



We are full into summer and bracing ourselves for our lovely hot, humid, air-you-can-weather weather! Thankfully, most of our volunteer opportunities are indoors in the wonderful air conditioning (the greatest invention ever!) Hopefully, as school closes for the summer, and vacations are being planned you will keep us on your mind and continue to help us fulfill our mission to serve Bastrop County residents going through periods of transition by providing Emergency Food Assistance, Education & Support. We truly appreciate the contributions of time, energy and effort all of our amazing volunteers!

Here are some tidbits about the month of June you may find interesting:

June 5 is World Environment Day—a day meant to raise environmental awareness across the globe.

June 14 is Flag Day (U.S.). Be sure to raise the flag! Learn about the U.S. Flag Code, which provides guidelines for displaying the American flag properly.

June 19 is Juneteenth (also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day). On this day in 1865, Union General Gordon Granger read the Emancipation Proclamation aloud in Galveston, Texas, effectively liberating slaves in the state, which had thus far been beyond control of the Union Army.

June 20 is the summer solstice, which heralds the start of summer in the Northern Hemisphere. It's the day with the most hours of daylight, so enjoy! In the Southern Hemisphere, winter begins at this time.

June 21 is Father's Day.

June 21 is also National Indigenous Peoples Day (Canada).

June 24 brings Midsummer Day, traditionally the midpoint of the growing season, halfway between planting and harvesting.

And we certainly don't want to forget these lesser-known celebrations:

June 1: Say Something Nice Day

June 3: Chimborazo Day

June 6: National Yo-Yo Day

June 8: Upsy Daisy Day

June 21: Go Skateboarding Day

June 30: Asteroid Day

**GALAXY DIGITAL**

We were excited to launch our new volunteer management software site, Galaxy Digital, in May! It is our new process for new and active volunteers to search for new volunteer opportunities, schedule their volunteer shifts, track their volunteer hours and so much more. Volunteers will have their individual calendar in their profile showing the volunteer opportunities they are signed up for and will receive reminders on the day of the opportunity reminding them about it and giving them the option to sign in for it. They will be able to view not just the current month's calendar but each month through the rest of the calendar year.

In addition, the CauseConnect mobile app, will allow volunteers to do all of the above from the convenience of their mobile phones.

We appreciate everyone's patience as we begin this new process and value the feedback and information from all our volunteers as they venture into this new territory with us.

We are looking forward to the new options available with Galaxy Digital that will make the volunteer processes smooth and easy leading to an enjoyable volunteer experience.

**VOLUNTEER CALENDAR**

Going forward, you will view the Volunteer Calendar through Galaxy Digital. We will no longer be including it in the newsletter. So, if you want to look at the volunteer opportunities you are scheduled for or make changes, you will simply log in to your Galaxy Digital account and view it from there. You can also view and make changes from the CauseConnect mobile app. For now, please let me know if you plan on being out of town or make any changes by reaching out to me (512-303-0033, Ext 104 or [Jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org](mailto:Jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org)).

**VOLUNTEER OF THE MONTH IS: MARTHA ALFARO**



Martha and her husband have been a part of the Bastrop Community for a long time – since 1978. They love to travel; have two grown children; three grandchildren; and has operated an upholstery business in Bastrop since 1988. With all she has on her plate, she still finds time to devote to the Pantry!

Martha began volunteering with the Pantry in January helping build Emergency Boxes in our Emergency Center. Since then, she has volunteered with our Bastrop Empty Bowl Project, Whole Grains Distribution, NIBBLES, Fresh Foods for Families, and Smithville Housing Authority Box Distribution! She is always willing to do whatever needs to be done and goes above and beyond to help us fulfill the mission of BCEFP! We are so happy to have her as part of our BCEFP family and truly appreciative of her dedication and commitment to volunteering with us!

### **CONGRATULATIONS MARTHA!!**

#### **NIBBLES SUMMER BREAK**

Wednesday, May 25<sup>th</sup> was our last NIBBLES delivery of the school year. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of our awesome NIBBLES volunteers we served approximately 234 school kiddos this year! That's amazing!! This wonderful program will commence again in August when school starts. So, if you would like more info on it or want to sign up for when it resumes in August, head on over to our Galaxy Digital Opportunities page and check it out.

**THANK YOU to all our wonderful volunteers who helped with NIBBLES this past school year!**



#### **PANTRY EXPRESS:**

1st Thursday, June 2nd, 4:00 - 7:00pm

#### **FRESH FOOD FOR FAMILIES**

3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, June 17<sup>th</sup>, 9:00 - 11:00am



**06/06 – Karyn Morgan**

**06/13 – Barbara Adkins**

### **CIVIL RIGHTS TRAINING REQUIRED BY ALL VOLUNTEERS**

**If you have not already done so, please complete the Civil Rights Training.** This is required for all volunteers of the BCEFP. All volunteers are required to take the training, but the area you volunteer in will determine which training you are to take. If you have contact with any client personal information you will need to take the video training (Civil Rights Training - All Agencies). If you have questions about which training you are to do, please give me a call. If you do not have to access a computer or internet, please let me know and we can make arrangements for you to do the training here at the Pantry. The link is provided below:

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

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

Thank you for taking the time to complete these necessary steps for BCEFP to remain in compliance with the Food Bank.



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. If you have symptoms of any contagious illness, a positive COVID test, exposure to someone with COVID-19 or any other contagious illness, please stay home.
3. Volunteers **MUST** wear volunteer badges during their volunteer shift.
4. Gloves must always be worn while handling food items.
5. Food items are never to be placed directly on the floor. Plastic tubs, bins, boxes, cases, etc. containing any food items are to be placed 6" above the floor on to pallets, risers, tables, chairs, etc.
6. Please contact Volunteer Coordinator, **Jody Wright directly** as soon as possible if you are not able to make your shift either by email at [jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org](mailto:jwright@bastropfoodpantry.org) or by phone at 512-303-0033 Ext 104.

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7. Please do not bring friends or relatives to your volunteer shift who have not been cleared by Volunteer Coordinator, Jody Wright. All visitors must be cleared by the pantry staff and volunteers must have attended required orientation/training.

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

**NOTE:** Pantry buildings **MUST be vacated and ready to be locked by 11:30am**. We appreciate how diligent our volunteers are in wanting to get tasks completed so we are asking that you be sure to be **finished by 11:30am**. Staff members have a number of duties that need to be attended to before they are able to close the pantry at noon, so we ask that there be **no volunteers in our program buildings after 11:30am or before 1:30pm**.



### Immediate Volunteer Positions Available are:

**Bagging Items:** This involves re-bagging items in our Emergency Center with the use of a sealing machine. It takes place on Tuesday and Thursday from 8:30am-11:30am and/or 1:30pm-3:30pm. Volunteers will be trained on how to use the sealing machine.

**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.

**HEB Pick-up:** This involves picking up bread, produce and protein from HEB by 8:30am and dropping it off at our Support Center. Volunteers will use their own vehicle. We need volunteers to rotate Saturday mornings.

**FRESH FOOD FOR FAMILIES:** This involves setting up tables; sorting, weighing and bagging produce; greeting clients; distributing bags & boxes to clients; assisting clients to their cars when needed; cleaning up and taking down tables. This is a monthly event occurring on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of each month from 9am-11am. This is an outdoor event that takes place rain or shine.

**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 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month from anytime between 1:30pm-6:30pm (on Pantry Express day).



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**NIBBLES PREP:** *This program operates during the BISD school year and suspends during the summer school break.* It involves dating the food items that are to be placed in the Nibbles bags on build day. It takes place on Monday and Friday from 8:30-11:30 or 1:30-3:30 in the NIBBLES building.

**NIBBLES BUILD:** *This program operates during the BISD school year and suspends during the summer school break.* It involves placing items in bags which will be given to school children to take home, providing them with food to have over the weekend. We need teams of 3 on Wednesdays from 8:30-11:30 (eventually to rotate every other week).

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

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

## MASK POLICY

Per CDC guidelines in March 2022: "People may choose to mask at any time. People with symptoms, a positive test, or exposure to someone with COVID-19 should wear a mask."

BCEFP desires to keep everyone safe, so if you are **exhibiting symptoms** of COVID-19 or **any other contagious illness; have been exposed** to someone with COVID or any other contagious illness; or if **you are feeling ill**, please use caution and stay home until you are well and symptom free.



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  
Cooking oil (vegetable)  
Cranberry Sauce  
Cream of Mushroom Soup  
Syrup  
Dry Cereals  
Flour (small bags)

Soups – Broth & cream-based  
Sugar (small bags)  
Stuffing

### Hygiene Items:

Bath Soap  
Toilet Paper

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Hamburger Helper (Tuna and Chicken)

Jelly (in plastic containers)

Juices – 64 oz.

Deodorant

Toothbrushes

Laundry Soap

**Volunteer Hours for the reporting month of April 2022 are: 231.65**

**Client Service Report Month Ending April 25th FY2022**

<b>Program with food assistance</b>	<b>"# of Clients"</b>	<b>"Total Pounds"</b>	<b>"Members in Household"</b>
<b>NIBBLES</b>	17	4295	0
<b>Brown Bag</b>	92	2319	131
<b>Commodities</b>	63	1798	88
<b>Emergency Assistance</b>	102	11159	266
<b>Fresh Foods For Families</b>	100	331	192
<b>Open Arms</b>	3	57	4
<b>Disaster Assistance</b>	0	0	0
<b>Pantry Express</b>	1	197	3
<b>Special Assistance Programs</b>	14	392	61
<b>Senior Activity</b>	0	0	0
<b>Whole Grain</b>	308	3948	439
<b>Total Served</b>	700	24496	1184