

AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from Food Bank of West Central Texas



FALL 2025 NEWSLETTER

FBWCT.ORG

TAKE ACTION FOR HUNGER



September is Hunger Action Month — a month where we stand together, with Feeding America and our nationwide network of member Food Banks, to fight hunger in our own communities. A month to spread the message about the issue of hunger, take action, and dedicate ourselves to providing nutritious food to individuals, families, seniors, and veterans struggling with hunger.

Join us by Giving Food, Funds, and Time. See page 4 for more details. Thank you for all YOU do each and every day to end hunger in the Big Country.



Hunger Action Month®  FEEDING AMERICA





OUR MISSION

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope.

OUR VISION

Working together to eliminate hunger in West Central Texas.

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CHANGE IS IN THE AIR

Dear Food Bank Friends,

As autumn arrives, nature reminds us that change is not only inevitable, it can be beautiful. At Food Bank of West Central Texas, this season inspires us to reflect on how we grow, adapt, and evolve together.

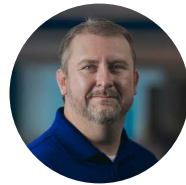
To that end, allow me to introduce myself if we've not yet met. My name is Brandon Forrest, and I've been with the Food Bank since April, 2023 where I began as Food Sourcing Manager. I spent my time in that role anticipating food needs, developing innovative and sustainable supply chain strategies, and cultivating relationships with food manufacturers, distributors, farms, and Feeding America network partners.

I'm now honored to step into the role of CEO, building upon the foundation laid by our CEO of the past seven years, Ronnie Kidd. Ronnie served on the Food Bank board beginning in 1995 where he anchored his compassion to help others in the food bank's mission of combatting hunger. Combined, Ronnie leaves a lasting legacy of over 30 years of service to the people of West Central Texas. I could not be more grateful for his service to our neighbors across the area.

This year has brought other meaningful transitions, too. We've launched initiatives designed to better serve our partners, constructed new spaces to feed and engage our neighbors, and invested in tools and talent to prepare us for what lies ahead. These are not just operational shifts. They're signs of our collective momentum in the fight against hunger.

Change can be challenging, but it also invites creativity, resilience, and reinvention. I'm proud of how our team, partners, volunteers, and supporters continue to embrace transformation, not as disruption, but as progress toward our shared mission of ending hunger. We've come to realize that, like the falling leaves from a tree, change is simply making room for the beauty in the seasons to follow.

Thank you for being a part of this journey at a time when, more than ever, your support is critical to our efforts to feed those facing hunger.



Warm Regards,

Brandon Forrest
Chief Executive Officer

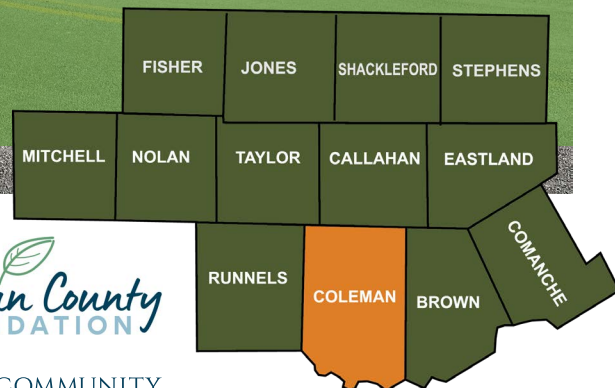
P.S. Whatever this season or the next brings, we remain anchored as a community by our shared commitment to a hunger-fighting movement. If you're not already, consider this your invitation to join this community of hunger-fighting champions. Even just \$1 can provide 5 meals to neighbors in need.



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COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT: FEEDING COLEMAN COUNTY



Coleman County
FOUNDATION



COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
of ABILENE

In Coleman County, 1,520 individuals are food insecure. This includes 390 children. Coleman County also is a food desert because it lacks grocery stores, especially in the rural parts of the county. The only grocery store available to residents is the Shoppin' Basket Food Center located in Coleman.

To feed Coleman County, we were delighted to receive a grant from the Community Foundation of Abilene and Coleman County Foundation to support our on-the-ground partners working each day to take care of our neighbors facing hunger. The grant helped support food and equipment costs.

“Partnering with the Food Bank has allowed us to access low- or no-cost food, expand our pantry services to reach more households, and offer a wider variety of nutritious foods. With the grant, we received a double-door metal freezer. It’s a totally fantastic donation — I can almost fit two cows in it!”

**- Alan Coker, Pantry Director,
Elm Street Church of Christ in
Coleman (Food Bank partner)**

For example, the grant helped Christian Family Ministries. As shared by Hanna Adams, Board President, the funding “gives us the flexibility to respond quickly to specific needs in the community, whether it’s for seniors, families with young children, or individuals facing unexpected hardship. Overall, this support will help us reach more people, more often, and with greater nutritional value.”

The grant also supported the Santa Anna Mobile Pantry, where in Santa Anna, nearly 20% of the population lives below the poverty line. Once a month at First United Methodist Church of Santa Anna and Christian Family Ministries of Coleman County, the Food Bank delivers food at no cost to the sites.

Together, with the Community Foundation of Abilene, Coleman County Foundation, and our Feeding Coleman County partners, we are fighting hunger and feeding hope. Do you live in Coleman County? Give us a call at (325) 695-6311 or send us an email at james@fbwct.org to restrict your donations to our Feeding Coleman County efforts.

ABILENE GAVE BIG!



What a difference a day makes! Nearly \$2.4M was raised on May 6, 2025 during Abilene Gives, a 24-hour day of online giving to raise money for nonprofits serving Abilene and the surrounding area, including your very own Food Bank of West Central Texas. We were so grateful to receive over \$40,000 from 95 donors. Thank you!

TAKE ACTION DURING Hunger Action Month®



Give Funds



One-time, monthly, donor-advised fund gifts, corporate sponsorships, and grants help us end hunger today. **Just \$10 can help provide 50 meals.** Also, please consider a gift to help us tomorrow. A gift in your will to the Food Bank, or naming us as a beneficiary of your retirement plan or life insurance policy, are simple ways to make a long-term impact.



Give Time



It doesn't take a big commitment to make a big impact. Help Food Bank of West Central Texas get food in the hands of those who need it most. Individuals and groups are welcome.



Give Food



Food drives are a great way to involve your children, friends, and family in the fight to end hunger. Whether you host a traditional food drive to collect canned goods or hold a virtual food drive to raise funds on Facebook, you can make a big difference.



GIVE TODAY! CALL OR VISIT US AT FBWCT.ORG.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN UPDATE

In just the past few months, a cold and lifeless frame of steel and concrete has now taken shape as a space filled with purpose and promise. Our new facility wing features a drive-thru pantry to serve families with greater ease and dignity, and a welcoming community and conference space designed to bring people and partners together. This transformation reflects our deep commitment to serving neighbors, building connections, and creating lasting impact across West Central Texas.

If you'd like to still lend support to the project as we put the finishing touches on this hub for hope, service, and connection, it's not too late! Give us a call at (325) 695-6311 or send us an email at james@fbwct.org. Thank you!



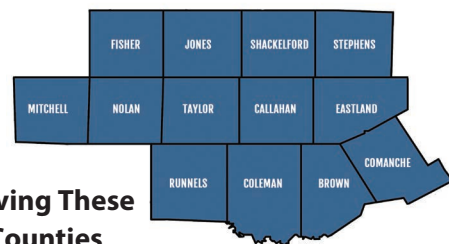
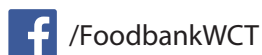
Food Bank of West Central Texas

5505 N. 1st St.
Abilene, TX 79603-6426
(325) 695-6311 • fbwct.org

Hours

Monday – Friday
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Connect on Social Media



**Serving These
13 Counties**