



# ANNUAL REPORT 2024



**EAST  
TEXAS  
FOOD  
BANK**



# WHO WE ARE AND WHERE WE SERVE

## OUR MISSION

The East Texas Food Bank exists to fight hunger and feed hope in East Texas.

## OUR VISION

The East Texas Food Bank's vision is a hunger-free East Texas.

## OUR STORY

Established in 1988 by a group of Tyler community leaders, The East Texas Food Bank covers 26 Northeast Texas counties. ETFB provides over 31 million meals each year to 200 partner agencies and feeding programs.



# FROM THE CEO

Dear Partners and Friends,

Each week, I am inspired by the neighbors we serve across 26 counties in East Texas. Their journeys have not been easy. Many will tell you of hardship and heartache of trying to survive in a difficult economy. However, the one thing they have in common is HOPE. That is what our mission statement says we do. We fight hunger and feed hope. That is what keeps our team energized each day; realizing we are making a difference in the number of people who are food insecure.

This year, we opened three new resource centers in Longview, Tyler and Texarkana to join our center that opened in Lufkin in 2021. East Texans are able to access healthy food they select and receive information on other resources such as applying for benefits. One stylist for example offers free haircuts in Longview. In Tyler, we have offered financial literacy training from a local bank, which our neighbors greatly appreciate.

ETFB opened new mobile pantries in Gilmer, Grand Saline, Jacksonville, Nacogdoches, and Seven Points. People enjoy receiving fresh produce at our 29 mobile pantries.

I am humbled by how generous East Texas individuals, businesses, and foundations are with their financial support. We could not do what we do without you. Our new signature event, Empty Bowls Tyler was such a great success we are adding an Empty Bowls Longview. We appreciate your continued investment in the lives of East Texans.

I continue to be thrilled with how many East Texans volunteer at ETFB. Over 11,000 volunteers contributed 34,000 hours by packing boxes, sorting through food donations, shopping with neighbors, and helping mobile pantries.

Recently my toddler grandson asked his mom, "Where's Pops?" She explained to him I was at work. He then responded, "Pops helps people." WOW! I had a tear in my eye and lump in my throat as she told me that story. What I took from this, people know we help people. Staff members, board members, volunteers and donors help those in need. We do not do it for recognition. So thank you for helping our neighbors. It is truly a privilege and an honor to get to do what we do!

Sincerely,



**David Emerson**  
Chief Executive Officer





# WHY WE SERVE

Food insecurity is a systemic issue that can happen to anyone and is not a personal failure, according to research from Feeding America.

People facing hunger struggle with high living costs, expensive housing, unemployment, and low-wage jobs.



## HUNGER

44 million Americans are food insecure

***“We can solve chronic hunger in this country.”***

Claire Babineaux-Fontenot,  
CEO of Feeding America

## HEALTH

Average rate of diabetes in our 26 East Texas counties is 13.6% of the population while the rate of obesity is 36.6%.

14 million pounds of produce distributed in East Texas in FY 2024.

***“Eating a healthy diet reduces your risk of diabetes, heart disease and obesity.”***

Kinsey Thompson,  
ETFB Nutrition Education Manager



## RESPECT

***“The people that work here are all so cheerful, awesome, you pull in, they don’t make you feel bad for having to come here to get food, make you feel amazing on the inside. My heart is full of glory when I leave here.”***

Dru,  
Tyler Resource Center neighbor



**EAST TEXANS**  
are facing hunger



**CHILDREN**

## 2022 Meal Gap Data

**4.9 million** Texans are food insecure  
**16.4%** food insecurity rate

**217,260** East Texans are food insecure  
**16.9 %** food insecurity rate

**1.7 million** Texas children are food insecure  
**22.8%** food insecurity rate

**78,620** East Texas children are food insecure  
**26.1%** food insecurity rate



“ This year’s study confirms what we hear from people facing hunger: higher food prices are making hunger in America worse. ”

Kim Morris  
East Texas Food Bank Chief Impact Officer



# WHY WE SERVE

## *Food Pantry Partners*

ETFB partners with food pantries, throughout our 26 county service area, to distribute food to those in need. ETFB's ability to provide millions of meals is made possible by these incredible organizations.

**131**  
Partners

**72,597**  
Households  
Served

**18**  
Million  
Meals

**“We are thankful to have a partnership with the ETFB which allows us to serve many more of our neighbors with healthy, quality food than would be possible on our own. The team at the ETFB cares about the people they serve.”**

Brian Clark  
Food Pantry Coordinator  
St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Flint



# HOW WE SERVE

## *Programs*

Mobile Pantry

**16,000 households served**

**3.3 million pounds of produce**



Multiple programs target segments of our communities with a high percentage of East Texas seniors, children and families who might lack regular access to nutritious food.



Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program

**1,961 applications**

**1.9 million meals**



Children's Programs

**542,643 meals - Backpack Program**

**52,420 meals - Summer Feeding Program**

**165,320 meals - After School Meals & Snacks Program**



# HOW WE SERVE

## *Deep East Texas Resource Center*

Opened May 2021

Linda of Lufkin has \$895 each month in social security benefits to pay all of her bills including rent, electricity, phone, food and more. The 79-year-old great-grandmother is now retired from working a variety of jobs. She is an excellent cook and can make a meal out of any item she receives from the Deep East Texas Resource Center.

**1,544,046 meals**  
**5,228 households served**

**105 Lofton St.  
Lufkin, TX  
DETRC.org**

**“I make juice from the cherries, I make soup out of the vegetables such as the cabbage, and I bake casseroles,” said Linda. “I would go hungry without the East Texas Food Bank.”**



# Longview Resource Center

Opened October 2023

Alex, 85, enjoys supplementing his weekly groceries with fresh produce and other nutritious food like hazelnuts at the Longview Resource Center (LRC). Alex is retired and a widower. He learned to take care of himself after his wife of 43 years, Betty, was murdered at work during a bank robbery.

The LRC is located in a low-income neighborhood where 31% of the population lives below the poverty line. The center provides nutritious food through a neighbor-choice distribution model, which allows people like Alex to choose food that is best for them.

"I used to be able to give donations to ETFB, but never thought I would need your services," added Alex.

1,229,302 meals  
6,576 households served

2900 Signal  
Hill Dr.  
Longview, TX  
LRCpantry.org

**"Prices are really high at the store right now so every little bit helps,"** said Alex. **"I have diabetes and take high blood pressure medicine so I try to eat food that's good for me."**

# HOW WE SERVE

## *Texarkana, TX Resource Center*

Opened May 2024

Tommie, 76, works at a daycare taking care of children. This great-grandmother has worked all her life. She lives in the neighborhood of the Texarkana Resource Center and shops at the pantry and receives a senior box.

**228,531 meals**

**1,991 households served**

3019 S. Lake Dr.  
Texarkana, TX  
[TXKRCpantry.org](http://TXKRCpantry.org)

**“I love the fresh produce, meat.... Food is so high, so I get things here I can’t afford in the store. I love to cook. The food is very helpful. I like to make spaghetti and put veggies in it.”**



# Tyler Resource Center

Opened December 2023

Jessica of Tyler is a single, working adult but struggling to make ends meet.

“My rent is over \$1,000 a month, car note, insurance, and all the other bills,” said Jessica as she held back her tears. “I skip meals or eat things that are not good for me because I don’t have anything left at the end of each month.”

Jessica came to the Tyler Resource Center for the first time and was all smiles as she selected nutritious food from the pantry. “I love to cook and I am hoping this will keep me from stressing about where my next meal will come from.”

**392,630 meals**  
**3,868 households**  
**served**


**3201**  
**Robertson Rd.**  
**Tyler, TX**  
**TRCpantry.org**

**“I am so excited that the East Texas Food Bank helps people like me, as I didn’t know where to turn to. Thank you for having this resource for me.”**

# CELEBRATING IMPACT

## Households Served



 = 10,000 Households

200,000

## Children Served



 = 2,000 Children

53,564

## Seniors Served



 = 2,000 Seniors

35,641

## Produce Served




 = 1M Produce Pounds

15.8 million

## Meals Served



 = 1M Meals

31 million



# DONOR PARTNERS

## Attitude of Open Arms

Recently retired veterinarian and business owner, Betsy is excited to have more time to volunteer at the Longview Resource Center. As a 15-year donor partner of the East Texas Food Bank, Betsy started supporting because, “there are enough problems in life and I feel like (food) is such a basic need that people shouldn’t have to worry or be concerned if they’re going to be able to feed their family. It shouldn’t be one of the primary worries of life.”

One of the many things Betsy loves about fighting hunger is seeing how well we love and serve our neighbors that come to the Longview Resource Center. Betsy says,

**“I love the attitude of open arms and no judgment in anyway...it’s a real feeling of community. It’s nice to be a part of something that you can see the results.”**



**Betsy with Remy**  
Donor Partner  
15 years, Longview

## Beyond Beans & Rice

Dan and Kathy moved to East Texas from Odessa with their 2 daughters where they built their own commercial trucking business. After 15 years in Mineola, they moved to Tyler for retirement. When asked what motivated them to support the food bank, Kathy said their faith, “We had been really blessed in our finances when we started thinking about giving. God tells us to give and not just give our 10%, but to give to others too.”

Personally, Kathy knows the value and privilege of having food variety and fresh produce to eat. She loves that the food bank gives families options and access to choice vegetables and fruits. Growing up, she lived for several years with her grandparents who had limited income and were short on food options. Kathy shared that Sundays were special when they got to eat meat, but most days consisted of beans and rice.

What Dan and Kathy enjoy most about giving to the ETFB is,

**“Just having the satisfaction of knowing that we’ve helped people.”**



**Kathy and Dan**  
Donor Partners  
16 years, Tyler

# CORPORATE PARTNER

Chick-fil-A (CFA) stores in Tyler and Lindale are incredible partners of the East Texas Food Bank. This past fiscal year, CFA received the Corporate Partner Hunger Hero Award for their continuing mission of partnering with ETFB. Owner/operators of the four stores include: Jeff Johnston, Ikey Eason, Joseph Williams, and Joshua Johnson.

Chick-fil-A awarded ETFB the True Inspiration Award and a grant of \$125,000.

**“We are humbled to be recognized in this way and thankful for this incredible relationship with CFA,”** said David Emerson, CEO of ETFB.

**“We are proud to be a part of fighting hunger in East Texas,”** said Jeff Johnston, Chick-fil-A owner/operator, ETFB board member & former board president.





# SERVING WITH EXCELLENCE

Why do board members support the East Texas Food Bank?



**Leslie Harrison**

*"I see first-hand how diligently every donation is managed to ensure the greatest number of neighbors feel the impact of each dollar."*



**Ivette Zavarce**

*"No one should have to go to bed hungry. This incredible organization provides meals to those in need and is building a stronger, healthier East Texas."*



**Chevella Layne**

*"A giving heart makes a difference in people's lives and ETFB continues to do this every day for East Texans and I'm honored to be part of this mission."*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS FY2024

**Michele Bosworth**  
Health Management Associates

**Gregg Davis**  
Merrill Lynch

**Gina DeHoyes**  
Edward Jones

**Kristy Everitt**  
Henry & Peters, PC

**Leslie Harrison**, Chair-Elect  
Attorney, Non-practicing

**Jay Jelinek**  
IT Enabled

**Chevella Layne**  
Goodwill Industries of East Texas

**Moises Leandro**, Secretary  
TIAA

**Morgan Jones**  
Brookshire Grocery Co.

**Jeff W. Johnston**, Past Chair  
Chick-fil-A at Broadway Crossing

**Bill Mohl**, Treasurer  
WMM Enterprises, LLC

**Jim Noble**  
Community Volunteer

**Cathy Schreiber**, Chair  
Community Volunteer

**Dr. Valerie Smith**  
University of Texas at Tyler School  
of Medicine

**Howard Tagg**  
Law Office of Howard Tagg

**Veronica Tucker**  
PROJECTXYZ, Inc.

**Brian Turner**  
Southside Bank

**Bob Westbrook**  
Retired Restaurateur

**Dustin Wilkinson**  
Austin Bank

**Lisa Williams**  
Black Nurses Rock

**Ivette Zavarce**  
Encouragement Media Group

# STEWARDSHIP

The East Texas Food Bank is committed to integrity. We value the practicing of auditing our organization. Each year, we submit our records for evaluation by several respected groups and have received recognition for our honesty and transparency.



The East Texas Food Bank is proud to receive a Four-Star Rating from Charity Navigator. This rating designates ETFB as an organization that uses its donations effectively based on comprehensive criteria.



[easttexas.bbb.org](http://easttexas.bbb.org)

The BBB Accreditation Seal shows our commitment to integrity, ethical business practices, and customer service and that we are part of a community of trustworthy businesses.



ETFB has achieved the "Gold" level of transparency on the GuideStar platform which means we have provided a significant amount of detailed information regarding financials and leadership to potential donors, demonstrating a high level of accountability.

# PLANNED GIVING

**“The legacy we leave is not just in possessions, but in the lives we touch.”**

— Anonymous



**THE  
LEGACY  
TABLE**

EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK



Scan the QR Code to learn more about planned giving.

The ETFB planned giving program, The Legacy Table, allows donors to make a lasting impact against hunger. By including ETFB in your estate plans, you can help ensure that nutritious meals and vital resources reach those in need for generations to come. Your legacy of compassion will fuel hope and sustain our mission to end hunger, helping to create a future where no one has to go without food. Leave a mark of kindness that lasts beyond a lifetime.



# FINANCIALS

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## REVENUE & SUPPORT

Total \$74,909,889



- ▲ \$44,354,448  
Donated Food & Commodities
- ▲ \$13,083,827  
USDA Commodities
- ▲ \$7,608,009  
Contributions
- ▲ \$550,000  
Contributed non-financial assets
- ▲ \$5,759,743  
Federal Grant Revenues
- ▲ \$2,512,735  
Purchased Food Recovery
- ▲ \$998,237  
Shared Maintenance
- ▲ \$42,890  
Other Income

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## EXPENSES

Total \$72,513,840



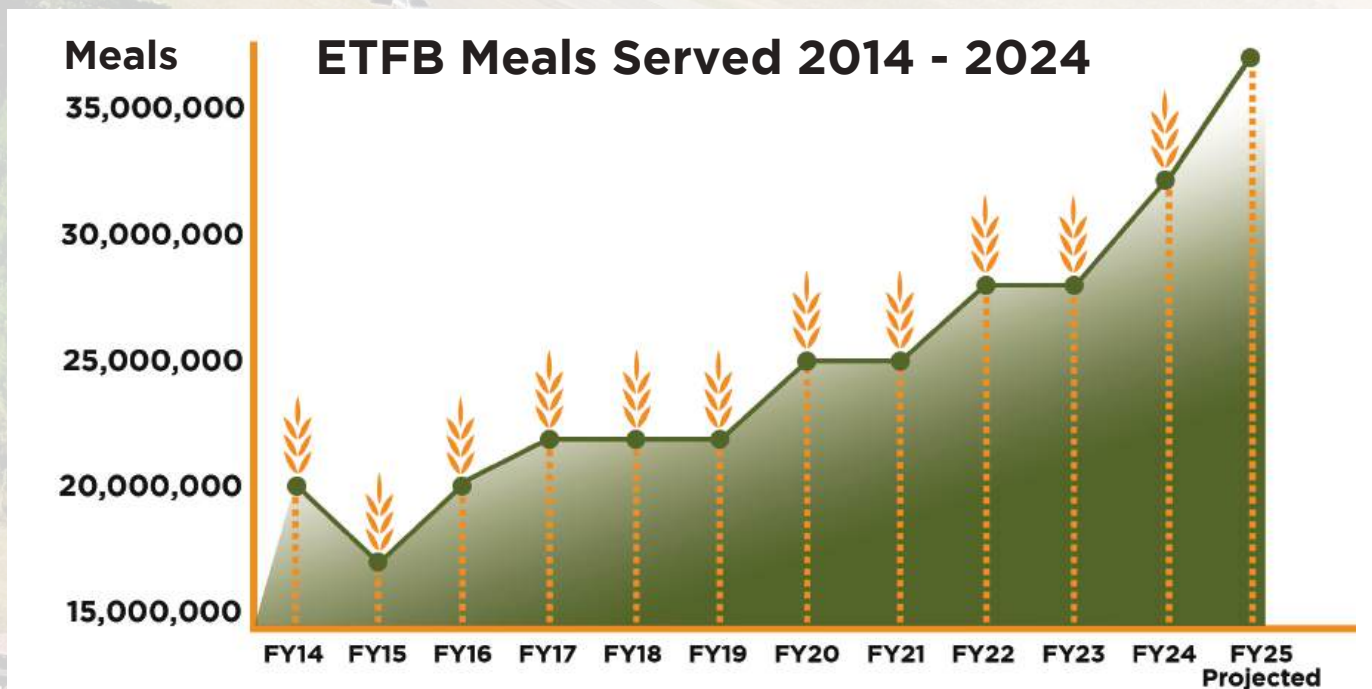
- ▲ \$69,065,764  
Program Services
- ▲ \$2,358,039  
Management and  
General Operating
- ▲ \$1,090,037  
Fundraising

Ending FY24 inventory consisted of \$3.8 million of purchased, donated, and commodity food.

# LOOKING FORWARD

## *Accelerating ETFB's Mission*

More East Texans are food insecure and the increase in food prices and the amount of money they need to buy food has reached its highest point in the last 20 years, according to Feeding America's annual Map the Meal Gap study. This report provides local-level estimates of food insecurity and food costs for every county and congressional district.



**“ETFB is on pace to achieve our five-year strategic plan of 36 million meals.”**

Tim Butler  
East Texas Food Bank Chief Development Officer





9

million meals  
is the remaining meal gap

217,260 are food insecure in  
East Texas including 78,620  
children

Food prices are more expensive now than before the  
pandemic and are up **28%** since 2019, that's according to  
the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Americans need an additional **\$200** a month to  
cover their food needs.



Scan the QR Code to learn more  
about "Map the Meal Gap"





903-597-3663



3201 Robertson Road  
Tyler, TX 75701



EastTexasFoodBank.org



Scan the QR Code to  
Join the Fight!



# EAST TEXAS FOOD BANK



PARTNER  
FOOD BANK OF



**FEEDING  
AMERICA**



**FEEDING  
TEXAS**