

Feeding Hope

Winter 2020

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Our Mission

We combat the hunger crisis in our region by strategically procuring and distributing nutritious food through community partners... **because no one should go hungry.**

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“We closed the year by distributing over 32 million pounds of nutritious food to people struggling with hunger in El Paso and West Texas. That is a 100% growth from a year ago!”

Dear Caring Friends,

We want to share some good news. We had a tremendous 2019 at El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFH). We closed the year by distributing over 32 million pounds of nutritious food to people struggling with hunger in El Paso and West Texas. That is a 100% growth from a year ago!

None of this could have been done without the effort of countless people (too many to name) who are committed to combating the hunger crisis in our region. We THANK YOU because you are responsible for our success!

Although we recognize the success and achievement we accomplished in 2019, there are still (currently) over 200,000 people in our region who are at risk of hunger. For year 2020, our focus will remain on improving our food bank and implementing new strategies to continue to grow and better serve our community.

Being the youngest Food Bank in America, we have a lot of expectations to live up to. The path to eliminate hunger in our region is not an easy path. It is going to take a lot of courage, determination and dedication. Although, we find comfort in the fact that we are not alone in this fight. For 2020, we look forward to establishing and strengthening relationships with the members of our community as well as our current community partners — as they are on the front lines of the fight to end hunger. Together, working as one, I am confident we will exceed our own expectations and provide our region the quality service they deserve.

Warmly,

Susan Goodell
Chief Executive Officer





Welcome New Team Members

At El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank, we value our staff and we want to cultivate a culture of purpose, passion, togetherness and trust. We want our employees to see this as an opportunity to give back and invest in our community to make it better. Our mission is our mantra: to combat the hunger crisis in our region by strategically procuring and distributing nutritious food through community partners ... because no one should go hungry. That being said, we'd like to give a warm welcome to Nora Aviles, Edna Zamarripa and Karmela Galicia — all whom have recently joined our staff.

Nora Aviles joins our team as our new Human Resources & Administration Director. She previously worked with the Salvation Army as Human Resource Manager. She served as the Disaster Relief Coordinator during the 2019 migrant crisis and working closely with EPFH during the August 3rd tragedy at the Cielo Vista Walmart. Nora is an El Paso native and enjoys volunteering with other non-profits within our community during her free time.

Edna Zamarripa joins our team as our new Chief Financial Officer (CFO). As CFO, she will oversee accounting business support, financial planning and analysis for our Food Bank. Prior to joining EPFH, Edna held various leadership and operational roles at the

YWCA, Housing Authority of El Paso, UMC and Marathon Petroleum. Edna is also an El Paso native and enjoys spending time with her husband and two sons.

Karmela Galicia is our new Director of Programs. Before joining the Food Bank, Karmela worked for the Greater Chicago Food Depository. Her time at the Food Depository was divided between a job training program called Chicago's Community Kitchens as well as Agency Relations. Karmela is originally from El Paso and decided to come back to her home town to be close to her family. She is extremely proud of the work she does — helping people in need.

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Dignity Is Key

As we set our sight toward year 2020, one of our goals is to encourage our community partner agencies to take a step back and observe their processes and procedures. We ask that they think about how to continuously improve their process in order to become efficient. Transitioning to a Client Choice Food Pantry may be the key to save time and labor.

The Client Choice Food Pantry model is a critical part of a community's effort to end hunger. Client Choice allows people seeking food assistance to choose the products they need to best fit their needs. Having the opportunity to choose their own food gives the people being served a sense of dignity and control. It also limits waste (since they tend not to take food they won't use) and allows them to tailor the help they receive to be the best possible fit for their own unique situation.

With a Client Choice Model, there is no "one size fits all." There are different variations to suit the needs of partner agencies. Each pantry has its own unique set of needs, clients, and they all differ in size and capacity. Transitioning to Client Choice is achievable and the size of the distribution area is not a barrier.



It can make the distribution of food a lot easier by alleviating the strain on volunteers because they do not have to place food items into a box.

We will be sharing more information to address any questions and/or concerns about Client Choice and helping our partners see how they can incorporate elements into their distribution. This is one of the many ways that we are working to better serve the El Paso region.

For more information about Client Choice Pantries contact Karmela Galicia at 915-298-0353 ext. 105 or by email at kgalicia@epfhfb.org



Volunteer Spotlight

Jerry Casillas Jr.

Jerry started as a processing volunteer at the beginning of December. He has generously donated 40 hours of his time to the Food Bank. When we asked Jerry why he enjoys volunteering at the Food Bank he stated, "Not only is my experience helping me gain personal vocational skills, but the reward of helping others in need is why I enjoy volunteering." Way to go Jerry and thanks for all that you do!

“Not only is my experience helping me gain personal vocational skills, but the reward of helping others in need is why I enjoy volunteering.”

— Jerry Casillas Jr.



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Sustained Giving

Our new website allows donors the option to make a sustained gift through monthly payments. **We currently are seeking 2,500 donors to make \$20 monthly contributions;** that would result in \$600,000 for El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank and 4,200,000 meals for people in need!