

food matters

Winter 2010 Newsletter



Food Bank of
The Golden Crescent
3809 E. Rio Grande
Victoria, TX 77901
(361)578-0591

www.goldencrescentfoodbank.org

Serving the Counties of:
Calhoun, Colorado, De Witt, Goliad,
Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda,
Refugio, Victoria & Wharton.



a publication of the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent

The BackPack Program Begins

The Friday dismissal bell rings and the children jump up eagerly to head for home; but not all of them. It's not that they aren't looking forward to being with their family, but many are going through tough times now and know that food will be scarce. In fact, Friday's school lunch will be the last good meal they will get until school breakfast Monday morning.

This is the scenario that too many of Texas' children experience each week. Instead of looking forward to the weekend, two long days without enough to eat fills them with dread.

The Food Bank of the Golden Crescent is committed to helping these children. That's why beginning on January 15th we began offering The BackPack program. The BackPack Program is brilliant in its simplicity. Every Friday children in need are given a backpack that looks like every other kid's. Except instead of books, this backpack is filled with nutritious, filling food that will keep them going through the weekend. They bring the backpack back to school on Monday. The Food Bank and our partners repack it with more food and deliver it to the school by Thursday, ready for children to take home again on Friday.

With the help of generous donations from community partners: \$15,000 grant from Crossroads Foundation; \$2,500 Trull Foundation; and \$1,000 grants from Victoria Rotary, Victory Junior League, and various WalMart stores, we began providing BackPacks with food for the week-ends for 130 homeless children in 5 elementary schools in the Victoria Independent School District. We hope to be able to expand the BackPack Program into 10 more counties in 2010 to impact hunger among those children who are at the highest risk.



Victoria Junior League: \$1,000 check presentation for Kid's BackPack Program

continued on page 4

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2009 - 2010
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Transportation/Warehouse
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Theresa Calderon

Janitor
Ricky Dominquez

Best wishes for a
Happy New Year
from the staff at FBGC



From the Desk of the Executive Director



If the Food Bank were a retail operation one might say 2009 was a banner year. Consider these statistics:

	2008	2009	Difference	
Food Donations (lbs):	3,520,452	3,948,231	427,779	+12%
Value of donations in \$'s:	5,562,314	6,238,205	675,891	
Food Distribution (lbs):	3,156,355	3,913,179	756,824	+24%
Value of distribution in \$'s:	4,987,041	6,182,823	1,195,782	

Unfortunately, the increase in donations and food distribution represents an increase in hunger in the Golden Crescent Region. We are seeing the effects of the recession upon our communities and the picture is not very pretty. Approximately 16% of the population in our region is living at or below the poverty level. And 1 in 5 children under the age of 18 in Texas are hunger insecure.

However, we have taken a proactive course to address hunger on a number of fronts:

- We have identified nearly 100 prospective food donors that we will begin contacting this month.
- Our good friend H.E.B. has sent a couple of truckloads of food to help ease the shortfall.
- WalMart recently donated a commercial truck with a reefer to help us expand our Mobile Food Pantry Program for distributing food to high areas of poverty and for a Food Rescue Program.
- Beginning January 15th we began providing BackPacks with food for the week-ends for 130 homeless children in 5 elementary schools in the Victoria Independent School District.
- We hope to be able to expand the Backpack Program into 10 more counties in 2010 to impact hunger among those children who are the highest risks.

We are most grateful to the Victoria Advocate and Victoria Television Group for their support and recent coverage. Texans have a way of coming together in tough times and working through difficult situations. In speaking for the Board and the staff, I am confident in saying that we are optimistic about 2010 knowing we have the full support of this wonderful community.

May God continue to bless!

Dennis Brown, Executive Director



Victoria Rotary Club: \$1,000
donation for Backpack Program.

Food & Fund Drives

The Food Bank couldn't function without donations from the community. It is food drives and other local donations that give The Food Bank a variety of foods that provide a source of nutrients to people in need. We would like to thank everyone who put together a food drive or donated food to The Food Bank this past November and December. We wish we could list all of those who helped, but in the interest of space we are listing the Top 5 Food Drives this last November/December by poundage. If you are interested in holding a food drive and would like some more information please contact the Food Bank at 361-578-0591.

Top 5 Food Drives in Nov/Dec:

Boy Scouts / Victoria	3,659 lbs
Lacks Furniture Stores	2,645 lbs
Victoria College (various groups)	2,173 lbs
Woolson Real Estate	1,877 lbs
University of Houston, Victoria	1,787 lbs

Woolson Real Estate Food Drive



Victoria Boys Scout Food Drive



Victoria Generals food drive



Triumph Hospital: Employees from the hospital worked in the clean room to repackage rice and/or beans.



FBGC building: Food distribution on-site.



St. Joseph High School – participated in both a food drive and sorting food.



The Backpack Program Begins

continued from page 1

Consider these statistics about hunger in Texas:

- The population in Texas in 2005: 22,270,165
- Children under the age of 18 living below the poverty level: 1,419,000 (22%)
- 33% of the members of households in Texas are children under the age of 18.
- 67% of these households have children participating in the federal school lunch and school breakfast program.
- Among households with children, 7% are food insecure and 30% are experiencing hunger.
- 33% of the clients served by the Texas Food Bank Network are children.

The Backpack Program is designed to meet the needs of hungry children at times when free or reduced-priced school lunches are not available, such as weekends and school vacations.

With the Backpack Program, high-risk children can receive the nutrition they need to grow strong and healthy. School attendance and grades improve, behavioral problems diminish. Our community grows stronger.

For additional information contact:
Dennis Brown, Executive Director
Phone: (361) 578-0591
Email address:
dennisbrown@feedingamerica.org
Website:
www.FBGCFoodBank.org

A Big Thank You to our Friends at Walmart

Expansion of Mobile Food Pantry Program and Retail Store / Food Rescue Program were possible thanks to the donation of a new truck from WalMart.



WalMart Presentation: –
Ribbon Cutting



WalMart Truck
(Freightliner with reefer /
Value: \$84,000)

A Big Thank You to Friends Who Helped in Time of Need

H.E.B., our biggest Retail Food Donor: they donated over 660,000 pounds of food in 2009 with a retail value of \$1,042,800.

M.D. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation: \$20,000 - purchase and installation of new freezer doors.

Beaumont Foundation: \$30,000 for purchase of food and related transportation costs.

O'Connor & Hewitt Foundation: \$25,000 for food and transportation expenses.

The Trull Foundation: \$7,500 for staff training and the Backpack Program.

The Dow Chemical Foundation: \$5,000 for the Backpack Program.

Valero Energy Foundation: \$3,500 for the Backpack Program.

Calendar of Events

A portion of the proceeds from the following special events will benefit the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent.

Victoria Professional Fire Fighters Association's 1st Annual Golf Tournament

March 20, 2010, 1:00pm

Entry Deadline: March 17th, 2010 3:00pm

Call 361-578-9808

Taste of the Mid-Coast Food Fest

Thursday, April 8th, 2010

Sponsored by the Texas Restaurant Association