



Volunteers are the heart of BCEFP and we would like to express a small token of our love and appreciation for you, so be sure and look for Valentine treats in the area you are volunteering in during the week of Monday, February 14th to Friday, February 18th.

Valentine's Day Fun Facts (Taken from Theholidayspot.com)

- ♥ Valentine's Day is the second most popular day of the year for sending cards. Christmas is the first most popular.
- ♥ Worldwide, over 50 million roses are given for Valentine's Day each year.
- ♥ About 1 billion Valentine's Day cards are exchanged each year.
- ♥ The heart is associated with Valentine's Day as it is considered the source of all human emotions.
- ♥ The symbol of the ribbon, which often adorns modern-day Valentines, is rooted in the Middle Ages. When knights competed in tournaments, their sweethearts often gave them ribbons for good luck.
- ♥ Richard Cadbury invented the first Valentine's Day candy box in the late 1800s.
- ♥ 220,000 is the average number of wedding proposals on Valentine's Day each year.
- ♥ California produces 60 percent of American roses, but the vast number sold on Valentine's Day in the United States are imported, mostly from South America. Approximately 110 million roses, the majority red, will be sold and delivered within a three-day time period.
- ♥ In 1537, England's King Henry VII officially declared Feb. 14 the holiday of St. Valentine's Day.
- ♥ More than 35 million heart-shaped boxes of chocolate will be sold for Valentine's Day.
- ♥ One single perfect red rose framed with baby's breath is referred to by some florists as a "signature rose," and is the preferred choice for many for giving on Valentine's Day, anniversary, or birthday.
- ♥ The oldest known Valentine's Day card is on display at the British Museum in London. It's dates back to the 1400's.

GALAXY DIGITAL

We are excited about our new volunteer management software! Galaxy Digital will enable volunteers to have a more hands-on approach to the admin aspect of volunteering. Galaxy Digital is all about Volunteer Management, Engagement, Communication and Reporting. Just a few of the things you will be able to do digitally are: view volunteer opportunities and sign up for them, track your volunteer hours and also view the volunteer calendar. There are so many more wonderful tools in Galaxy Digital that we will be sharing with you very soon as we finalize setting up our site.

SAVE THE DATE!

BASTROP COUNTY EMPTY BOWL PROJECT IS MARCH 12, 2022

The work that the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry & Support Center does depends on fundraising—through donations, grants and annual events. The Empty Bowl Project has been extremely well attended and its success is absolutely essential to the Food Pantry to fulfill its mission and to buffer the uncertainty of grant funding.

Tickets are \$25 per person for your choice of a pottery soup bowl decorated by local school-age artists, all the delicious soup, stew or chili you want to sample, and family favorite cookies prepared by local bakers.

The soups, stews and chili served showcase the talents of some of the Bastrop area's best restaurants and caterers. It's a "battle of the ladles" in which the chefs will be vying for "best" bragging rights. Celebrity judges will tag "bests" in each category, and attendees will vote their "fan favorite". The event is produced by the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry in partnership with the Bastrop Independent School District, restaurants and caterers throughout the county, as well as local artists and other silent auction donors, cookie makers, and sponsoring businesses and individuals.

Proceeds help fund the Pantry's "emergency food" program bridging the gap between the basic nutritional needs of residents across the county—young, old, individuals, families—and their ability to address these needs on their own. Event proceeds, grants and donations also empower the Pantry's efforts to inform, counsel and lift up the thousands among us—more than one out of every seven Bastrop County residents—who are living in poverty and facing food insecurity and poor nutrition.

We will need approximately 60 volunteers for this event! So, please call me at 512-303-0033 Ext 104, or email me at Jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org and let me know if you are able to volunteer with us this year or if you have any questions.

CIVIL RIGHTS TRAINING REQUIRED BY ALL VOLUNTEERS

All volunteers who interact with program participants and handle personal information must receive Civil Rights training which is offered online through the Texas Department of Agriculture. All temporary/short-term volunteers must review the limited civil rights training document located in the Agencies Resource Center on the website. Partner agencies are responsible for documenting their training records, which will be requested by the Food Bank during annual inspections. Failure to comply with this training requirement may result in a suspension of privileges with the Food Bank.

Please take a few minutes to complete this mandatory training for us. All volunteers with client contact must complete the video portion of training (the link entitled Civil Rights Training). This would include all volunteers in Whole Grains Distribution, Brown Bag Distribution and/or Delivery, Fresh Foods For Families, Emergency Center and Administration. All volunteers who do not have client contact or handle personal information will complete the Limited Civil Rights Training. If you have any questions about which one of the training links to use, please call me at 512-303-0033 ext 104. Once you have completed the training, please provide us with proof of completion for our records.

Thank you so much for your willingness to take time for these necessary extra steps for BCEFP to remain in compliance with the Food Bank.

<https://www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/agencies/resource-center>

- Civil Rights Training - All Agencies ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))
- Limited Civil Rights Training ([English](#) and [Spanish](#))

MASK POLICY

Due to the recent surge in flu cases, COVID-19 and the Omicron virus, BCEFP is requiring all individuals to be masked upon entering our buildings and to remain masked while inside our buildings. We all have to do our part in helping to keep each other safe. You may be volunteering with others around whom you feel comfortable not wearing a mask but keep in mind that staff members regularly come in and out of all the buildings. We know everyone is tired of having to wear masks but it's a small price to pay to keep even one person from becoming ill with any one of the illness that are spreading. No one knows how these illnesses may affect an individual. While one person may have little or no ill effects, that doesn't mean another will not suffer more severe or even fatal effects. We each need to do our part and do all that we can as best as we can to ensure we are all protected.

VOLUNTEER(S) OF THE MONTH

RICHARD AND KARYN MORGAN



Richard and Karyn have been volunteering with us at BCEFP since the summer of 2021. They have been so faithful to us at BCEFP and our community by volunteering each week by dating in our Donation Center as well as stepping in to help with NIBBLES. They have endured the Texas cold and heat to get the job done without complaint and they are so appreciated. We are so happy to honor them as our Volunteers of the Month. THANK YOU Richard and Karyn!!

Important Dates:



02/08 - Mary Wier

02/18 - Nancy Grizzaffi

02/19 - Tyler Beauchamp

02/19 - Lisa Gossett

PANTRY EXPRESS:

1st Thursday, February 3rd, 4:00 - 7:00 pm

FRESH FOOD FOR FAMILIES

3rd Friday, February 18th, 9:00 - 11:00 am

We will be closed on Monday, February 21st in observance of President's Day.



1. Sign in and out each time you volunteer here at the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry. (Your volunteer hours count in more ways than you know; they help provide matching dollars for grants!)
2. Wear a mask, badge and gloves at **ALL** times when at the Pantry. **Masks are required.**
3. Please let Jody Wright know if you are not able to make your shift. You may contact her by email at jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org or by phone at 512-303-0033.

**The pantry hours are Monday – Friday from 8:30am – 4:00pm.
We are CLOSED for lunch from 12:00pm – 1:00pm.**



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, or on the 1st Thursday of the month from anytime between 1:30pm-6:30pm (during Pantry Express).

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

Bastrop Empty Bowl: This will be held in March and we will need about 60 volunteers! Volunteers are needed to act as greeters; monitor the bowl table; help with set up and tear down; act as runners replenishing supplies for the restaurant tables; monitor and restock dessert and drink tables; bussing tables and trash; and other various duties. There will be more information coming in the next few months.

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

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>

Thank you for making our mission come to life!



When you do your shopping on AMAZON please don't forget to take advantage of this very simple way to support the BCEFP. Please support the BCEFP through AmazonSmile!

- 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!!

STANDING WISH LIST

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Canned corn | Soups – Broth & cream-based |
| Cooking oil (vegetable) | Sugar (small bags) |
| Cranberry Sauce | Stuffing |
| Cream of Mushroom Soup | |
| Syrup | <u>Hygiene Items:</u> |
| Dry Cereals | Bath Soap |
| Flour (small bags) | Toilet Paper |
| Hamburger Helper (Tuna and Chicken) | Deodorant |
| Jelly (in plastic containers) | Tooth Brushes |
| Juices – 64 oz. | Laundry Soap |

Volunteer Hours for the reporting month of December 2021 are 276.10

Client Service Report Month Ending Dec 25th FY2021

Program with food assistance	"# of Clients"	"Total Pounds"	"Members in Household"
NIBBLES	17	4267	0
Brown Bag	102	2182	140
Commodities	66	1914	90
Emergency Assistance	107	11819.5	258
Fresh Foods For Families	80	1891	140
Open Arms	3	54	4
Disaster Assistance	0	0	0
Pantry Express	0	0	0
Special Assistance Programs	12	291	49
Senior Activity	0	0	0
Whole Grain	307	4297	416
Total Served	694	26715.5	1097

