## FY2014 Sources of Food



## Meals Provided...



\*In 2010, the East Texas Food Bank participated in a one year program, Summer Family Nutrition Program, which provided an additional 1.8 million meals.



# THE FOOD BANK CHAIN:

## Your gift is a crucial link!



### Step 1:

Food and groceries are donated by growers, packers, manufacturers, distributors, wholesalers, restaurants and others.

### Step 2:

Our generous donors provide much of the financial support we need to collect, store and distribute the food.

### Step 3:

The East Texas Food Bank distributes food and groceries to over 200 community and faith-based nonprofit organizations, kids' programs, senior citizen centers, food pantries and soup kitchens.

### Step 4:

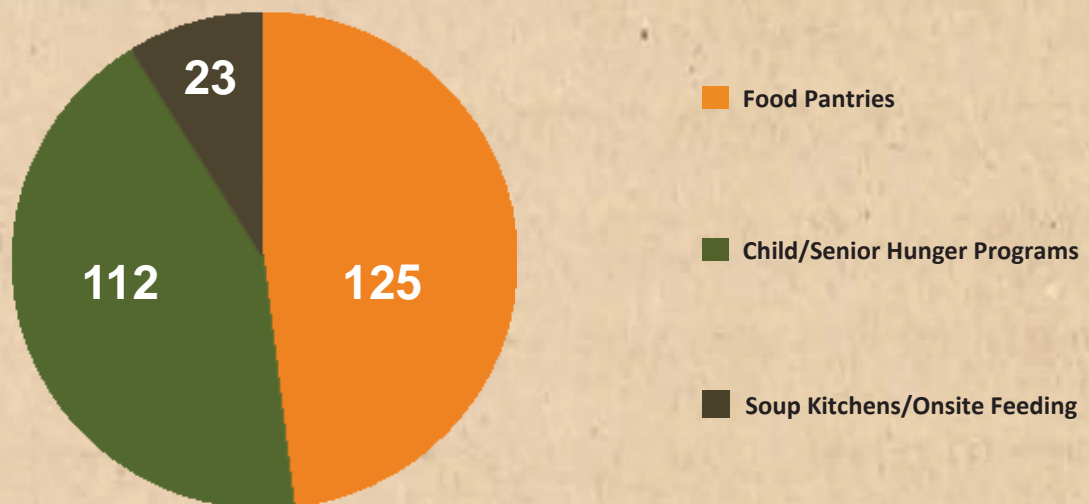
Partner agencies distribute food to hungry children, adults and seniors.



## Where the Food goes...

The East Texas Food Bank partners with various non-profit organizations to ensure that East Texans have the food they need. In FY2014, we worked with 125 food pantries and 23 soup kitchens or onsite feeding programs. We also partnered with 112 after school programs, school districts, churches and civic organizations to ensure children and seniors receive nutritious foods when other programs are not available.

### Partner Agencies





# Where our Food & Funding comes from...

## Support and Revenues

### Support:

Donated food and commodities	\$ 20,901,962
USDA commodities	2,227,964
Contributions	<u>3,124,086</u>
Total support	\$ 26,254,012

### Revenues:

Shared maintenance	\$ 1,009,600
Purchased food recovery	2,347,584
Federal grant revenues	1,486,039
Interest income	548
Freight recovery	18,390
Leased storage recovery	52,653
Other	<u>29,529</u>
Total revenues	<u>4,943,795</u>
Total support & revenue	\$ 31,197,807

# How our Food & Funds are used...

## Expenses

### Programs and services:

Warehouse	\$ 2,237,598
Food distribution	26,769,693
Programs	1,477,351
Communications and marketing	442,799
Support services	441,957
Fundraising	830,182
Total expenses	\$ 32,199,580

Change in net assets \$ (704,361)

Net assets at end of period \$ 13,297,349

\*Financials are as of FY2014 ending June 30, 2014



**95 cents of every \$1 goes to programs and services.**



# How Volunteers Help...

The East Texas Food Bank depends on volunteers to help distribute food to those in need. Our faithful volunteers help in our office and in our warehouse sorting donated foods, packing food boxes, repacking rice and beans and many other tasks. During FY2014, we had nearly 10,000 volunteers donate more than 57,000 hours at a value of over \$1,261,980. (\$22.14/hour per Independent Sector).



## How You Can Help ...

### Give Money



For every \$1 donated, the East Texas Food Bank can provide up to 8 meals. We rely on gifts from individuals, corporations, foundations, organizations and others in East Texas and nationwide. There are many opportunities to give financially such as: automatic monthly gifts, honorariums and memorials, corporate gifts, matching gifts and planned giving. No gift is too small to make a difference in the lives of those in need.

### Give Food



Organize a food drive at your church, school, civic group or neighborhood to help and provide non-perishable items like tuna, pasta and peanut butter that families especially need.

### Give Time



We welcome all volunteers, from individuals to large groups, and we have a project to fit your needs. You can pack backpacks, repackage rice or beans, inspect donated food or help with a variety of other tasks which will help those who are in need.



# I'M YOUnified AGAINST HUNGER

**AreYOUnified.org**

The I'M YOUnified Against Hunger campaign is a grassroots effort to fight hunger in East Texas. It's a way for individuals to come together using social media to become the local solution to hunger. The movement highlights actual needs by county and operates with local teams in that area. The goal is to bring us all closer to a hunger-free East Texas.

The East Texas Food Bank has developed an interactive website, **AreYOUnified.org**, where you can see the level of need in your county. I'M YOUnified Against hunger allows East Texans to create their own teams to help raise awareness about hunger as well as host food drives, raise money and volunteer their time. Sign up today to make a difference.



COUNTY	STATUS	MEALS
Anderson	Critical	702,114
Angelina	At-Risk	2,114,443
Bowie	Critical	2,209,053
Camp	At-Risk	218,442
Cass	At-Risk	650,174
Cherokee	Critical	882,673
Franklin	Critical	147,000
Gregg	Critical	1,724,226
Harrison	Critical	905,814
Henderson	At-Risk	1,269,097
Houston	Critical	491,609
Leon	At-Risk	260,316
Marion	Critical	187,824
Morris	At-Risk	341,087
Nacogdoches	Critical	1,129,212
Panola	Critical	304,290
Rains	At-Risk	232,725
Red River	At-Risk	791,225
Rusk	Critical	642,054
San Augustine	At-Risk	251,888
Shelby	Critical	476,742
Smith	At-Risk	3,556,408
Titus	Critical	544,026
Upshur	Critical	534,996
Van Zandt	Critical	693,630
Wood	Critical	526,008

*\*Note: Map reflects county status as of July 2014.*



**EastTexasFoodBank.org**

**1.800.815.3663**

Printing generously donated.