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| This message is being sent to all members of the Central Texas Food Bank Partner Agency network...[*See all recent Agency communications.*](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=3uD_l2NZN6F7wl50-ts_N0QdaZajuBS-vngkmB-kNUiTammhGOpLiA) |

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| volunteers at food pantry |

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| Partner Agency Newsletter - December 2021 |

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| In this Issue:[Agency News](#spotlight) [Resources](#client)[Important Reminders](#reminders) |

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| **Agency News** |

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| mobile food pantry truck |

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| **Spotlight: Meet our Distribution Programs Specialist for the Special Populations team, Elizabeth Barnes!**Elizabeth BarnesWe are excited to welcome in the month of December with a spotlight on Elizabeth Barnes, our Distribution Programs Specialist– Senior Programs! Elizabeth has been at the food bank for over four years. In that time, she has worked closely with partner food pantries, many Mobile Pantry partners, and senior programs - HOPE and CSFP. Elizabeth has helped fill in for Mobile Pantry staff, coordinating over 60 Mobile Pantries in her time at the Food Bank. Today, Elizabeth primarily focuses on the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). CSFP provides a monthly distribution of food to seniors over 60 whose income fall below the threshold for the program. The distribution includes 2lb of American cheese and 27-29 pounds of shelf stable pantry staples. Elizabeth is the point of contact for some of our 49 CSFP partners. Elizabeth helps program administrators navigate the program so that together, we can help seniors who are in need. You may have seen her around as Elizabeth goes out onsite to coordinate dozens of CSFP distributions, each month. Her favorite part of the job is the opportunity to connect with seniors and have a personal interaction. She finds that our older clients are often eager to talk about their personal lives, be it their children or their pets. When she has the time, she loves to slow down and check in with folks – and those conversations make the long days, worth it. "I like to let people tell me about whatever’s on their mind." If you are interested in helping seniors in your community, Elizabeth recommends just checking in with them to see what they need.  Offering to pick up groceries, either from a Mobile Pantry or a Food Bank senior site as their proxy could make a huge impact. The more friends and neighbors that can step in and help seniors, the better. As CTFB aims to grow participation in CSFP, we ask that you refer any senior who you think may qualify, to apply for the program. Please direct our senior neighbors to use the [Find Food Now Tool](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=9AvAWZo4CKVVuZr9tse7Nraafm-TEZQnbLmCu4MfTPDfqeb4RWkIwQ) and the “Senior Programs” filter on our website to find the nearest CSFP distribution to them. If the client is unable to navigate the Find Food Now feature, please print and share the [CSFP Distribution Calendar](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=NBftEgMpRYvf-IEVxLHv2Hi3RrdWTfrc9Jzx54y-AvzDyDUBsTNtiw) with them so that they may find a distribution nearest to them. |

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| **Resources** |

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| food pantry clients |

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| **Recipe of the Month: Sweet Potato Shephard's Pie**Sweet potato shepherd's pieFor [this month’s recipe](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=amDasif3yFXJGAxl1U6G6C5zVr_p9p2IKA8UjTpPxMAxj_4NR0EjCw), we are featuring sweet potatoes.  Sweet potatoes date back to prehistoric times, likely originating in Peru and Ecuador. They have a deep orange colored flesh with a sweet taste. They are considered a starchy vegetable and often get confused as yams. While they are similar in appearance, yams are from a different botanical species and are starchier and drier than sweet potatoes. Peak season for harvesting sweet potatoes is October through March.Sweet potatoes are an excellent source of vitamins A and C, fiber, and B vitamins. Vitamin A is important for its role in eye health, supporting immune function, and can help fight off infection, while vitamin C is a nutrient that protects against damage from free radicals that cause cancer. Sweet potatoes can be prepared in many different ways, such as boiling, baking, sautéing, or straight into a microwave. Sweet potatoes can be the center of a dish, a side, or used for a delicious, sweet dessert. Peeling is optional for most dishes. In our featured recipe, sweet potatoes are boiled and then mashed to add on top of lean turkey meat, instead of ground beef, to give a twist on the classic, “Shepard’s Pie”. Alternating the potato used in this recipe (usually calls for russet potatoes) is great for the seasonal flavors. To learn more about our FREE Nutrition Education Classes and find more recipes such as this one, click [here](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=CAoulaCqmfMcvhr9hjUQqY6HMO16ROxUWX-TE67knYEiCkZ-s14Rug).[**Click here for more recipes.**](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=iEpaCIPaGVe59zAZ1z2xMB1g9qI6LoX2s3ofeDVEoXQ-Pf2YecLuzw) |
| **Food Sourcing Forecast**Below, you will find a list of foods that will be available on the shopping list soon. On the clickable items, you will find easy recipes that can be shared with your clients. To find more recipes, visit our [website](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=Qm-OhgZfi9rMJ2Y6USosZoFH3iQpc3MimWZAhMTi-TuG-zXfKlX61g).

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| **Meat & Dairy** | **Shelf Stable** |
| Butter[Beef - fine ground](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=6l2sI9INXmgoQhVGkok9L7SWEbpNvwfjDQ17ZIs43AwYEftfOfOwhg)[Cheese - shredded cheddar](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=nCB_020ydCUV9SUlvSnqV5aY_ydVxzEg51qPpyZBvtX85ENmii-FGQ)[Cheese - shredded mozzarella](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=LHi_fKrB6O4gdyjUxMtOHistS9RywM4QpzO-JEU3I2hcC83QHHUbIg)Chicken - split breast[Chicken - leg quarters](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=JabChTQqQK_byM_F4R0PrHExY5Fc8CUpUvpXR4GUIG0ki6Lc5nUuNw)Chicken - whole bagged[Eggs](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=WiC2fExo6TCDVVAsnYdaebM-nKDBJzYipQVnOFkpTKE6hyS8nSYJ9Q)Fish - frozen nuggetsMilk - 1% and 2%Pork Chops | [Almonds - roasted](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=SFWsaBuO7IBX8IcVZuQCUM7KCU7H5On19KTwjwTeh3k2rttsk_uJ-g)[Beans - black canned](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=URxEOiR4HfZR-LXaSf_PGIbulNvvmziADQmBOw-5hz7EEd1aseKYGw)Beans - dry split pea[Beans - dry pinto](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=Wb402CdYl-lXYeWpzvP_NEgm4uH_mB05Mypd5l8YCxQHM6Q7T-sd6Q)[Beans - canned green](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=-_iklJfaZOTeQcrlC4i0_t8OrbNY19DNrTorbCcMKokZ8JeHpFXapg)Beef Stew - cannedCarrots - canned[Corn - canned](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=ptE7ADzmMCZD0PZltcenLnZEZTBdRKdJQeUMRspc3oz_y3nMspKkBg)Mixed Fruit - cannedOats - rolledOrange Juice[Pasta](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=EvUmz95iklNjv9LlWiLkgCpGtpuGaBtgcaJr8g95AR4JPcZLHd3iIA)[Peaches](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=mtmkdX9uRaP83_5Yiu7qCl20TpayOucPFnspdKQwrFV-QRAJ-nPwmA)[Peanut Butter](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=_Q8k2w2LM27vXSCJ9Ac67HXZ6xoRQ_yfg02AQujHXymu1wkcAKVVWA)Pears - canned[Rice - #2 long grain](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=J5ld0_-1yXkiRKqRkRHTGtD3teQ72yvLl-KQ0IKHyw2cFtmDMqpCOg)Soup - cream of chicken |

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| **TEFAP Update: Signature Waiver to Expire**The Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) waiver to remove the signature requirement from participants/proxies on TEFAP intake forms will expire on Friday December 31, 2021. Please start planning to discontinue the use of the [Temporary TEFAP Intake Form](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=-s-IX9xtnglTflKYouCWyDObL0o4Wjln5v9Nnz716j-Q_bqX25skmg) after 12/31/21. Starting January 1, 2022, continue the use of the original two sided TEFAP intake form in [English](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=RD4Okbo_nriBVHhY8C4hUIH-i_cwWKp3d66B5P-2D7RcXk1TsDsHvw) and [Spanish](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=O59H4WbrUeTS9idwD-NLdXzantbeQwHvu8cOWudPVjhW8vzheF0l9Q). Agencies must obtain federally required intake criteria to properly determine and document eligibility from all participants received TEFAP/USDA foods. Please ensure to determine eligibility based on categorical and/or income. As reminder, all partners must publicly post and/or share the [Participants Rights and Responsibilities](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=1lF5o39GtlsooaCzCsdIquXjHQimRkLSISfdb34r2a8uFz-liHBryw)  with clients during the intake process. CTFB will notify all Partners if TDA extends the signature waiver beyond Dec. 31. If you have any questions regarding the intake process, TEFAP recertification or eligibility, please reach out to your relationship manager. |
| **Reminder: Monthly Report Holds**The reports partner agencies submit each month are crucial to the Central Texas Food Bank’s mission and here’s why: * To source food accurately. The food sourcing team at CTFB analyze the data from partner agency reports to procure and forecast food purchases. Accurate monthly reports ensure our shelves are stocked and ready to serve the nutritious food our neighbors need.
* To inform national organizations. The food bank also uses the data from reports to provide cumulative information to the Texas Department of Agriculture, which reports consolidated statewide numbers to the United States Department of Agriculture and to Feeding America. Accurate and timely monthly reports have immediate and larger implications.

As we enter the New Year, we want to remind you of the report hold policy. Monthly reports must be submitted through the online reporting system by the eighth of the following month that is being reported (Example: November’s report due by December 8). **If a Partner Agency does not submit their reports by the eighth, they are put on hold and may not place orders until all reports are submitted.****Once an agency has accrued 4 report holds in a calendar year, the account will automatically be suspended until the first of the following month.** The suspension will not be removed until the first of the following month, even after the late report is received. Every late monthly report receive after an agency has accrued 4 report holds in a calendar year will automatically be suspended until the first of the following month. Excessive holds in a calendar year may lead to termination. Please let your relationship manager know if you have any questions. |
| **Merchandise Store**This is a reminder that CTFB has a merchandise store available to our partners and the public! We will continue to provide free t-shirts to our primary agency contacts, but now there is a purchasing  option for staff and volunteers who would like a “This is my Hunger Fighting Shirt” t-shirt or other merchandise items to represent our partnership! Check it out here: [http://centraltexasfoodbank.org/merch](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=MfmYnnX2bDDl0c-GbY8I-Fch1rjuwpN1oxPkFH8M2i8WAjoQue14Xw). |
| **Free CTFB Gardening Classes - Austin Area Only**The Garden Team here at CTFB would like to extend an invite to our Travis County neighbors who are interested in learning more about food gardening or cooking from the garden. Classes are offered in English and Spanish and participants must be able to pick up food or attend in-person at an Austin-area location. More details and registration information below. **Austin-area partners:** **please share these opportunities with your clients!** [Click here for Cooking from the Garden flyers (English/Spanish)](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=G6mBs5uT3giKjM3w9xOOINr9EZMaFxhCgRF2Z9xebciMPl_B7qX_6w) and [click here for Organic Food Gardening flyers (English/Spanish)](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=VnCHF1448rskyKmrFE_Dd3AGW6cSmYrS1H1GV4lwdFM3wXvU5lwPsw).Cooking From the GardenLearn to cook seasonally using produce harvested in the Food Bank Gardens. This class pairs basic gardening information with weekly boxes of food and live cooking demonstrations by CTFB staff.* Available in Spanish and English.
* **Virtual only.** All participants must have stable, reliable internet access and a Zoom capable device to participate in this virtual class series.
* Participants who want to receive weekly grocery supplement with recipe ingredient must pick it up from the food bank at a pre-scheduled time. Grocery pick up is encouraged, but not required to participate in the virtual class.
* This class is suited for Adults, Seniors, and Families.
* Participants should have access to cooking facilities with refrigeration, stove/cooktop, oven, pots and pans, blender, and cutlery.

Have clients register here for English  [www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/cookingclass](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=1azv9B1VfSDjV0lWtds6H-lV9FViSLmzG4aW7SSz18FlYOyk86Ol0Q)January 12 - February 16Have clients register here for Spanish  [www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/cocinardeljardin](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=rsFdjDpsYag30JjLaFwHly7BzzbI-99QWWua3T7_oEmC6l-6IlIvSQ) January 13 - February 17Introduction to Organic Food GardeningGet your hands dirty while learning in depth gardening skills. This class pairs monthly gardening lessons with all the materials you need to start your own portable container garden to grow fresh, seasonal produce. * Available in Spanish and English.
* **In person only. Participants must travel to the class location.**
* This class is suitable for Adults and Seniors.
* Participants should have access to a space where they can place a 1 sq ft container garden. Space should have ample sunlight and convenient water access.
* COVID protocols for in-person classes include masking at all times, and maintenance of 6 ft social distance from all participants not in the same household. In addition, this class will be conducted 100% outside (restrooms will be available).

**Registration Links for Intro to Food Gardening**Have clients register here for English [**www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/gardening-classes**](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=Flun0JjCyWLD2zduFlabTHyMg5rPoKAMXf33DhnWMYC-s_VB15RNLg)**;** January 25th, February 22, March 22 -held at Hill Country Community MinistriesHave clients register here for Spanish [**www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/clasedejardineria**](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=5bnLuE2j5QCCpWJveYNcRgr_N8qPah-sw-7F1q4srxAVK7AF4eUX-Q); January 22, February 26, March 26 - held at CTFB Garden |
| **Open Enrollment Resources**Enrolling in health insurance can be complicated, but CTFB Partner Agency **Foundation Communities** is here to simplify the process! Open Enrollment starts Nov 1 and runs until Jan 15, 2022. Monday through Saturday during Open Enrollment, Foundation Communities simplifies health insurance enrollment in Marketplace insurance plans, for free. Please help us spread the word by referring clients or community organizations to these services. You can find English and Spanish outreach materials including flyers, posters, email banners, and social media posts [here](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=86osIqWZvFfVPPCumM03XWF00agVa6gB6iaUN3CKPyeFOOaiDlqq8A).Three easy steps are all it takes to get enrolled:1) Complete the initial “Get Ready” form or phone appointment. This can be done [online](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=ujKTAMnDmWnaGnIsX3A7UCswlW4Ya-ftAD2wcsZX8Db3Kdv_alWI9w) or over the phone. To complete the form over the phone, clients can call 512-381-4520 or visit [ProsperHealthCoverage.org](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=ahNYtbuOUleMVeYmlhfWQ3ChHMxPsea-ZiIIsQuvoqVi_-EiIQsA8w) to schedule a phone appointment.2) Schedule an Enrollment Appointment. After completing the initial “Get Ready” form, clients will receive a link and phone number to schedule their enrollment appointment, which can be in-person at one of their two locations or online.3) Upon completion of the enrollment appointment, clients will be enrolled in affordable health insurance! Foundation Communities can help them navigate healthcare all year.If you’d like to request a staff training or additional information, please contact Clisha D’Souza at clisha.dsouza@foundcom.org. |
| **Partners in the Waco area - Recovering Texans Together**Texans Recovering Together.pngTexans Recovering Together is providing mental health support through a crisis-counseling program. Texans Recovering Together has a team of qualified professional that provide free confidential phone calls or virtual meeting sessions for those in **McLennan, Bosque, Falls, Hill, Freestone, and Limestone** counties Monday-Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. The crisis counseling assistance and training program is a fantastic resource to share with our neighbors who may need some assistance on coping through life after the winter storm and during the COVID-19 pandemic. Counseling sessions may include resource navigation, grief support, coping skills development, linkage to available support groups, and more. To recommend this resource to a neighbor please referral them to navigate the website and register for assistance at [https://www.trthotccp.org/](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=lZlUFWFuj8Uf_jf_Dr5BtyR9jlaAHGy_nfV-Yip4ycPjRPImpP8PuQ). |

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| **Important Reminders****Upcoming Closures****CTFB will be closed on Thursday, December 23 and Friday, December 24 in observance of the winter holiday. CTFB will also be closed on Friday, December 31**to ring in the New Year but there will be no closures in 2022 related to the New Year holiday.All regularly scheduled pick-ups, deliveries, and ordering will be cancelled during these times. Below are the modifications being made to the ordering schedule as a result of these closures:

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| **If you are picking up or receiving delivery on:** | **Your ordering window opens on:** | **At:** | **Your order is due on:** | **At:** |
| Mon., Dec. 27 | Mon., Dec. 20 | 10:00 a.m. | Tues., Dec. 21 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Tues., Dec. 28 | Tues., Dec. 21 | 10:00 a.m. | Wed., Dec. 22 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Mon., Jan. 3 | Tues., Dec. 28 | 10:00 a.m. | Wed., Dec. 29 | 9:00 a.m. |
| Tues., Jan. 4 | Wed., Dec. 29 | 10:00 a.m. | Thurs., Dec. 30 | 9:00 a.m. |

If your organization will be in need of a rescheduled pick-up at CTFB during this closure, please reach out to your relationship manager to see what may be possible. Reschedule spots will be limited and are available first-come, first-served.For the most up-to-date closure information, please refer to the [2021 Holiday Guide](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=AqUEiSmkYHuLK3CxAmk8EYKaezEZcmUpLvq2ouDv_ZpIfiEkUjrtWw), the [2022 Holiday Guide](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=q21J-Rh6i3nt9VdYRKqx5WJHBPd82myR53d9ZqcKls4t4i9smKb2uw), and the [agencies page](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=imsrbIoSh9btg-VARMkl9-issmsGXU6TFZ2gCU9OgyKsOUNdf_2yhA) of our website. CTFB will post and send out closure ordering guidelines 30 days prior so you can plan for your pantry needs.**Agency Ordering FAQ's**Are you training someone new to place your orders? Need to troubleshoot an ordering issue or be reminded about a certain ordering procedure? Check out our updated Agency Ordering FAQ sheet linked [here](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=PqYqkbtfvNBVY-WsKqC-8L7n5SGlEXV1H6DRf4aJ3pm5643DmGF9Dw) that contains commonly asked questions from partners.  |

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| Contact the Team512.684.2503 | agencies@centraltexasfoodbank.org[Unsubscribe](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/CO?i=lDYPD1DEUmDKx6aMvX2rZuEuYWlulJeTtRDY7AbxW7fW5mtojOJKdhUurFNXM3IE&cid=1921) | [Forward to a friend](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=li7zO4lgmH5otyEmx-ZwTmJzS_5AKEn_5gwJdtSeoNWHM0sFle37GA) | [Visit our website](http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/R?i=H6fdBjm8T8nx3KQUzVcwap4UEcNtafOTXLyshnb3jhVYjOAbhdne7Q)6500 Metropolis Drive, Austin, TX 78744 |

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http://cafbtx.convio.net/site/PixelServer?j=1uF12bBWmAxRM4MfWo5CWm7_95HMRozkf4QvEBMhgoKeVD0Iubj-Dg |

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