

NEWS RELEASE



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High School Students Compete to Feed Hungry *27th Annual Pantry Raid between Robert E. Lee and John Tyler High Schools*

(Tyler, Texas) November 7, 2017 – The 27th annual Pantry Raid competition between Robert E. Lee and John Tyler High School students has kicked off. The students at both Tyler ISD high schools have a friendly competition each year to help feed hungry East Texans. Students are asking the community for their help by donating non-perishable food items or funds at the school of their choice. The food and funds the students collect will benefit hungry East Texans who turn to the East Texas Food Bank's partnering food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens for help. The school that collects the most amount of food will earn bragging rights and proudly display the traveling trophy at their school for the year.

"The Pantry Raid is a great way to spark friendly competition in the city while helping to give back to those in our community who need it most," said Robert E. Lee Student Council President Luke Bryans.

"We are happy that both schools are raising awareness for the fight against hunger," added John Tyler Student Council President Bri Chris. "And, we hope to beat Lee!"

Over the last 26 years, students have collected over 1,233,332 pounds of food combined, providing over 1,027,777 additional meals to children, families and seniors that the East Texas Food Bank serves.

"The Pantry Raid has become one of the most significant hunger relief efforts in our community," said Dennis Cullinane, CEO of the East Texas Food Bank. "This event is creating a legacy of giving for our young citizens. We are truly grateful to the students for their incredible energy in producing these impressive food and cash contributions towards the fight against hunger in East Texas."

Donations of non-perishable canned food items will be accepted at both high schools through Friday, November 10th. You can also support either school by making a financial donation online at www.EastTexasFoodBank.org/PantryRaid. The Pantry Raid results will be announced during halftime at the Robert E. Lee and John Tyler football game on Friday, November 10th.

Please contact the Tyler ISD Office of Communications at 903.262.1064 to make arrangements regarding Pantry Raid. Media photo and video opportunities will be available on Friday, November 10th at 10:00 am at Robert E. Lee High School and 11:00 am at John Tyler High School.

About East Texas Food Bank

The East Texas Food Bank provides more than 22 million meals each year to 200 partnering food pantries, shelters, and soup kitchens 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 the Feeding Texas. To learn more, please visit EastTexasFoodBank.org. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/etfoodbank or follow our news on Twitter at twitter.com/etfoodbank.

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