

HAYS COUNTY AREA FOOD BANK

Feeding Hungry People Since 1984

HOMETOWN HARVEST



Spring 2008

Food Bank hires new Executive Director

The Board of Directors has hired Mr. Jerry Gracy as the new Executive Director of the Food Bank. Mr. Gracy has more than 25 years of management and operational experience in various industries including manufacturing, healthcare, and working with non-profit organizations providing training and team-building programs. He also taught computer, management and leadership classes for 15 years at community colleges in Colorado and Texas.



While residing in Southwest Colorado, Jerry built a reputation as an accomplished Seminar presenter, public speaker, and Radio Show host. He developed and hosted a popular radio show called "Focus on the Workplace" that ran for 9 years on the local Durango radio station.

While serving two years as Director of Ignacio Community Library in Colorado, Jerry successfully led that organization through a capital campaign and building project. He and his wife, Kay, moved to San Marcos from Durango, Colorado in December of 2007.

"We are extremely pleased to find someone with the right combination of skills to lead the Food Bank as we face the challenges of increased growth and building a new facility," says Jane Hughson, President of the Board. "Jerry has the experience we need in all the key areas."

Tessaro moves to part time Community Relations



The Board of Directors has announced that Pat Tessaro, Executive Director since 1999, is moving to a part-time position with the Food Bank. Ms. Tessaro has been at the helm for the last 8+ years and will continue her work with the agency as Community Relations Coordinator.

"The Food Bank has grown at a phenomenal rate over the last few years, and we need to expand our staff in response to this growth," says Jane Hughson, President of the Board of Directors. "This new Community Relations position will allow us to focus on the priorities of building awareness about hunger issues and our mission in the community, leaving the new Executive Director to work on expanding services and our volunteer program. Pat has built vital relationships with our supporters over the years and this new assignment capitalizes on that success. She will continue to represent the Food Bank throughout the County and work to expand our base of support."

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National Volunteer Week

Food Bank volunteers received the President's Volunteer Service Award at the Annual Volunteer Appreciation Event on April 30 at Mr. Gatti's Pizza. Volunteers with over 100 hours for 2007 were presented with a certificate, a letter of congratulations signed by the President, and a beautiful American Eagle pin.

Bronze Level Award *100 to 249 hours*

Rosa Enriquez	Don Backus
Sally Salazar	Charles Monnich
Tommy Bodine	Sean Bolock
W.H. Hopkins	Kenneth Issacks, Jr.
Lupe Hernandez	Ramona Moreno
John Celletti	Michelle Johnson
Troy Tidwell	Tanana Flint
Rachel Aguilar	Rosie Collazo
Jane Hughson	Elfida & Betsy Tarin
David & Hope Montana	
Jesse & Norma Montana	



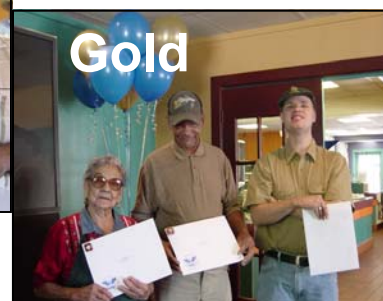
Silver Level Award *250 to 499 hours*

Larry Cohen	Nash Garza
Rob Roark	Dee Tinajero



Gold Level Award *500 + hours*

Floyd Hale, Jr	Josh Reynolds
Thrine Soto	Robert Williamson



Lifetime Achievement Award *4000 + hours*

Susie Longoria

Meet our new Activities Coordinator



Katie Handley

While Becky, our Administrative Assistant, was out on maternity leave, we were fortunate to have Katie Handley fill in for her. When Becky returned at the end of March, Katie had become such a valuable member of the Food Bank team, we offered her a position as Activities Coordinator.

Expanding the staff had been part of our plan since the beginning of the year. Katie will coordinate our volunteer program, serve on the Fall Campaign committee and work on various assignments.

Katie backs up other staff as needed. Her mastery of Spanish is invaluable when interacting with food bank clients. Having worked with low-income people before, she is sensitive to people who need help.

Katie just passed her Master's Degree examination in Spanish at Texas State University. She enjoys riding her bike, cooking, and traveling. She has lived in San Marcos since 1995.

Welcome, Katie!



Attention Church Members!

The food bank is looking for local church members to help with our *Turkeys Tackling Hunger* fall campaign October 5 through November 24. Our goal is to recruit one person in each church to serve as a point of contact to help get the word out to your congregation about the campaign. Call the office at 512-392-8300 and talk to Katie if you would like to volunteer for your church.

Thanks to a Longtime Friend



L-R: Susie is congratulated by Jane Hughson, Board President

Susie Longoria began volunteering at the Food Bank in 1991. She came the first time to help put Thanksgiving boxes together and never stopped working. In recognition of over 4000 hours of volunteer time given during the past 17 years, Susie was presented with the President's Volunteer Service Award for Lifetime Achievement on April 30.

This award recognizes her many contributions: Susie served as a member of the Board of Directors for 6 years. She conducts the weekly food distribution at Immaculate Heart of Mary Church in Martindale every Thursday afternoon and runs the weekend crew every Saturday and Sunday morning to pick up food from four HEB stores.

"No one works harder than Susie," notes Pat Tessaro, Food Bank staff. "She recently stripped and waxed our floors one Saturday. She cooks a huge feast for the staff and volunteers the Tuesday before Thanksgiving, complete with turkey and dressing. She is an unsung hero working quietly behind the scenes to make the Food Bank a success. We are pleased to give her this award."



L-R: Bruce Schneider, Unit Director, HEB #1; Ron LaCaze, HEB #2; Tamra Jones, HEB Public Affairs Specialist; Pat Tessaro, Hays County Area Food Bank; Eddie Garcia, HEB Food Assistance Program; Danny Flores, HEB Public Affairs; and Ted Garza, Store Director, HEB #1

**H-E-B donates
\$2500 for
"Souper Bowl of Caring"**

**Help End
Hunger
Campaign
runs May 12
- August 3**

June is Hunger Awareness Month

June 3 is National Hunger Awareness Day. The purpose of this event is to raise awareness of - and donations to end - hunger in America.

Hunger remains a problem for many families in Hays County. One in four children and one in five adults suffer from hunger or food insecurity*. The recent rise in the cost of groceries and gas has added further stress to families already struggling to make ends meet.

The Basic Needs Coalition in Austin estimates that in the Austin/San Marcos area, a family of four needs a household income of \$53,080.00 to cover basic expenses – more than two and one half times the 2007 Federal Poverty Guideline of \$20,650.00 for a family of the same size.

40% of Central Texas families live below this “Central Texas Security Index” according to the Center for Public Policy Priorities, Sustainable Indicators, 2006.

* Food insecurity is defined as the lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times due to a lack of financial resources.

Visit www.secondharvest.org to learn more about hunger issues.



Car Wash and Detail

1200 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos

Conley's Car Wash will sponsor a food/fund drive on June 7 at their location at 1200 Thorpe Lane in San Marcos. Conley's will donate a portion of the proceeds from each car washed that day to the Food Bank. The site will also serve as a drop off point for donations of food and money from 8 AM to 6 PM.

Make sure to drop by to have your car washed and make a donation to the food bank at the same time.



Hunger Awareness Month

Benefit Carwash

For the Food Bank

Saturday, June 7, 2008

8 AM - 6 PM

Conley Carwash and Detail

1200 Thorpe Lane, San Marcos

A percentage of the car washes that day go to benefit the Food Bank

Local Scouts collect 1,339 pounds for Food Bank

The Capitol Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America sponsored a food drive on Saturday, April 12.

Thanks for the hard work!

Tessaro*continued from page 1*

Working at the Food Bank is such a rewarding job," says Ms. Tessaro. "Knowing that a hungry person had something to eat today because you did your job well is quite satisfying. From our Board of Directors to our volunteers, we all make a difference in the lives of people. I especially enjoy speaking to folks about the problem of hunger and how they can help."

Pat notes that working part time will enable her to devote more time caring for her elderly parents, both of whom have been ill this past year.

Community Impact for 2007

2,730 = average # of families served a month	\$779,325 = value of food distributed in Hays County
1,171 = # of families that received a turkey box for Thanksgiving	203,482 = pounds of food passed along to partner agencies at no charge



National Association of Letter Carriers' Annual Food Drive,
May 10 *Watch your mailbox for more information!*

**FOOD BANK
2008 BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Jane Hughson, President Kirk Sedberry, Vice President
Joel Williams, Secretary Liz Strand, Treasurer
Will Conley Marsha Cooper Barbara Hammer
Bill Henry Darlene Hill Pastor James Jacobs
DerryAnn Gonzales Jane Kirkham Neva Lockett
Kathy Lockett Don Nash David Salazar
Dale Schneberger

FOOD BANK STAFF

Albert Garcia, Operations Manager Becky Bradley, Administrative Assistant
Katie Handley, Activities Coordinator Pat Tessaro, Community Relations Coordinator
Jerry Gracy, Executive Director