



The Story:

Solving hunger today for a hunger free tomorrow.

Summer 2023



***You Help Fill Our
Neighbors' Tables!***

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HEALTHY FOOD



Theresa Mangapora

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Dear Friend,

In the summer, Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) sees a big shift in volunteer demographics. With many Texas A&M students returning home for summer break, we lose our most engaged and enthusiastic volunteer base.

While we miss the energy of our college-aged volunteers, we are also incredibly blessed that year-round Brazos Valley residents love to give back. So, while the students are gone, our amazing Volunteer Leaders*, like Suzy Mills, pg. 3, always step-up!

BVFB is also grateful for local youth groups, parents volunteering with children, local businesses and more who share time and energy with us during the summer.

Unfortunately, in recent years, BVFB has seen a decline in volunteerism. But I know that our community still has so much to give. Please know that this summer, or any time of year, we would love to host you and your family or group at our Volunteer Center.

This will be a challenging summer for Brazos Valley neighbors facing hunger, from parents trying to make up the summer meal gap to individuals struggling to make ends meet with the current record cost of living.

Remember, YOU are a lifeline for our community members facing hunger. With your help, our neighbors will have at least one certainty this summer: nutritious food on the table.

Read on to learn more!

*To learn more about BVFB's Volunteer Leader Program, please email destiny1@bvfb.org.

Sincerely,

Theresa Mangapora
Executive Director

You're Fueling Joselin's Summer

Joselin, 15, is a Bryan neighbor and a caring older sister to Jasmine, 13, and Angeline, 9.

Since Joselin's mother, Minerva, learned about the Brazos County Mobile Food Pantry through a friend, the whole family has begun attending in the mornings when it's available.

It's a fun way to start the day, Joselin says — although sometimes her sisters can be a handful, as playful little siblings often are. Still, Joselin shares that the time spent together receiving food is appreciated by the family.

And with the resources from the Mobile Pantry, Joselin and her sisters can look forward to the upcoming summer with lessened worries about where the month's meals will come from.

"When we don't have to spend so much on groceries throughout the week and my parents don't have to be so stressed, my sisters and I can [enjoy] the weekend," Joselin shares.

With her mind and body fueled with healthy food, Joselin is especially excited to begin drivers education this summer.



It is your partnership that makes it possible for Brazos Valley Food Bank to serve our neighbors like Joselin and her sisters. Thank you for helping to keep local families fed with nutritious food!

Suzy Packs Food Boxes Full

A fourth-generation Brazos Valley neighbor, Suzy Mills has made an incredible impact in our community through her thirty-year teaching career. She taught fourth grade in the College Station ISD and spent every day making a difference for countless local children.

Now retired, Suzy has turned her attention to serving the community through food — by volunteering at the Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB).

As a teacher, Suzy saw firsthand how food insecurity affects the children in Brazos Valley. *"The BackPacks [from BVFB's Backpack Program] went home with a lot of my students,"* she says. *"Being in the classroom and seeing [the need] firsthand really opens your eyes."*

When Suzy retired from teaching four years ago, she remembered the impact of the Backpack Program and decided to get involved in Brazos Valley Food Bank's mission.

Suzy has been a committed and caring volunteer for over four years, helping sort and pack the nourishing food that makes all the difference for our neighbors facing hunger. We are so grateful for her continued partnership in our mission of solving hunger today, and ending hunger tomorrow.



Suzy Mills smiles knowing her volunteering is helping the community.



**Photo changed for privacy*



Volunteering at BVFB This Summer

Volunteer Center Summer Hours (June, July & August):

Monday through Friday
9 am-12 pm and
12:45-3:45 pm

Evening and Saturday hours
resume September 1.

For more details, visit:
www.bvfb.org/volunteering



4th Annual KBTX-TV Summer Hunger Campaign:

This June, join us in a special opportunity to donate food and/or funds to support BVFB over the tough summer months!

More information and to donate at
<https://www.bvfb.org/ktbxsummerhunger>



Feast of Caring
August 2, 2023
11 am to 1 pm
The Brazos Center

BVFB's signature annual fundraising event, features a delicious meal of beans, rice, sausage, salad and dessert, **all served by local celebrities!** Your meal is free, but donations are gratefully accepted!

You Fill Sarah's Table with Healthy Food

Sarah is the loving mom of two teen boys, Waylon, 15, and Jayden, 13. Like many parents, she works hard every day to provide for her children and ensure the brightest future possible.

Sarah owns her own cleaning business, but since the pandemic disrupted all our lives in 2020, she says she lost two-thirds of her clients. She took a second job to bridge the gap, but the extra income doesn't quite stretch far enough.

Now, it can be a challenge to afford daily expenses like food. With two kids at home, Sarah feels the pinch of high living costs, especially when it comes to groceries.

She began attending the Washington County Mobile Pantry

after calling the Brazos Valley Food Bank and asking about local resources.

Now, Sarah visits the Mobile Pantry with her sister, Katina, who also picks up food for her family.

"You're always short on something," Katina says. "And that's where [the Mobile Pantry] comes into play," Sarah adds.

Thanks to your generosity, Brazos Valley Food Bank can provide Sarah with the food her family needs to thrive.

"Thank you," she says gratefully to donors like you. "It's a godsend."



1501 Independence Avenue
Bryan, TX 77803



(979) 779-3663
www.bvfb.org

