

2nd Quarter 2023

Food For Thought

"Lend a hand to help feed your fellow man"



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



BCEFP VOLUNTEER QUARTER 2 NEWS & UPDATES

BCEFP NEWS FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TRESHA SILVA

As we wind down on spring and move into summer, I wanted to share a few Food Pantry updates with you. Our new building capital campaign is continuing and will officially be known as The Good Neighbor campaign. A steering committee has been formed and is currently engaged in outreach to community and business leaders to raise money for the campaign. The capital campaign goal is \$6.85M and we have reached 54%. Our next step is to bring on a Director of Development to support this campaign. BCEFP is a leader and largescale operator within our region's food relief ecosystem and this campaign is a critical next step to ensuring we are positioned to successfully address the challenges and root causes of food insecurity in Bastrop County now and in the future. During this first phase of the capital campaign, we are holding quarterly Lunch and Learn meetings at the Food Pantry, which highlight one of our programs and as well as spread awareness about food insecurity. During this mid-day meeting format, we can host Bastrop County community leaders and supporters of our work and mission. The Food Pantry tells its best story, so attendees are also given a tour of our facility. Your efforts to assist in events and activities like this are much appreciated. You are instrumental in our efforts to bring an end to hunger in our County.

Welcome New Volunteers

Doris Phillips
Austin Garrard
Linda Graham
Bill Hooton
Konnie Hooton
Lori Nietschmann
Jeanette Martinez
Arlette Villanueva
Dara Myers
Wendy Woodard
Christie Lout
David Darvin



BCEFP HOLIDAY/CLOSED DATES

Juneteenth, June 19
Independence Day, July 4
Labor Day, Sept 4

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

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SPOTLIGHT ON BROWN BAG AND APPRECIATION FROM BEVERLY OUR PROGRAM MANAGER...

We are deeply thankful and blessed to have special, unique, and amazing volunteers supporting the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry.

During your time of service, you have comforted, uplifted, and brought joy to the clients' souls as you have shared a piece of yourself in just the right precise magical moment. Due to your amazing support during the months of January, February, and March of 2023, we served 365 Brown Bag clients & distributed 6781 pounds of food.

TEAMWORK:

Coming Together is a Beginning

Keeping Together is Progress

Working Together is Success



WOW, we have had such a FULL Spring 2023! In March we hosted our 18th Annual Bastrop Empty Bowl Event with over 400+ patrons in attendance. We exceeded our goal of \$27,000 and were just shy of hitting our stretch goal of \$30,000.00 for that event. We are so proud to say that we did it with the support of 100+ volunteers from throughout the year and 50+ just at the Bastrop Empty Bowl event itself. We came off that event and started celebrating our volunteers during National Volunteer Appreciation Month in April! We kicked it off with a Taco Bout Appreciation Luncheon including a Fiesta theme, photo wall, and a pinata 😊! Then we wrapped up the month with a cook-out on our lawn. We ate delicious smoked burgers, grilled by staff member Anthony, had photo op fun, and **live music from Phil Hurley!!!** If you are looking for a volunteer home, we have the absolute **BEST volunteers!**

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HERE'S A GLANCE AT HOW WE CELEBRATED OUR VOLUNTEERS IN APRIL FOR NATIONAL VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH!



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*A special thank you to
Phil Hurley for donating
his talent and music &
Gaby's Party supply &
More for donating chairs
for our cook-out!

GABY'S PARTY SUPPLY & MORE

For All Your Rental Needs

**Moonwalks, Water Slide, Tables & Chairs
Snowcone, Popcorn, Cotton Candy Machines**

Serving: Giddings, Smithville,
La Grange, Austin, Manor,
McDade, Bastrop & Elgin

Facebook

See highly
expand

Free Delivery, Set Up & Pickup

512-229-5307

FREE DELIVER



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OUR IMPACT

VOLUNTEER HOURS & IMPACT

In Q1 (Jan, Feb and Mar) our volunteers contributed 1028 hours and on an average of 86 hours a week. **This is a 28% increase vs. our weekly average in Q4.** We are so pleased to see the momentum, energy, and positive impact that all our existing and new volunteers are bringing to the Food Pantry. Volunteer hours are incredibly valuable to the mission of the Food Pantry and equate to a financial contribution.

The most current value of volunteer hours is

\$31.80!

Independent Sector (IS) has announced that the estimated value of a volunteer hour in the United States reached \$31.80 in 2022, up 6.2 percent from 2021.* Apr 23, 2023

Based on this updated value, BCEFP volunteer hours contributed support equal to \$2,734/week or \$32,817.00 for the first quarter of 2023!!

*IS creates and shares knowledge and research to understand and accelerate the impact of the nonprofit sector.

Client Service Report Month February 25, FY2023

Volunteer Hours for the reporting month of February

Volunteer Hours: 288.42 hrs

	# of Clients	Pounds	Members of Food in Household
NIBBLES	28	6420	0
Brown Bag	117	2415	185
Commodities	69	2139	104
Emergency Asst.	152	13822	490
Fresh Foods for Families	115	2600.5	217
Open Arms	5	65	6
Disaster Asst.	111	2775	529
Pantry Express	0	0	2
Special Asst. Program	6	0	0
Senior Activity	19	350	25
Whole Grains	532	4223.2	853
TOTAL SERVED	1154	34809.7	2411

Client Service Report Month January 25, FY2023

Volunteer Hours for the reporting month of January

Volunteer Hours: 286.5 hrs

	# of Clients	Pounds	Members of Food in Household
NIBBLES	21	4854	0
Brown Bag	121	2611	186
Commodities	68	2108	103
Emergency Asst.	143	11739	441
Fresh Foods for Families	106	3118.12	203
Open Arms	5	70	6
Disaster Asst.	0	0	0
Pantry Express	0	0	2
Special Asst. Program	6	0	0
Senior Activity	0	0	0
Whole Grains	512	3817	799
TOTAL SERVED	982	28317.12	1740

Client Service Report Month March 25, FY2023

Volunteer Hours for the reporting month of March

Volunteer Hours: 512.77 hrs

	# of Clients	Pounds	Members of Food in Household
NIBBLES	21	4860	0
Brown Bag	117	2551	190
Commodities	69	1873	105
Emergency Asst.	188	14891	560
Fresh Foods for Families	65	1595	117
Open Arms	3	60	3
Disaster Asst.	0	0	0
Pantry Express	1	212	12
Special Asst. Program	0	0	0
Senior Activity	7	47	7
Whole Grains	549	4390.5	890
TOTAL SERVED	1020	30479.5	1884

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SOME INSIGHT ON FOOD SHORTAGES AT FOOD BANKS...STILL!

We all know how the pandemic created significant shortages due to major disruptions in the supply chain, but did you realize how those same issues are causing significant obstacles for Food Banks still today? In March of this year, the Global FoodBanking Network hosted a Leadership Conference called Food Banking in the Age of Volatility. Danny Flores, Sr. Mgr. HEB Hunger Relief program, USA was the moderator. In this discussion, leaders reviewed how there is still a dramatic shortage of raw materials, like aluminum, to create packaging. Pallets to transport the product are still scarce. Transportation of food is being highly impacted by the shortage of labor, capacity, and cost. Leaders discussed how future solutions may involve finding more regional sources of food through local supply chains. Also, there is a significant need for collaboration and shared supply chains between national retail chains and food companies. Prior to the pandemic, surplus food fueled food banks. All the above issues have eliminated the surplus and now food banks are having to rely even more on local partnerships to care for their community. Realistically, this is causing food pantries like ours to not have the same amount of food items to support our programs. Here's the link to the conference topic entitled Disruptions and Challenges if you would like to learn more. <https://youtu.be/KhVaAtv96Ng>

We continue to look for creative solutions to ensure that we never have to turn our neighbors away. If you would like to help, please consider holding a food drive at your church, business, or civic organization or making a financial donation to help support the increased cost of purchasing food to fill our shelves.

WHY FOOD DRIVES ARE SO AWESOME!

WANT TO GET INVOLVED IN AN EFFORT TO INCREASE FOOD DRIVES FOR BCEFP?

Food drives are vital in helping us increase our supply of high-need items such as canned meats, peanut butter, canned fruits vegetables, and personal care items. Food drives are an incredible way that people of all ages, neighborhoods, churches, schools, and businesses can all work together for a common cause! Food drives also stretch the Food Bank's budget significantly, allowing us to serve more future clients and provide a better variety to our current clients. Would you like to get involved in organizing a food drive through an organization that you are part of? Let us know and we would be happy to collaborate and support you through the process. Please contact sherrydarwin@bastropfoodpantry.org.



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VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION



Our Volunteer of the 1st Quarter is **Yolanda Morales!** Congratulations!

Yoli joined the BCEFP volunteer team in August of 2022 after retiring from Bastrop County as the Director of Indigent Health Care Program. Yolanda and her family are long-time Bastrop residents. She has been incredibly generous with her time and beginning in Q4 started supporting our administrative volunteer role every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday afternoon. We are so fortunate to have her on the team as she is caring and thoughtful when greeting and assisting our clients. Additionally, Yolanda

is bilingual and was able to provide this assistance to our clients and intake coordinator as well. Yoli, our sincere gratitude for stepping in when we needed you and providing support to us and our mission!

BCEFP STAFF WELCOMES A NEW TEAM MEMBER, MARILYN!

In April, Marilyn joined our team. She is working with us through an AARP program. Marilyn shared the following about herself 😊, "While not a native Texan, I have lived in Bastrop, Texas for 23 years and this is now the place I call home. I raised four children here, two of whom graduated from BHS and one on the way this year, and one to go. I have enjoyed being able to raise my wonderful family in a great environment. Now working with the wonderful people at Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry; I am very pleased to be giving back to the County that has given me so much joy."

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Ongoing Reminders

CAPTURING VOLUNTEER HOURS IS ESSENTIAL TO OUR ONGOING SUCCESS!

Please ensure that you check in for your shift with Galaxy Digital. In addition, if for some reason you are unable to work your shift; you should use galaxy digital to 'unregister' as well. Many times, if volunteers know that they will be unavailable for future shifts, you have shared this with your Program Manager and or Volunteer Coordinator, which allows us time to plan for other volunteers to take those shifts. These types of notifications are truly appreciated. Tracking our volunteer hours is a key part of data that we utilize when requesting grants or funding so please make sure that you are signed in and out for every shift. If for some reason you cannot do it electronically in Galaxy Digital, please make sure that you see a staff member regarding your hours or email sherrydarwin@foodpantry.org to let us know you had an issue.



WEAR A VOLUNTEER NAME BADGE UPON ARRIVING FOR YOUR SHIFT AT THE FOOD PANTRY. 😊

Please be sure to pick up a Volunteer Name badge as soon as you arrive at the Food Pantry for your shift. A name badge serves multiple purposes and is important for providing the best experience for our clients, visitors, and you as a volunteer. The badge helps everyone differentiate between staff and volunteers. Badges are available in our buildings that serve clients directly, both the main Food Pantry and the Support Center.



KEY VOLUNTEER ROLES NEEDING SUPPORT

WE HAVE MADE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS ON FILLING KEY ROLES FOR THE FOOD PANTRY. HEADING INTO SUMMER, THESE ARE THE VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS WE ARE MOST NEEDING ADDITIONAL SUPPORT FOR:

MORNING & AFTERNOON ADMINISTRATIVE RECEPTIONIST ON WEDNESDAYS AND FRIDAY AFTERNOONS: This role involves a variety of basic office and fundraising duties for the executive staff. Office tasks include answering phones and greeting program participants, prompting program participants on sign-in process, making copies, directing program participants on where to go, referring all calls to the appropriate staff member, and doing some data entry. **Note, this role will require an additional training session before signing up for these shifts.**

MORNING & AFTERNOON EMERGENCY BOX SUPPORT (M, W, F): This occurs Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8:30am-11:30am or 1:30pm-3:30pm. During this time, you will work with the inventory staff to efficiently build emergency food boxes with items chosen from the stock pick list. Take boxes on a cart out to the client's vehicle for the client to unload into their vehicle. Move and/or stock inventory items. You may also be asked to sort protein items for distribution

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DID YOU KNOW THAT YOU CAN BE A BINGO CALLER OR COOK AT THE BASTROP FOOD PANTRY?

Does this sound like FUN?? Is this an activity you would like to do? These opportunities take place every month for our seniors that are clients of the Brown Bag Program. Once a month on a Thursday at 10am, Program Manager Beverly hosts a luncheon for her clients. During this activity, there is an opportunity for a volunteer to cook the lunch and another opportunity for someone to call Bingo for the attendees. The clients really look forward to these luncheons. In May, a Mother's Day tea was held with china teacups, hats and gloves 😊! Thank you to our amazing volunteer Michelle Hastings that prepared and delivered the delightful menu for this event! When you are reviewing Volunteer Opportunities...look for Senior Activities. Here's a few pics of this super fun event enjoyed by all!



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VOLUNTEER COMMITTEE FORMING TO SUPPORT A VOLUNTEER DRIVEN FOOD DRIVE EFFORT

Would you like to be part of a committee to do community outreach regarding food drives? Our end goal will be to build a calendar of food drives supported by community organizations that can potentially be annual food drives for BCEFP. Volunteers will plan and implement this effort with the support of BCEFP staff. If you are interested, please email sherrydarwin@bastropfoodpantry.org.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST, SHARE TO CARE

We would like to invite you to follow us on social media. We are currently utilizing multiple platforms: Facebook, Instagram, and LinkedIn. Social Media allows us to keep the public and clients informed about our programs, success stories, challenges, immediate needs, and our overall mission! When you follow us and 'like' or share our posts, this expands our reach and builds awareness about our cause exponentially!



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, **Sherry Darvin directly** as soon as possible if you are not able to make your shift either by email atsherrydarwin@bastropfoodpantry.org or by phone at 512-303-0033 Ext 104.
7. Please do not bring friends or relatives to your volunteer shift who have not been cleared by Volunteer Coordinator, Sherry Darvin. All visitors must be cleared by the pantry staff and volunteers must have attended required orientation/training.

*Friendly
Reminders*

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