



# Coronavirus Food Relief Program

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Food Bank has continued its operations providing emergency food relief through our network of 350 Partner Agencies and other community partners. From March through June, the Food Bank provided 3.3 million more pounds of food compared to the same period in 2019. That is a 34% increase - the equivalent of over 2.7 million more meals - to help with this crisis.

## SOUP'S ON DRIVE-THRU FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS

The Food Bank hosts regular Soup's On drive-thru food distributions that provide a combination of homemade then frozen meals, shelf-stable food items, and fresh produce in order to help people struggling to put food on their tables.

## FOOD BANK CULINARY CENTER

Chef Jeff Marlow and our Culinary Center team work hard each day to prepare thousands of fresh, nutritious meals that are frozen and ready-to-heat-and-eat. The meals go to people at Soup's On and Summer Food Program distributions and through partnerships such as Food On The Move, Tulsa Dream Center, and Youth Services of Tulsa.

The Food Bank also played a key role in developing menus, securing food provisions, organizing food production partners, and storing and transporting meals with the Tulsa Kitchens Unite program. In partnership with Hunger-Free Oklahoma, TKU keeps local restaurants open, workers paid, and families fed.

## FOOD FOR KIDS - SCHOOL PANTRY, BACKPACK PROGRAM, AND HUNGER-FREE SUMMER PROGRAMS

With schools closed for COVID-19 and summer, many students miss the meals that schools provide. Currently, the Food Bank supports schools that have continued with their Backpack and School Pantry programs. The annual Hunger-Free Summer initiative also provides meals to students in many rural communities in eastern Oklahoma.

## SENIOR SERVINGS

After learning of the dire need faced by many older residents living in Tulsa Housing Authority senior communities, the Food Bank quickly mobilized the delivery of emergency boxes of shelf-stable food and fresh produce to the senior housing sites. The initiative continues alongside our ongoing senior servings program.

## MOBILE PANTRIES AND VETERANS INITIATIVES

Mobile Pantries continue to provide shelf-stable food and fresh produce to rural communities where retail outlets and food pantries are scarce. In addition, we schedule several Mobile Pantries that focus on the needs within veteran communities.

## EMERGENCY FOOD BOX DISTRIBUTIONS

In addition to our network's typical food distribution of fresh produce and shelf-stable pantry items, Partner Agencies can access and provide emergency boxes of shelf-stable, high-protein food to their clients. Currently, the Food Bank is building 30,000 emergency boxes, with product ordered.

## POP-UP PARTNERSHIPS

Here are a few examples of our numerous partnerships:

- With the help of the National Guard, and in partnership with First Physicians Capital Group, the town of Fairfax, Oklahoma, received an emergency food distribution.
- North Peoria Church of Christ provided product from the Food Bank, along with toiletry items and internet hotspots for families without access.
- Led by our partner, Catholic Charities Poteau, a 40,000 pound donation of frozen chicken from OK Foods was distributed to families in need throughout LeFlore County.



Volunteers hand out food during a Soup's On drive-thru food distribution.



A young student waiting to receive meals at a Tulsa Kitchens Unite distribution.



Employees load vehicles with food at the drive-thru distribution at the Food Bank.

## VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

For those who want to offer their time and talent, please check our website. We will update volunteer opportunities as health and safety standards allow.