



# Partner Agency Newsletter

## May 2019

### SPOTLIGHTS:

#### Food Safety: Perishable Food Transportation



With warmer temperatures right around the corner, we would like to remind all partner agencies that the safe transportation of perishable product is crucial to our success in nourishing hungry people. Perishable foods are defined as any food that requires refrigeration or is frozen. The policies we have in place are designed to ensure safe and proper handling of food to conform to all state, local, and federal health and safety regulations.

Beginning July 1, 2019, the Central Texas Food Bank will enforce the requirement that all Partner Agencies (Agencies) without refrigerated vehicles or coolers with ice /cold packs must utilize insulated freezer blankets for transporting perishable food to comply with safe food handling policies. If food safety precautions are not taken, your Agency will not be allowed to take perishable products. The Food Bank will initially provide one (1) free freezer blanket to Agencies based on agency capacity and typical order size.

Please ensure your agency is following the current policies regarding safe transportation of perishable product, and prepare for the implementation of freezer blankets and improved perishable food transportation policies by July 1<sup>st</sup>. Details will be communicated to all Agencies over the next few months.

#### Partner Agency Policies & Procedures Manual:

- The partner agency must have an adequate number of appropriately insulated containers to transport refrigerated or frozen products from the Food Bank or regional distribution site (P.28)
- Partner Agencies receiving dairy and/or frozen items must bring coolers to transport the items if travel time exceeds 20 minutes. The agency may not receive these items without the appropriate insulated containers or freezer blankets (P.32)

## Chief Operations Officer



Please welcome our new Chief Operations Officer, Denise Blok, to the Food Bank community! We are excited for the impact that she will make on our organization's operations, especially because she has so much expertise from a partner agency perspective.

Denise joined the Food Bank in February of 2019 with more than 30 years of non-profit management experience, most recently with the Hays County Food Bank in San Marcos, Texas, where she served as Chief Executive Officer. Prior to that, Denise served in various capacities with the American Red Cross, capping her 26 year career there as Chief Operating Officer for the American Red Cross Central Texas Region. She received her B.A. in History and American Studies from the State University of New York at Oswego.

Her community involvement has included leadership roles with the following organizations: Village of San Marcos, Safe Kids Austin Coalition, the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department Aquatics Advisory Board, Hays Youth Soccer Association, Capital Area Youth Soccer Association, DSHS Preparedness Coordinating Council, Fuentes Elementary PTO and the Central Texas Water Safety Coalition.

She spends her free time with her husband, two daughters and a menagerie of pets. She loves watching football, as in soccer, at all levels of play. She is a big fan of the US Women's National Team.

**What are you most looking forward to in the COO position?** "I am looking forward to helping more people and working with our partners to ensure that together we are meeting the needs of our community" - Denise

## Hunger Free Texas Project – Winner Announcement!

A huge thank you to all the partners and students that were involved in this project collaboration between the Central Texas Food Bank and Texas A&M University this year! The student groups worked really hard to identify solutions to programmatic problems and barriers, specifically focusing on increasing capacity to distribute fresh produce to clients. The Central Texas Food Bank committed a total of \$15,000 to fund as many of the top student projects as possible, and we are happy to announce the following 2019 winners:

- **Academic and Community Engagement Award Winner**
  - Brighter Days Food Pantry
- **Community Impact Award Winners (Totaling \$15,000):**
  - Hill Country Community Ministries
  - AIDS Services of Austin
  - Reveal Resource Center
  - Micah 6 of Austin

- Brighter Days Food Pantry
- Operation Liberty Hill
- Shepherd's Heart
- Foundation Communities

Thanks again to all the partner agencies that participated and created a meaningful experience for the students. We hope it was a great opportunity for all involved!

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## Closures: May 27

The Food Bank will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be no pick-ups, deliveries, or shop-for on this day.

This closure will affect the ordering deadlines for agencies who wish to pick up or receive delivery on **Tuesday, May 28th and Wednesday, May 29th**. Below are the ordering windows for these specific days:

- **Orders for pick up or delivery on Tuesday, May 28 are due in by 9am Thursday, May 23**
- **Orders for pick up or delivery on Wednesday, May 29 are due in by 9am Friday, May 24**

If you normally pick up or receive deliveries on this day, either order extra food the week prior or contact Michelle White, Supply Chain Coordinator, at (512) 684-2150 to schedule an alternate pickup day at the Food Bank. Pickup dates and times are subject to availability. Regional deliveries will not be rescheduled, but agencies who usually receive deliveries may schedule a pick up at the Food Bank as our schedule permits.

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## Reminders & Resources:

### Mobile Pantry Updates

#### Lexington Mobile Pantry

9035 US-77 (\*Location change)

Lexington, TX 78947

1<sup>st</sup> Thursdays 11am-12pm

#### Manor Mobile Pantry

600 W. Carrie Manor St.

Manor, TX 78653

2<sup>nd</sup> Friday 8am-9:30am (\*Time change)



## 2019 Partner Agency Conference

Instead of hosting an annual partner agency conference this year, the Food Bank will be organizing a series of regional meetings. These meetings will allow us to discuss region-specific obstacles and focus on the needs of specific communities. The first regional meeting will be in June for Travis County partner agencies; details for other regions are still being developed. We plan to bring the whole network back together for annual conferences starting next year, where we can implement the ideas, outcomes, and best practices discussed with all of you at this year's regional meetings!

## Banana Boxes

Due to a current surplus of banana boxes, please feel free to keep them until further notice. Though this is temporary, we hope the boxes will be useful for distributions for the time being. Thank you!

## Agency Ordering FAQs

Please review this [FAQ sheet](#) to avoid common ordering mistakes in Agency Express. We encourage you to share with all staff and volunteers who order for your agency.

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## TEFAP Forecast:

Packaged Cheddar cheese	1% Fresh Milk	Apples	Oranges	Pork Chops	Applesauce
Potato Flakes	Dry Split Pea Beans	Meatless Spaghetti Sauce	Whole Kernel Corn	Garbanzo Beans	

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## Contact the Team:

Name	Title	Phone	Email Address
Emily De Maria	Chief Program Officer	512-684-2541	edemaria@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Henry Andrastek	Capacity Coordinator	512-220-2676	handrastek@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Karsten Darden	Agency Compliance Specialist	512-684-2505	kdarden@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Jessica Buchoz	Agency Compliance Specialist	512-684-2513	jbuchoz@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Tyler Markham	Agency Retail Specialist	512-684-2523	tmarkham@centraltexasfoodbank.org

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<b>Steve O'Leary</b>	Agency Retail Coordinator	512-684-2546	soleary@centraltexasfoodbank.org
<b>Michelle White</b>	Supply Chain Coordinator	512-684-2150	mwhite@ centraltexasfoodbank.org
<b>Vanessa Vela</b>	Accounts Receivable Specialist II	512-684-2103	vvela@ centraltexasfoodbank.org

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