

Feeding Hope

Summer 2020

COVID-19 RESPONSE



EPFH HAS UNDERTAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS TO MEET THE NEED IN THE BORDERLAND:



EMERGENCY FOOD BOXES

EPFH has distributed **over 500,000** emergency food boxes to families from the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic (March 17) to date.

HOME DELIVERY PROGRAM

EPFH's Home Delivery program is delivering **1,200** emergency food boxes per week to shut-in seniors, people with disabilities and COVID affected families who need additional support during this time.



FOOOD!!!

PRE-PANDEMIC EPFH WAS DISTRIBUTING 3.5 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD PER MONTH

Now in the midst of this world crisis EPFH distributed **15 million** pounds of food in May and demand continues to increase.

PROJECTIONS

EPFH is on track to deliver **100 million** pounds of food in 2020.



ELPASOANSFIGHTINGHUNGER.ORG

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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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El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Reaches \$1M Goal

Dear EPFH Warriors,

On Thursday, June 18th, the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation, Paul L. Foster Family Foundation, and MountainStar Sports Group Foundation presented El Pasoans Fighting Hunger with a \$1 million check to commemorate the successful fulfillment of its Challenge grant.

For over 2 months, people not only from our community, but from around the world, sent us gifts ranging from \$1 dollar to \$300,000.

Over 5,000 people stepped up and assisted our community. They saw the need and responded.

Coupled with the \$1 million matching grant by these foundations, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger has raised over \$2 million to date, money that is being used to feed thousands of families across El Paso, Culberson, and Hudspeth Counties during COVID-19.

To keep the fundraising momentum going Community en Acción announced, on the same day, their \$100,000 donation to the Food Bank and along with two other anonymous donations, announced a new \$600,000 challenge to the business community urging them to continue to donate to EPFH, so that it has the financial resources necessary to respond to the pandemic.

So, it's official. We are celebrating the philanthropy of the Hunt Family Foundation, the Paul Foster Family Foundation, and MountainStar Sports Foundation.

Thank you, Woody, Josh, Paul, and Alan. Your \$1 million and the additional \$1 million from our community will provide **14 million** meals. That is no small feat. **Thank you for your unwavering support during this challenging time.**

EPFH and all of its volunteers, staff and partner agencies have made great strides to distribute over **500,000** boxes of food from March 17th to today.

These types of partnerships and efforts, that bring people together, people with passion and the drive to make a difference in our city, should not go unnoticed. It truly does take a village, more than a village it takes all hands-on deck to make hunger relief a reality in our community.

Sincerely,

Susan Goodell, Chief Executive Officer



Partner Spotlight Driverless Trucks Feed El Paso



To support EPFH during the COVID-19 pandemic, self-driving truck company TuSimple — a global autonomous trucking company — transported food free of charge for the food bank.

As part of its services, TuSimple ships commodities for food banks such as EPFH which is delivering critical food for those in need. The U.S. Department of Transportation has deemed trucking professionals "essential critical infrastructure workers" in its emergency order to keep the supply chain up and running.

TuSimple runs self-driving trucks every day for its 18 contracted customers with a test driver and safety engineer in the truck to monitor the system at all times. The company's autonomous testing of self-driving trucks is based in Tucson, AZ.



The Lines = The Need

Some folks get here early in the morning and wait in line to drive-thru for emergency food. It's hard times and many people have lost their jobs, they have a pile of bills to pay and are struggling to put food on their table. **El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank was built for this and as soon as the pandemic hit, we strategized and immediately began the hard work of providing nutritious food for 8,000 families and elderly daily.**

In the early days of the pandemic, the food bank took immediate action to ensure the community's most vulnerable citizens like children and the elderly received the healthy/nutritious food they needed to weather the pandemic. Staff worked to develop sites throughout the city so no one had to travel far for assistance.

As businesses across the city rapidly closed their doors and people sheltered in place, EPFH deliberately and strategically increased its service to the community. The food bank stepped up and quickly responded to the need of the community. After all, it wasn't the first time we were responding to a disaster.

By the time the pandemic started the food bank had already responded to three other disasters: the government shut-down, the immigrant influx, and the August 3 shooting.

It is incredible to see how from March 17 to date the EPFH food bank has already surpassed food distribution for 2019. **Last year the food bank distributed over 32.5 million pounds of food in the Borderland, this year through May, EPFH has already distributed more than 50 million pounds of food, 15 million pounds of food distributed in May alone.**

Even more astounding is that EPFH has now distributed over 500,000 boxes of emergency food in the community.

The need is great, and continues to increase during the pandemic which has affected so many families, children who no longer get breakfast at school and seniors who now find themselves shut-in. It has affected all in such dire ways. Some of the families

elpasoansfightinghunger.org

**LAST YEAR EPFH DISTRIBUTED
32.5 MILLION POUNDS OF FOOD**

**COVID- 19 RESPONSE - MARCH 17- JUNE 23
43.2 M POUNDS OF FOOD RECEIVED
36.8 M POUNDS DISTRIBUTED**

**JANUARY 2020 - MAY
EPFH HAS RECEIVED 51 MILLION POUNDS OF
FOOD ACROSS ALL PROGRAMS**

**EPFH IS ON TRACK TO DISTRIBUTE 100 MILLION
POUNDS OF FOOD BY YEAR'S END**



or individuals who visit the food bank for assistance have been clients for months, maybe years but many are new. They are individuals and families that have never come to the food bank or have never thought of asking for assistance. They are restaurant and hotel workers, hair dressers and everyday people who have lost their livelihood and are now finding themselves struggling to get by.

On average, all the primary sites distribute food to 8,000 families a day. Within the past month the distribution spiked and the number was topping more than 10,000 families a day. Now as July comes to an end, the distribution rate has leveled off again at 8,000 families per day but for the food bank, as long as the clients keep coming, **El Pasoans Fighting Hunger will be here to help ... because no one should go hungry.** If you are struggling to put food on your table and need assistance, come to the food bank. You can also visit our website or call for information on one of the locations nearest you.

Volunteer Salute

Karen Hamilton

Hamilton is a long-term volunteer at EPFH Food Bank, and she's also a key volunteer at Valley Community Food Pantry, though it is currently closed due to COVID-19.

Hamilton states, "I volunteer, in particular at the food bank, because I am retired and had big plans for retirement, but then COVID came and I decided I could use my skills here."

Hamilton feels the most rewarding thing about volunteering is, "feeling that I'm contributing, being a part of the solution and not a part of the problem. I'm keeping track of the statistics for COVID-19 so that I don't put my family in danger and so far, the safety aspect at the food bank is really good. They've got some really good protocols and I help oversee some of those protocols, so I feel very confident and safe working here."

Hamilton always feels that after she volunteers at the food bank, whether a full-day, half-day, whatever it might be, she always feels satisfied that she has done something that allows her to give back and help the community. **"I feel pretty good because there's a lot of young people volunteering, and it's good to see them contributing and coming in to volunteer. It is encouraging and really makes me know that we do have a bright future and we're going to get through this together because we're all a team here and our whole community is a team, so it's really encouraging. It makes me feel good even when I'm exhausted and tired."**



Home Delivery Program Provides Food Delivery to Those Quarantined

Across the nation and in El Paso, there is an unprecedented increase in the number of seniors struggling with food insecurity. The need among seniors, especially at this time during the COVID-19 pandemic, has had and will continue to have profound impacts. Yvette Lugo, Director for the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging, stated they have seen an increase in the number of calls from seniors requesting assistance with accessing food.

“Some of the calls we receive are from older adults who have shared that they are simply afraid to go grocery shopping due to the pandemic, so they’re staying home and trying to figure out what to eat with the items they have in their homes. Others are clients who are receiving home delivered meals who state that they are lacking food for breakfast and dinner, or weekend meals. Their noontime meal just isn’t enough”.

To address this need in El Paso, EPFH implemented a Home Delivery program. It is for those who are quarantined due to diagnosis or pending diagnosis of COVID-19 and shut-in seniors or persons with disabilities that have a mobility barrier, and are in need of home delivery services.

At present, the program in partnership with Lyft is making deliveries to 1,200 homebound individuals throughout El Paso. The program is funded in part by Master Card, which pays for Lyft drivers, and funds from the Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging to pay for the food boxes. The program has the capacity to provide food assistance to seniors and additional individuals who are shut-ins. The program is currently taking registrations for a wait list. Volunteers with El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank gather at various sites throughout El Paso to fill cars with food which they deliver to El Paso families in need who are homebound. The delivery process is based on a contactless delivery. The driver will call the participant and let



them know that they are on their way to their home. When they are at the house the driver leaves the food boxes at the front door, the driver will call again and let the participant know that the food is at the door. The drivers are not allowed to go into anyone’s home for any reason.

Ms. Lugo further commented, “This partnership with the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank makes sense. Together we are connecting to our most vulnerable populations in El Paso County and helping to address one of the most basic human needs. The Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging is proud to be a part of a project that is so needed in our community.”

In 2018, state-level estimates of senior food insecurity were at 10.7 percent in Texas with 3.7 percent being very low food secure. Texas ranks as one of the Top Ten states with the highest rates of food insecurity among seniors. In El Paso approximately 67,000 seniors are considered low income and/or are eligible to receive food from EPFH.

In El Paso, seniors who are food insecure are hesitant to leave their homes due to fear, physical and mental limitations and lack of transportation, especially during the pandemic.

To register, please visit bit.ly/3cQueik.

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!



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