

Network News

from the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

April 2020

Closings

Tulsa Branch:
Thursday, April 9
Opens at 9:30 AM

Warehouse Shopping Hours

Tulsa Branch:
M-F 8:30 AM to 11:45 AM
TWR 1:00 PM to 2:45 PM

McAlester Branch:
M-F 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM

February Numbers

3,070,725 Pounds Distributed
1,357,468 Pounds Produce Distributed
1425 Veterans Served
113 Active Military Served

Pantry Agencies
(203 agencies reporting)
29,039 Households Served
71,337 Individuals Served

On-Site Agencies
(138 agencies reporting)
315,780 Meals Served
6,555 Individuals Served

2020 Agency Conferences

The 2020 Agency Conferences are in the process of being rescheduled. The conferences were postponed to follow CDC guidelines of social distancing to reduce the spread of COVID-19. We will notify our network when those conferences are rescheduled.

I-Spy in the Warehouse!



Item # S0675
Description: Cereal / Light Wheat Squares
Pack Size: 4 / 2 lb. Bags
SMF: \$0.16
Case Cost: \$1.28

Monthly Reports

Remember, each agency is required to submit a monthly report through Agency Express by the 10th of each month. The link to submit your monthly report can be found on Agency Express under the "Food Bank Links" tab and choosing the report option appropriate for your agency. Agencies can verify that they submitted their monthly report by looking under the "Reports" tab and choosing "Survey Management". Agencies only have a specific window of time to submit a monthly report, usually between the 25th and the 10th. After the 10th, agencies that have not submitted a monthly report will be placed on hold and will be unable to order or pick up orders until the report is received. The link to submit a report will disappear after the 10th of the month and agencies will have to submit reports by emailing ssnelling@okfoodbank.org or faxing 918-585-2862.

Upcoming Training

No scheduled trainings in April

COVID-19 RESPONSE UPDATES

As many of you are likely aware, Governor Stitt held a press conference on Tuesday, March 24, 2020, where several declarations were made attempting to help flatten the curve of spread of COVID-19. We want to explain what those declarations mean and how they affect the Food Bank and its Partner Agencies.

- **"Safer at Home" Initiative:** Gov. Stitt recommended that all adults over the age of 65 or people that are immunocompromised stay at home until April 30, except to receive essential services (e.g., groceries, medication, etc.), to reduce the chances of contracting COVID-19.
 - This initiative is a statewide recommendation, not a mandate, so this population is not required to follow the recommendation but it is in their best interest.
 - This will impact our agency network since many of you rely on volunteers to operate and many of those volunteers fall into this at-risk demographic. You can alter the roles of these volunteers to reduce or eliminate contact with clients, such as handling client intake over the phone instead of face-to-face or by having these volunteers focus on bagging the food that other volunteers take out to client cars.
 - This may also result in an increased need of food delivery to homebound clients that are most at-risk of contracting COVID-19. If your agency has the capacity to offer delivery, you might look at your normal client list and contact regular clients that may need delivery service. Alternatively, you may allow clients to send someone else to pick up food on their behalf.
- **Closure of Non-essential Businesses in affected counties:** Gov. Stitt mandated that all non-essential businesses close in all counties with a confirmed COVID-19 case beginning Thursday, March 26, 2020, and remaining closed for 21 days.
 - The Food Bank and its Partner Agencies are considered "Essential Businesses" and are able to continue operations according to CISA guidelines, which are the guidelines Gov. Stitt is following.
 - Exact wording under Healthcare / Public Health section: "Workers who support food, shelter, and social services, and other necessities of life for economically disadvantaged or otherwise needy individuals, such as those residing in shelters"
 - Affected counties in FB service area include the following: Adair, Cherokee, Choctaw, Craig, Creek, Delaware, Latimer, Le Flore, Mayes, Muskogee, Nowata, Okmulgee, Osage, Ottawa, Pittsburg, Rogers, Sequoyah, Tulsa, Wagoner, and Washington
 - If cases are confirmed in counties not mentioned in this list, those counties will also fall under this mandate
 - Currently, there are no travel restrictions in place prohibiting people from travelling to obtain essential services and none of the affected counties are under a "Shelter in Place" order.
 - This means that permission letters are not required for agency travel at this time.

In summary, the Food Bank will continue operating as close to normal as possible. We will continue to move forward with our normal Rural Delivery Service schedule. Agency order pick-ups and shopping at the Tulsa and McAlester facilities will operate in accordance with our social distancing procedures to limit entry into our facility.

We would like to commend our agency network for their dedication to their communities and innovation to continue service during this unprecedented event. The Food Bank will continue to monitor and issue updates regarding COVID-19. We ask that your agency continue to update us on the needs of your community so that we can work together to serve eastern Oklahomans with dignity and respect.



AGENCY OF THE MONTH

RESTORE HOPE MINISTRIES

Agency Director: Jeff Jaynes

Founding Date: 1978

Location: Tulsa

Services Provided: Food pantry; rent assistance; spiritual counseling; school supply distribution; Thanksgiving baskets

Proudest Accomplishment: Our Homeless Prevention Initiative is among the most successful in the nation at preventing homelessness. Our success rate for the past 5 years has not dropped below 99%. We also help lead an effort to share client and household-level data called "AssistOK" that now includes 11,000 households and over 20,000 clients across 4 agencies.

Where do you see your program in five years? We want to improve our ability to help at the "We" level while continuing our excellent work at the "Me" level. We are proud of the work we do with the individuals and families to help them with food, rent assistance, or other services. But, our hope is that fewer people will need the individual/family "me" level solutions we currently provide as we work to build community level "We" solutions.



Austin Brewer

Title: Director of Agency Services and Disaster Response

How long at the Food Bank: 2 years 3 months

What you do here: I lead our Agency Services team and explore innovative ideas and creative partnerships to support the Food Bank's mission of feeding the hungry of eastern Oklahoma with dignity and respect.

Something about you: My goal is to visit every U.S. National Park. I have only visited 5 of 61 national parks so I have quite a ways to go!

Pearls of Wisdom: "Don't start chasing applause and acclaim. That way lies madness." - Ron Swanson

Favorite Foods: Pizza is king, tacos are queen, and pickles are the enemy

Currently Reading: Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

FACES OF THE FOOD BANK

Thank you to the **Walmart Foundation** for providing a \$50,000 grant funding infrastructure to help Partner Agencies secure and distribute more nutritious food to families in need.

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Community Food Bank
of Eastern Oklahoma