

November 2021

Food For Thought

"Lend a hand to help feed your fellow man"



806 Fayette Street • Bastrop, Texas 78602 | (512) 303-0033 | www.BastropFoodPantry.org

CHECK OUT OUR NEW BILLBOARD!!

The next time you are driving by Hwy 71 and Hwy 95 be sure to check out our awesome new billboard provided by a capacity building grant through the Central Texas Food Bank. Poverty in Texas is higher than in most states: the National Average is 14% living at or below the poverty line and Texas has 17% of its population living at or below the poverty line. The National Average of children living in poverty is 21% with 24% of Texas children living in poverty - that's 1,641,034 children! This billboard is a great opportunity bring awareness to the public that they can help us fight to end hunger in our community.

Here is a picture of what it looks like:



OUR IMPACT

Volunteer Hours for the reporting month September 2021

Client Service Report Month Ending September 25th FY2021

Volunteer Hours: **245.95 hrs**

	# of Clients	Pounds of Food
NIBBLES	10	0
Brown Bag	97	2124
Commodities	66	1716
Emergency Asst.	127	15008
Fresh Foods for Families	80	2800
Open Arms	3	51
Disaster Asst.	0	0
Pantry Express	1	208
Special Asst. Program	9	249
Senior Activity	0	0
Whole Grains	282	6195
TOTAL SERVED	675	28351



11/03 Susan Eastburn
11/05 Esther Gonzales-Garry
11/27 Rick Bartlett

IMPORTANT DATES

11/4 PANTRY EXPRESS 4:00 - 7:00 pm
11/8 Homeless Distribution Day 1:30 - 3:30 pm
11/19 Fresh Food For Families 9:00 - 11:00 am

PLEASE NOTE: Please make sure you have a volunteer badge and gloves on at all times and closed-toed shoes are required when at the Pantry.

TRAINING CLASSES

****LOOKING FORWARD TO A VERY IMPORTANT TRAINING****

Volunteers that work directly with clients will need to complete the CTFB Civil Rights Training on line at <https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/agencies> then scroll to Resource and Under Training you will see the Civil Rights Training. Please complete the training, there are quizzes involved, and email your certification to me so I can put it in your Volunteer file here at BCEP.

TRAINING CLASSES – VOLUNTEER CLASSES MAY BE IN PERSON OR VIA ZOOM DEPENDING ON BASTROP COUNTY COVID 19 RESTRICTIONS.

Scanner Training – any volunteer working in the Whole Grains Program will need to participate in a short Scanner Training please contact Tresha Silva at Director@bastropfoodpantry.org to set up a date to train.

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.

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Through this grant we also received a new commercial cooler and 2 new freezers! This will enable us to have more fresh produce and frozen protein readily available to distribute in our Emergency Pantry, for our Whole Grain Distribution Days in addition to our Fresh Foods For Families events.



IMMEDIATE VOLUNTEER POSITIONS AVAILABLE ARE:

WHOLE GRAINS: This entails checking clients in and helping them "shop" for various bread, produce and protein items in our Support Center. It takes place Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-11:30am in our Support Center.

HEB PICK-UP: This involves picking up bread, produce and protein from HEB and dropping it off at our Support Center. Pick ups are on Wednesday morning and Saturday morning before 9:30am.

BUILDING EMERGENCY BOXES / STOCKING: This involves building boxes of food items for emergency clients as needed, as well as stocking and rotating inventory. Volunteers could be lifting 20-50 lbs. It takes place Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:30-11:30am and 1:30-3:30pm in the Emergency Services in the main building.

DONATION CENTER: This involves sorting, dating, packing boxes and moving them to the Emergency Pantry for distribution. This can be done Monday – Friday from 8:30-11:30am or 1:30-3:30pm.

GROUP VOLUNTEERS: There are many opportunities for church groups, families, civic clubs, workgroups, etc. to volunteer. The more the merrier!

Please apply with Jody Wright at Jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org or visit our website at www.https://BastropFoodPantry.org to get a Volunteer Application.

REMEMBER !!

Elgin
EMPTY BOWL

ELGIN
EMPTY BOWL
PROJECT

Saturday, November 13
11:00am-1:30pm
SPIST Hall

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VOLUNTEER SURVEY

Volunteers, please take a few minutes to fill out a quick survey to tell us how we are doing. The survey is completely anonymous and will help us improve our volunteer program! Link to survey: <https://bit.ly/BCEFPVolunteer>

HOLIDAY MEAL WISH LIST

The Holidays are fast approaching. Here are some of the items we need for our holiday meals:

- Frozen Turkey
- Instant Mashed Potatoes
- Stuffing
- Gravy
- Cranberry Sauce
- Canned Yams / Sweet Potatoes
- Canned Corn
- French Fried Onions

Wish List

- | | |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Canned corn• Cooking oil (vegetable)• Cranberry Sauce• Cream of Mushroom Soup Syrup• Dry Cereals• Flour (small bags)• Hamburger Helper (Tuna and Chicken)• Jelly (in plastic containers)• Juices – 64 oz.• Soups – Broth & cream-based• Sugar (small bags)• Stuffing | <u>HYGIENE ITEMS:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bath Soap• Toilet Paper• Deodorant• Tooth Brushes• Laundry Soap |
|---|---|



ACTIVATE. EDUCATE. VOLUNTEER. DONATE.



1. Sign into Amazon Smile at <http://smile.amazon.com> (you have to do this on a computer, it doesn't let you connect your Amazon account from a cell phone).
2. Sign in and select the Pantry as your nonprofit organization!
3. Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to BCEFP! And it adds up fast!!

OUR COMMUNITY AND STAFF THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION!

- ✓ 1. Sign in (and out) each time you volunteer here at the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry
- ✓ 2. Wear a badge and gloves at all times when at the Pantry. **MASK ARE REQUIRED**
- ✓ 3. Please let Tresha know, either via phone or email, if you are unable to fulfill your shift

Your volunteer hours count in more ways than you know.
Volunteer hours help to provide matching dollars for grants.



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UPDATED BCEFP COVID POLICY

BASTROP COUNTY EMERGENCY FOOD PANTRY VOLUNTEERS

COV-ID 19 (Coronavirus) Response

The Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry is actively monitoring developments related to COVID-19 (coronavirus) and taking proactive measures to protect the health and wellbeing of our clients, volunteers, and staff as we continue to serve our community.

We still need volunteers to help us get food out to our neighbors who need it, so our volunteer operations are open. In fact, we may need your help more than ever as others may become unable to volunteer. As always, it is our policy that people **refrain from volunteer service if they are ill or have been exposed to a communicable disease.**

We also request that you notify us if you travel out of state or country and adhere to the following CDC recommendations:

Per CDC recommendations as of August 25, 2021:

Recommendations for Fully Vaccinated People

- After Travel
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements.

Recommendations for People Who Are Not Fully Vaccinated

- After you travel:
 - Get tested with a [viral test](#) 3-5 days after travel **AND** stay home and self-quarantine for a full 7 days after travel.
 - Even if you test negative, stay home and self-quarantine for the full 7 days.
 - If your test is positive, [isolate](#) yourself to protect others from getting infected.
 - If you don't get tested, stay home and self-quarantine for 10 days after travel.
 - Avoid being around people who are at [increased risk for severe illness](#) for 14 days, whether you get tested or not.
 - Self-monitor for COVID-19 symptoms; isolate and get tested if you develop symptoms.
 - Follow all [state and local](#) recommendations or requirements.
- Visit your [state](#), [territorial](#), [tribal](#) or [local](#) health department's website to look for the latest information on where to get tested