



A Quarterly Publication from the
Food Bank of Northwest
Louisiana

Fall 2021 Newsletter

FOOD FOR

Thought



Food Bank Opens A Food Pantry

THE FOOD PANTRY ON TEXAS

The Food Bank team with the help from countless volunteers, together have opened a Food Pantry at 2307 Texas Avenue. **The Food Pantry on Texas** provides boxes of meat, dairy, dry goods and pastry to community members needing food assistance in zip codes 71101, 71103 and 71109. **The Pantry on Texas** distributes food on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 2 pm. In the first month of opening we have distributed over 34,375 pounds of food to 275 households.

Food Bank vs. Food Pantry

Food Banks and food pantries are both pivotal components in the fight against hunger across America. But what most may not realize is that the definitions of the two are not interchangeable. So what's the difference between a food bank and a food pantry?

A food bank is a large distribution center for millions of pounds of food and household items that are to be supplied to local hunger-relief charities—acting as a food storage and distribution depot for smaller front-line agencies, including soup kitchens, food pantries, and shelters. Food banks usually do not give out food directly to food-insecure people themselves.

A food pantry's mission is to directly serve local residents who suffer from hunger and food insecurity within a specified area.

The Food Bank of the Northwest Louisiana's mission is to "feed the hungry" by providing food to these food pantries for distribution into their respective communities. The Food Bank's daily operation consists of sourcing, acquiring, sorting and accounting for food, then warehousing the inventory to be distributed to our over 150 non-profit and benevolent

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FOOD BANK VS. FOOD PANTRY

- Collects and stores food and other products that are then distributed to food pantries
- Donates (or sells for a very discounted rate) bulk quantities of food to hunger-relief organizations
- Needs volunteers to help sort and package large amounts of food
- Serves a wide network of food pantries, charities, and meal programs



- Distributes food and other products directly to people facing hunger
- Purchases food and receives food donations from food banks, food and grocery manufacturers, retailers, and food drives
- Needs volunteers to help prepare and serve hot meals, as well as assist clients with selecting free groceries and clothing
- Serves local households





Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana



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You can visit the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana online anytime at:

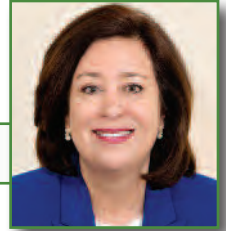
www.foodbanknla.org

Check out our website to learn more about events, volunteer opportunities, to make safe, secure online donations and to learn more about the Food Bank.



Letter

FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dear Friends of the Food Bank,

As Thanksgiving draws near, I want to thank you for your support of the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana. Your generosity has been vital to helping us provide food for hungry children, families and seniors in our community.

And it's even more vital at this time of year. While many of us will enjoy Thanksgiving dinners complete with turkey and all the trimmings, many of our hungry neighbors won't have that luxury. For some, Thanksgiving dinner might be a bowl of cereal. For others, there will be no dinner at all.

That's why I am asking for your help. In the next few weeks we expect to distribute 1,500,000 pounds of food to hungry people through our network of partner non-profit organizations and churches. To do this, we urgently need your help.

Any gift you send will make this a happier, hunger-free holiday season for some of the many children, families and others in our community who can't afford the food they need. Please help us get ready for the fast-approaching holiday season.

Thank you,

Martha Marak

Food Bank Opens A Food Pantry

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organizations, soup kitchens, homeless shelters, churches, after school programs, summer programs and schools throughout our seven parish service area in Northwest Louisiana.

Food banks and food pantries—they are not the same. But they share the same commitment. At the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana, we are proud of our partnership with food pantries—and many other organizations—who act with us on the belief that nobody should ever go hungry.

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To file a program complaint of discrimination, complete the **USDA Program Discrimination**

Complaint Form, (AD-3027) found online at: http://www.ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html, and at any USDA office, or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: program.intake@usda.gov. This institution is an equal opportunity provider.

What is 361,365?

361,365 is the number of pounds of food and food items that the Food Bank of NW Louisiana distributed for Hurricane Ida relief during September 2021.

This could not have been accomplished without the help we received from the community from our pleas for food. We graciously thank all the community members who donated their time, food and money donations to our Hurricane Ida relief efforts.

The demand for food is immense. We provided nine full trailer loads of food, household items and water to the Second Harvest Food Bank of New Orleans and the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

Help Us Change A Life: VOLUNTEER

We are seeking volunteers to help us at the Pantry on Texas. Volunteers help with different “jobs” on Tuesdays and Thursdays. There are multiple 2-hour shift times between 8 am and 3 pm. Please visit our website at www.foodbanknla.org or on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/foodbankofnwla/> to sign-up to volunteer.

Volunteer positions are the following:

Box Packers/Sorters: Will sort and pack produce/frozen goods/pastries boxes for distribution later in the day; two shifts 8 am-10 pm and 10 am-12 pm.

Client Registration: Help clients with registration with a tablet/computer and will input client data into Client Software. A training video is available for instructions upon arrival. It is very user friendly, but being comfortable on a computer helps; two shifts 11 am-1 pm and 1 pm-3 pm.

Food Distribution: Assist clients in getting their boxes to their vehicles. Should be able to load boxes weighing 25-50 pounds; two shifts 11 am-1 pm and 1 pm-3 pm.

Everyone must wear a mask. Please arrive 5-10 minutes before shift begins. Be sure to sign-in upon arrival. Closed-toed shoes are required. Please no tank tops or revealing clothing. Please be flexible as you might be asked to assist in another area if needed.

2021 Droids and Dragons Virtual Trivia

On Saturday, October 9, 2021, the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana and Coastal Connection will host the 2021 Virtual Droids & Dragons Virtual Trivia Night Event.

Gather your friends to form a team to compete by answering several rounds of on-line trivia questions for the chance to win prizes! Participants in this fun event will let their imaginations run wild choosing a team name, creating costumes, decorating their personal locations and testing their Sci-Fi knowledge for this “far-out” event.

Sign on for the event is 6:30 pm, “Best Use of Theme Contest” judging at 6:45 pm and trivia begins at 7 pm. High scoring teams for the evening and contest winners will win awards!

Be a part of this fun evening while supporting two great organizations that are making a difference in the lives of those who are food insecure! Your support will benefit the local school backpack program and Caddo school food pantry program.

For more information contact the Food bank at 318-675-2400.



FOOD BANK OF NORTHWEST LOUISIANA
EMPTY BOWLS

Empty Bowls Souper Heroes

Due to the resurgence of COVID-19, the 2021 Empty Bowls Hunger Awareness Event was cancelled. Even though there will not be a physical event, the 2021 Empty Bowls Sponsors remain committed to feeding the hungry – those whose bowls remain empty. These sponsors are our “Souper Heroes”!

We would like to recognize and thank them for their continued support:

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COASTAL CONNECTIONS

We look forward to seeing you at our Empty Bowls event next year.

Food Bank Facts

As a hunger-relief organization, the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana acquires, stores, and distributes food and other essential items to low income children and individuals through 150 community non-profit and faith-based organizations within Caddo, Bossier, Webster, Bienville, Claiborne, Red River and DeSoto Parishes. These organizations consist of homeless shelters, soup kitchens, residential centers, churches, pantry programs, and schools. We save these agencies millions each year by providing free and low cost food and products.

OUR PROGRAMS:

Food and Emergency Distribution:

In the 2019-2020 fiscal year, we distributed 13.5 million pounds of food with a value of \$18,880,000 to more than 75,000 children, women, men, seniors, veterans, homeless, disabled, unemployed and underemployed individuals living below the federal poverty level in the seven parishes of northwest Louisiana.

Disaster Relief:

As a disaster responder we provide immediate assistance to our partner organizations, sister food banks and individuals. We distributed \$250,000 of water and food during the 2015 and 2016 spring flood disaster victims. In 2017 - 2020 we provided over \$400,000 in food and water to the Food Banks in Beaumont Texas, Puerto Rico, South Carolina and South Louisiana for hurricane victims.

Senior Box Program:

Each month we deliver a box of pantry staple foods to over 1,000 low income seniors throughout our seven parishes.

Mobile Pantry:

Perishable and non-perishable food are distributed to rural clients on a monthly basis.

Kids Cafe® After School Meals:

The Food Banks provides meals for the Volunteers of America’s Lighthouse Program, Caddo Parish Libraries, FDDOC Winner’s Circle, Youth Enrichment Program, and David Raines Health Center for hungry children in after-school programs.

BackPack™ Program:

Chronically hungry children are provided with a weekly backpack of food to take home for the weekend and holidays. Each 7-10 pound bag includes items such as cereal, milk, fruit juice, and pop-top canned food.

Summer Food Service Program:

Nutritional breakfasts and lunches are provided for hungry children during the summer months. Food is provided at summer programs such as Boys and Girls Clubs and faith-based summer programs.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

- Pack food boxes for Senior Program*
- Help administration with clerical duties*
- Organize a food drive or virtual food drive*
- Deliver senior food boxes monthly*

Contact us for information on volunteering with the Food Bank, 318-675-2400 ext. 100 or adminassist@foodbanknla.org