

community DISH

working together... doing more!

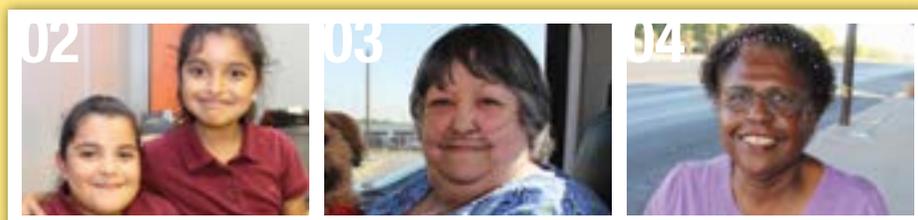


SPRING 2013



A Member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

**Thank You for
Restoring Hope to
People of All Ages!**





LIBBY CAMPBELL
Executive Director

Dear Friend,

First, I want to thank you for your generosity to the [West Texas Food Bank](#) this past holiday season! Your gifts helped make sure that hungry people across West Texas had enough food to go around during this special time.

But we can't forget that hunger persists beyond the season of giving, too. With your partnership, we're using this momentum coming off the holidays to attack hunger head-on in 2013!

The need is great for West Texans of all ages. In these coldest months, older adults are perhaps most likely to feel the fear of food insecurity. These seniors have spent their entire lives working hard, but as our booming economy raises the cost of living here in West Texas, older adults living on fixed incomes are now being forced to make tough decisions – like whether they can buy enough nutritious food to eat or pay the bills on time.

In this issue of *Community Dish*, we've spotlighted a couple of senior citizens who have already benefitted from your generosity to the West Texas Food Bank. I hope you enjoy reading about Jerry Sue and Susie as much as I did, and that you remember these women are just two examples of the good you've made possible for a generation that has helped in shaping our community as we see it today.

Thank you for your generosity and partnership in fighting hunger throughout 2013. We can't do it without you.

Gratefully,

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INSTILLING CHARACTER THROUGH VOLUNTEERISM

Volunteering with the [Food Bank](#) benefits everyone. That's what the Drillers Baseball Club learned when they united off the field to fill boxes of nutritious food for the hungry in our community.

When Jennifer and Marcus Gardner, owners of the Drillers Baseball Club in Midland, took their three nephews to work alongside fellow church members for a day of service to the community, they had such a positive experience that they decided they had to bring some club members and their families back to volunteer during the holidays. They're so glad they did – each player not only had a great time, but had a positive, meaningful experience.

"This is a great way to give back," Jennifer says. "The kids thought it was very fun."

Jennifer and Marcus are committed to the growth of young athletes on and off the field, developing them physically and instilling character to create productive citizens. They recognize volunteering is an important part of their growth.

"You don't fully understand the blessing of giving until you get out and experience it first-hand," Jennifer says.

She looks forward to bringing more young members of the Drillers to the Food Bank, and encourages anyone else who is interested in volunteering to do the same.

"Please get involved. It's such a rewarding thing," she says.



YOU'RE LENDING SENIORS A HAND

"I'm able to survive because of your generosity," Jerry Sue says, tears of gratitude forming in her eyes. To this retired senior living on a small fixed income, the weekly box of food she gets from *Helping Hands*, a Partner Agency of the [West Texas Food Bank](#), means the world.

Before she retired, Jerry Sue served as a food service director for many years. She and her husband worked hard to put money away for their golden years as they raised their family. When Jerry Sue's husband became gravely ill, she cared for him until finally admitting him to the VA hospital.

Jerry Sue was left to survive alone on her limited fixed income. As the cost of everything begins to rise in West Texas, her income stays the same.

And recently, Jerry Sue's health has begun to decline. Between her expensive medical bills and rising utilities, she rarely has anything left over. Unfortunately, this means that sometimes she doesn't have money to buy enough food to keep her going strong.

If it weren't for your gifts to the West Texas Food Bank, Jerry Sue might have to worry about going hungry as she grows old. But because you give, she can visit *Helping Hands* to get a box of healthy staple groceries, helping her get by at the end of the month.

"We seniors are so appreciative of this love and kindness," she says. "I'm truly grateful for your help."



"We seniors are so appreciative of this love and kindness."

YOU'RE RESTORING HOPE FOR SENIORS



When Susie walks into *Ward County Greater Works*, everyone gets a big hug. This energetic 73 year-old can light up any room, and her food pantry in Monahans, a Partner Agency of the [West Texas Food Bank](#), is no exception.

It doesn't seem like anything has ever gotten Susie down. But in reality, Susie has had more than her fair share of hard times...the death of her husband, three children and, four years ago, the house she had lived in for the better part of a lifetime burned to the ground.

4 The house fire stripped Susie of all of her possessions, leaving her almost penniless. She found shelter immediately, but when she had to take in her twin 13-year-old grandchildren recently, Susie was worried about how she'd give them all the things they needed on her small fixed income.

"Thank you for all that you do."

"Thank you for all you do," Susie says to the generous donors, whose giving makes it all possible. "It helps people living on a fixed income so much. Thank you!"

Thankfully, your gifts to the West Texas Food Bank helped bring the light back into Susie's life. Because you give, she found *Ward County Greater Works*, where she can pick up enough healthy groceries to keep her and her grandkids going strong.

Thank You!

Grants from these foundations, organizations and businesses help support the work we do. Thank you!

Abell-Hanger Foundation	Fasken Foundation
Bank of America	Grande Communications
Betenbough Homes	Jewish Philanthropic Union
BHP Billiton	Major Electric
Big Bend People and Goats in Memory of George Floro	Prairie Foundation
B'nai B'rith Permian Basin	Rig Works, Inc.
Cisco Ford Equipment	Stinson Foundation
Community National Bank	Target
Devon Energy	Wayne & Jo Ann Moore Family Charitable Foundation
Direct Energy	

Thank you to the many companies and individuals who conducted food and fund drives for us this holiday season!

ASK Industries	Lone Star Abstract Title
Blanton Elementary	Midland County Public Library
Bonham Junior High	Miss Cayce's WOW weekend
Chase Bank	Mo Better Blues for Food presented by The Hog Pit and Anchor Drilling Fluids
Clayton Williams Energy	Natural Grocers
Crossroads Baptist	Odessa YMCA Group
Thanksgiving Serve Group	Exercise instructors
Curves of West Odessa	Pease Elementary
Daytime Bingo Midland	Permian Basin Apartment Association
Dr. Robert Chappell	Permian Basin Rehab Center
Ector County Juvenile Probation Department	Phillips 66 ESIT
Ector County Libraries	Plastic Moulding Tech
Endeavor Energy	Saulsbury Industries
Family Power Sports	Sewell Family of Dealerships
Fannin Elementary	St. Anthony's Church
Feed the Children	St. Joseph's Church
Forrest Tires	UTPB Student Senate
Gabe's Auto Sales	Weatherford International
Jane Long Elementary	Weir Mesa
JumBurrito	West Texas Radio Group's "Vote Out Hunger"
Kelly Grimsley Kia	
Kent Companies	
Larry Peppers Air Conditioning and Heating	
Lithia All-American Auto Group	

Life-Changing Gifts

A memorial donation is a special way to honor the legacy of loved ones by helping those struggling with hunger in our community. Making a donation in honor of someone special to you is also a great way to celebrate special occasions.

Your donation of any type and amount will allow us to continue to fight hunger here in West Texas. Please contact Rodney Hall, Director of Development, at (432) 580-6333 to learn more.



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