

FY 2020 ANNUAL REPORT



Photo by Terry Hagerty

BASTROP COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY

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FOOD INSECURITY IN TIMES OF COVID-19

Executive Director Report by Tresha Silva

When I reflect on the year 2020, it has been like no other. For our families, our volunteers, our partners, and our team it's been a roller coaster ride. It started off okay. January and February proved to be what we would call normal months at the Food Pantry. In February, we celebrated our most successful Bastrop Empty Bowl project thanks to all of our event partners and the community. Then came March.

The COVID-19 Pandemic changed everything. I am very grateful for our team and how we quickly adapted to meet the challenging conditions all while continuing to be there for the community in their time of crisis. We are an essential service to the community and we didn't want to let our clients down.

In the beginning, I had two goals that I established for myself and my team.

My first goal was to ensure the safety of our staff, volunteers, and our program participants. We quickly put into place stringent safety measures—including social distancing. We switched to a contactless distribution for our programs, including delivery to some of our at-risk senior clients. We suspended our on-site senior activity program and our Fresh Food Families program—as these programs require that people gather in large groups.

"MY FIRST GOAL WAS TO MAINTAIN SAFETY."

Tresha Silva

My second goal was to ensure that the community had uninterrupted access to services. In the first six weeks, the demand for services jumped 59%. In the first week of April, we experienced an 89% increase in requests! I am happy to say that we remained operational throughout the pandemic.

The Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center remains committed to fighting food insecurity and providing the community with nutritious food in their time of crisis. This last year came with lots of challenges including an increase in need, but we rose to the occasion. And the community responded with generosity and supported us through it all. Thank you for supporting the work by donating and volunteering, we could not do this without our partners. I am hoping and praying that in 2021 we will get back to face-to-face with those that need us as well as each of you.

Tresha Silva

Executive Director





PHOTO BY TERRY HAGERTY

MISSION

The mission of the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center is to serve Bastrop County residents going through periods of transition by providing emergency food assistance, education, and support.

PROGRAM SUMMARY

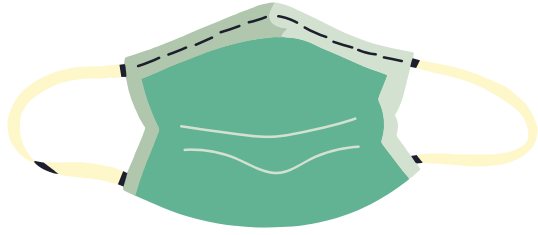
Emergency Food Assistance: The Pantry provides 45-days of emergency food, referrals, and assistance in applying for SNAP benefits. **The Pantry provided 2,761 individuals with 174,455 pounds of emergency food in FY '20.**

Brown Bag: The Pantry provides low-income seniors with 25 lbs. of shelf-stable food every month; weekly access to produce, whole grains, and protein; assistance in filling out SNAP and Medicare Applications. Due to COVID, homebound seniors received home deliveries. **The Pantry provided 211 Brown Bag seniors with 31,779 pounds of healthy food and 9,127 pounds of COVID Emergency food to 140 seniors in FY '20**

Open Arms: The Pantry provides disabled, low-income individuals under the age of 55 with a supplemental supply of nutritious food and hygiene items. **The Pantry provided 17 disabled low-income individuals with 886 pounds of food in FY '20**

NIBBLES: The Pantry provides 5lbs. of weekend meals and snacks during the school year for children in low-income families at Lost Pines Elementary, Red Rock Elementary, and Bastrop Intermediate schools. **The Pantry provided 142 children with 23,960 pounds of healthy out of school time food in FY '20**

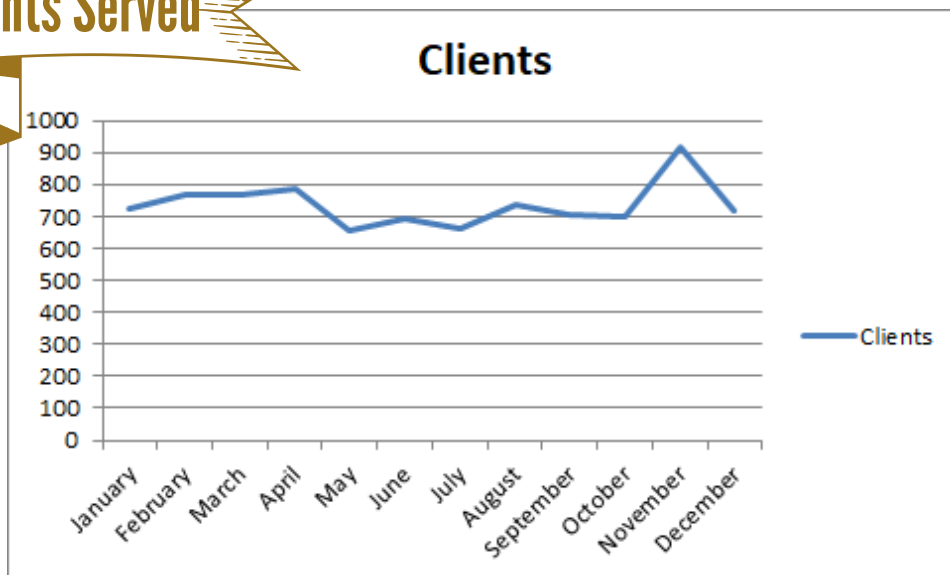
TRENDS & COVID-19 IMPACT



The Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry is the first and sometimes only line of defense against hunger for individuals and families in crisis. Due to COVID-19 in 2020, clients received food assistance through a pre-bagged curbside model and a contactless delivery for at-risk and homebound seniors. During the first six weeks of the pandemic, they experienced an unprecedented 59% increase in requests for services from 2019! As government assistance and temporary community pop-up pantries continue to decline the Food Pantry anticipates a steady rise in requests for food in 2021. Even in uncertain times, the community can depend on the Food Pantry to be there for them in their time of crisis.

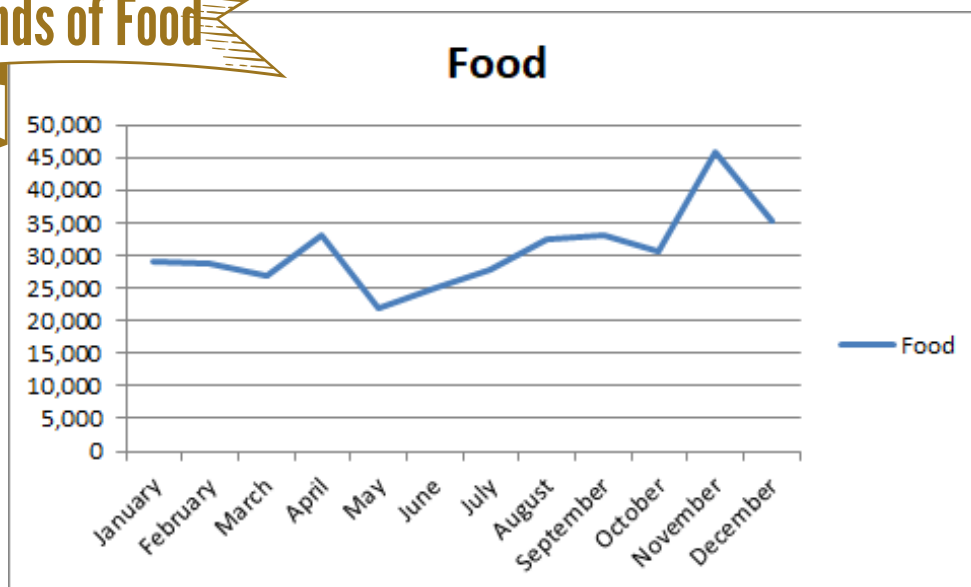
The Food Pantry grew its programming to better serve the community during this time. They are providing temporary rental and utility assistance to those impacted financially by COVID-19. They also created a summer workshop series on Facebook live for the community. At the end of 2020, they instituted a special distribution for homeless clients, which includes a hot meal. And this is just the beginning as The Food Pantry continues to seek out new and innovative ways to better serve its clients

Clients Served



In 2020, the Food Pantry provided 3,133 individuals with 369,831 pounds of food!

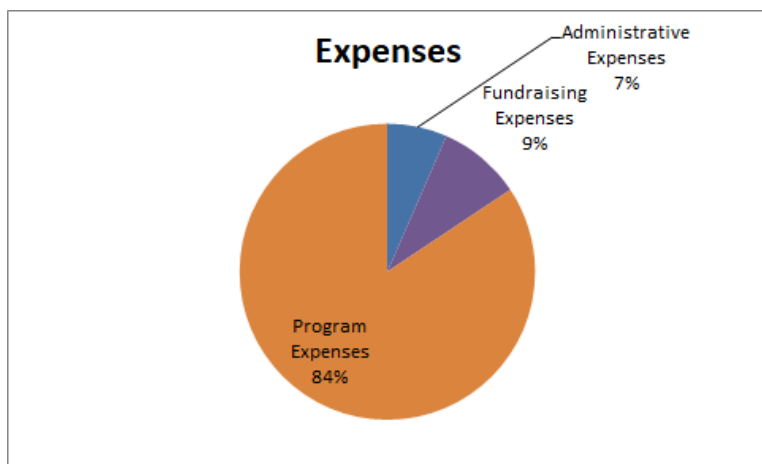
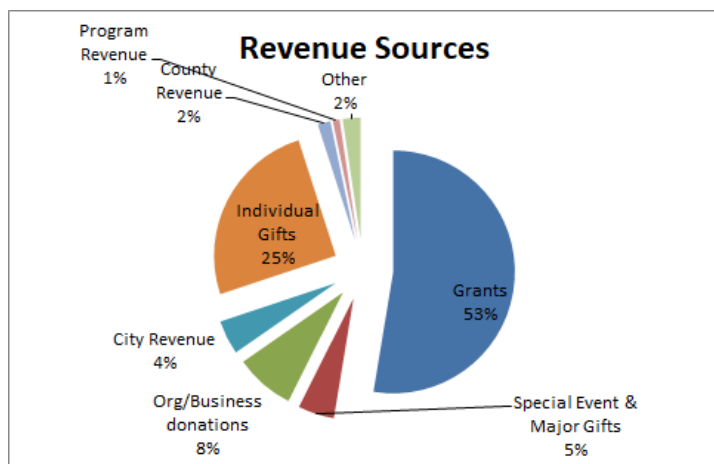
Pounds of Food



2020 FINANCIAL REPORT

Bastrop County showed their deep commitment and support for the Food Pantry this year. The community donated 44% more than in 2019! Due to special COVID-19 grants the Food Pantry also increased grant funding by 400%.

This increase in funding allowed the Food Pantry to make necessary infrastructure purchases like a new van and several commercial refrigeration units to replace the old residential ones. It also allowed them to purchase additional nutritious fresh foods.



SUCCESS SOUNDS LIKE THIS...

"You all mean so much to me. I am so thankful for the Brown Bag Program and food delivery. I've been home-bound for a while because of foot surgery and then the pandemic happened. Thank you for all you do!"

- "Betty" a senior Brown Bag client served at beginning of the pandemic.

"Thank you so much. God bless each of you. for your service to the community. We just came up short. Until jobs are found and regular income is back on track again. Thank you for helping my family."

- "Tom" an emergency services client served during the pandemic.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Truck & Fridges

This year the Food Pantry received several grants to purchase a new refrigerated truck that now allows them to transport 6,000 more pounds of food. They also purchased three new commercial refrigeration units to safely store more food on site. The new units replaced some of the older residential units.



The glass front refrigerator in our support center allows clients an opportunity to see what is available, which promotes healthy choice options and empowers them and their food choices.



The new commercial units increased the Food Pantry's capacity to serve the clients with more fresh foods.

VOLUNTEERS

"Volunteers do not necessarily have the time; they just have the heart."

– Elizabeth Andrew

During 2020 many of the regular, long-time volunteers put their volunteering on hold because of the pandemic. They are deeply missed. The staff and board of directors all look forward to the day when they can return to the Food Pantry once again.

The volunteer program is currently undergoing a lot of changes to ensure better training, registration, and recognition. In 2020, the Food Pantry started a volunteer of the month program. These are just a few of the volunteers recognized so far. There are still so many to be recognized, especially the dedicated volunteers that served the Food Pantry for years.

thank
you



"Volunteers are one of our most valuable resources and we couldn't complete the organization's mission without them. They make things happen!"

-Tresha Silva

WHO WE ARE

EXECUTIVE STAFF

Tresha Silva

Executive
Director

Kelly Manfredini, M.S.W.

Director of Development &
Marketing

Taylor Andry

Program Manager

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Julia Dunn

Financial
Administrator

Cheryl Neelson

Reception

Kirista Avery

Data Entry Clerk

PROGRAM STAFF

Sandra Dougan

Transportation and
Support Clerk

Jennifer Evans

Inventory Support
Specialist

Dusty Silva

Inventory Support
Specialist

Cynthia Rivera

Inventory Support
Specialist

Riley Dunn

AmeriCorp VISTA

Beverly Anderson

AmeriCorp VISTA

Board of Directors

Steve Dunn

Board President

Rene Flores

Board Vice President

Barbara Adkins

Board Secretary

Stephanie Wood

Board Member Emeritas

Deflora Thorne

Board Member

Roy Blanco

Board Treasurer

Tonda Owens

Board Member Emeritas

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- ✓ Tell other's about the Pantry and the work we are doing for the community!
- ✓ Call the Pantry about volunteering.
- ✓ Consider making a gift or increasing your yearly giving this year.