

# AROUND OUR TABLE

A Biannual Newsletter from Food Bank of West Central Texas



SPRING 2026 NEWSLETTER

FBWCT.ORG

## THANK YOU!

During the government shutdown — and throughout 2025 — our community showed what it truly means to care for one another. Neighbors, volunteers, businesses, faith groups, and local partners across West Central Texas stepped up to support families facing hunger, offering time, resources, and compassion when it mattered most. Because of your generosity, meals were shared, dignity was preserved, and hope was strengthened. Thank you for proving that even in challenging times, our community stands united. **Your kindness continues to make a lasting difference.**





## OUR MISSION

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope.

## OUR VISION

Working together to eliminate hunger in West Central Texas.

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# SEASON OF REBIRTH



Dear Food Bank Friends,

Since our last newsletter update, so much has happened, and our Food Bank has stood at the forefront of all of it, ready to serve.

The government shutdown disrupted far more than “business as usual” in Washington. We saw real local effects and heard the stories of our impacted friends and neighbors first-hand. With federal employees furloughed or working without pay, temporary impacts on the availability of SNAP (formerly food stamps) benefits, and military members within our communities concerned about missed paychecks, many families saw immediate strain on rent, utilities, and grocery budgets. Key services for the most vulnerable slowed or paused as federal support agencies operated on skeleton crews, if at all.

For us at the Food Bank, it was “all hands on deck” as we saw a huge surge, sometimes as high as 60%, in food needs at mobile pantries across the area, with many of our partner agencies reporting similar increases in demand for assistance. The shutdown highlighted and reminded us how closely many households in West Central Texas live to the edge. Even short interruptions or uncertainty around nutrition programs like SNAP or WIC can push families into a place of emergency need.

But we also saw the best of who we are during times of uncertainty. We are so fortunate to serve in a place where neighbors step up in BIG ways. When the going got tough, our communities didn’t wait around for someone else to fix it. Neighbors checked on neighbors. Churches, civic groups, and businesses organized food drives. Volunteers showed up in bigger numbers, and giving surged so pantries could keep shelves stocked and lines moving with heads held high. That response truly mirrored the Food Bank’s daily mission of not only Fighting Hunger, but Feeding Hope. You didn’t just help us meet the physical needs of our neighbors — you helped us restore dignity, stability, and possibilities for a brighter tomorrow.

As we move forward, the lesson is clear. Safety nets matter, but so does community. In hard moments, we are each other’s backup plan — and that spirit is one of our area’s greatest strengths. **We’re thankful to be part of it.**

With gratitude,

**Brandon Forrest**  
Chief Executive Officer

*P.S. **The job is not done.** The need remains high, and we invite you to be an even bigger part of this hunger fighting community. Please consider setting up a monthly gift to help support our mission. **Even a recurring gift of just \$10 helps provide up to 50 meals every month.***



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**DONATE NOW**

# FIGHTING HUNGER, FEEDING HOPE. THIS IS COMMUNITY



## MEALS AT OUR TABLE, 2025 IMPACT

### Feeding Kids

- **349** kids served annually through the Backpack Program
- **15** partner school sites
- **1,210** backpacks distributed per month during the school year
- **19,648** snacks were served each month, on average



### Feeding Seniors

- **170,094** pounds distributed at Rose Park Senior Food Pantry
- **261** senior backpacks distributed in Callahan County



### Feeding Communities

- **4.2 MILLION** pounds of food distributed
- **1.45 MILLION** pounds of fresh produce and dairy products distributed
- **7,279** families served per month on average, partner agencies and mobile pantries
- **58,656** meals served on average per month through meal sites
- **14** Mobile Pantries in **10** counties serving an average of **1,545** households per month



# MEET BROC AND SARAH

We would like to introduce two recent additions to our team. Broc is our Director of Marketing & Communications, and Sarah is our Accounting Lead & Finance Liaison. And we had fun getting to know them...



**Q** If you were a kitchen utensil, what would you be and why?

**A Broc:** A chef's knife — reliable, adaptable, and useful in almost any situation.

**A Sarah:** A knife for adaptability and multitasking (though I could also be a fork for the cool hairdo!).

**Q** What inspired you to join the food bank?

**A Broc:** My faith and a desire to live out values of caring for others, stewardship, and making sure no one is overlooked.

**A Sarah:** Seeing employees, volunteers, donors, and the community come together to fight hunger.

**Q** What part of your role are you most excited about?

**A Broc:** Sharing stories that show the heart and impact of the work and connecting people to a bigger purpose.

**A Sarah:** Problem-solving — digging into the details to ensure clear and accurate financial reports.

## SAVE THE DATE FOR THE LAST ABILENE GIVES

MAY 5, 2026

The Community Foundation of Abilene has announced that 2026 will mark the final year of Abilene Gives. It is a 12-hour day of online giving to raise money and awareness for local nonprofits.

Since it began in 2017, the initiative has generated millions of dollars for hundreds of organizations, including Food Bank of West Central Texas, across the Big Country.

Visit [abilenegives.org](http://abilenegives.org) to learn more.



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### Hours

Monday – Friday  
8:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

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Serving These  
13 Counties