

# NEWS RELEASE



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## ETFB receives \$51,700 grant from Walmart Foundation *Supports SNAP Education and Outreach*

(Tyler, Texas) July 17, 2017 – The East Texas Food Bank today announced it has been awarded a \$51,700 grant from the Walmart Foundation to help fight hunger in East Texas through Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) education and outreach. SNAP is the largest federal assistance program working to fight hunger in America. More than 70% of SNAP benefits go to households with children. Yet, 17 percent of Americans eligible for SNAP currently do not receive this benefit. Only 41 percent of eligible seniors are enrolled.

With this grant, the ETFB hopes to scale access to SNAP among eligible households, with particular emphasis on reaching seniors, families with children, and other vulnerable populations. The funding will be used to help the East Texas Food Bank’s partner agency network provide SNAP application assistance

“No one should worry about where they will find their next meal,” said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank. “Every day, the ETFB helps to provide food to the more than 253,000 families who struggle with hunger in East Texas. But we can’t end hunger alone. Programs like SNAP help to fill a critical gap for people in need.”

SNAP provides more than nutrition assistance; it helps improve families’ overall well-being. With lower grocery bills, people are better able to pay for other basic necessities—rent or mortgages, medical expenses, utilities and transportation. According to the USDA’s Economic Research Service Report, SNAP is critical to moving families into long-term food security.

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation provide donations of both food and funds to the Feeding America nationwide network of 200 food banks. Locally, Walmart provides funding and support for the East Texas Food Bank through a variety of ways such as local store community grants, participation in campaigns such as the “Fight Hunger. Spark Change,” and by participating in our Retail Store Program that provides donated foods directly to partner agencies in their communities. The Walmart Foundation has also provided state level giving for our Mobile Pantry Program which delivers truckloads of nutritious foods to individuals in rural communities who have no access to a food pantry.

### **About East Texas Food Bank**

The East Texas Food Bank provided more than 21 million meals each year to 200 partner agencies in 26 East Texas counties. Our vision is for a hunger-free East Texas and our mission is to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas. The East Texas Food Bank is a member of Feeding America and Feeding Texas. To learn more, please visit [EastTexasFoodBank.org](http://EastTexasFoodBank.org). Find us on Facebook at [facebook.com/etfoodbank](https://facebook.com/etfoodbank) or follow our news on Twitter at [twitter.com/etfoodbank](https://twitter.com/etfoodbank)