

HAYS COUNTY AREA FOOD BANK

Feeding Hungry People Since 1984



HOMETOWN HARVEST

WINTER 2006

Hunger...

You should know
people are hungry



“In the San Marcos/Austin area, a household of two adults and two children must earn \$35,195 to adequately cover all basic needs. 34% of residents live below this basic family budget level.”

*Capital Area Food Bank website:
www.austinfoodbank.org*

In Central Texas

13% of Hays County residents live at or below the federal poverty rate of \$19,500 for a family of four. 16.9% of children in Hays County live in poverty.

In Our State

Texas now ranks FIRST in the Nation with the highest number of food insecure households per capita. More than 16% of Texas households were food insecure from 2002 to 2004.

See article on page 2

In Our Nation

USDA reports show that in 2004 the number of Americans living in food insecure households was 38.2 million or 11.9% of the population.

In Our World

25% of all people alive on planet earth today live on less than a \$1 a day and lack adequate food, clean water, clothing, and shelter.

Learn more about the Hays County Area Food Bank at
www.haysco.net/foodbank

Learn more about Hunger at www.austinfoodbank.org &
www.secondharvest.org

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Texas Ranked Most Hungry State in America

A recent U. S. Department of Agriculture report on hunger in the United States ranked Texas as the state with the highest food insecurity rate in the nation. Food insecure households are defined as those not able, for financial reasons, to access a sufficient diet at all times in a 12 month period.

According to the report, more than 16 percent of Texas households were food insecure between 2002 and 2004.

“Food insecurity and hunger have gone up for virtually every region of the county and every type of household, “ said Lynn Parker, The Food and Re-

search Center’s Director of Child Nutrition. “This increase in hunger and food insecurity will mean more children who have trouble at school, more illness among children and adults, and less ability to purchase a balanced and nutritious diet.”

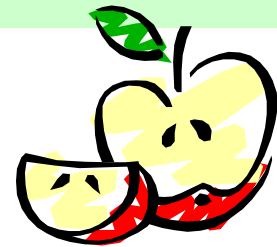
This report shows the fifth consecutive annual increase in the number of hungry Americans. The total number of people living in food insecure households for 2004 is 38.2 million. This number includes 24 million adults and almost 14 million children.

Black and Hispanic households experienced food in-

security at about double the national average.

The ten states with the highest food insecurity rates, in order, were Texas, New Mexico, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Utah, South Carolina, Arkansas, Idaho, North Carolina, and Arizona, all with rates at or above 12.7% of households.

To read the entire report, go to www.ers.usda.gov/publications/err11/



1150 Families Served for Thanksgiving

Each Holiday season, low-income families throughout Hays County are blessed with a Thanksgiving meal from the Food Bank.

Thanks to our many donors, we were able to provide a Thanksgiving Turkey box with all the trimmings to 1150 families in November.

Thanks for your help!

HAYS COUNTY AREA FOOD BANK

220 Herndon Street
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512)392-8300

OFFICE HOURS

8:00 AM- 4:00 PM Monday - Friday

[Www.haysco.net/foodbank](http://www.haysco.net/foodbank)



Becky enjoys her brand new computer

If you happen to call the Food Bank during office hours, chances are the cheerful voice that answers the phone belongs to Becky Bradley, our Administrative Assistant. Her bright smile and helpful attitude makes the Food Bank a pleasant place to be as she interacts with clients, volunteers, and the public every day.

Becky came to work at the Food Bank in October of 2003. Her job includes office duties such as answering the phone and manning the front desk. She helps Albert, our Operations Manager, manage the flow of food in and out of our busy warehouse. She keeps up with data entry, serves as agency liaison, and works with the volunteers as part of her busy day.

Becky is often the first point of contact for clients calling for information about how to get food. She is patient and compassionate with people who are facing a difficult time, sensitive to their need to be treated with respect and dignity. Asking for help is often difficult for people and her kindness puts them at ease. Providing the best customer service possible remains one of her most important jobs.

When asked what she likes best about her job, Becky replies, "I really enjoy coming in to work every day. Everyone is so polite and

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FOOD BANK
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FOOD BANK STAFF

Albert Garcia,
Operations Manager

Becky Bradley,
Administrative Assistant

Patricia Tessaro,
Executive Director

respectful to each other. We all, staff and volunteers, work well together. It's also nice to hear clients appreciate the work we do. I love my new computer and will put it to good use."

Becky is married to Colin and has a 3 year old son named Christian.

Note: both Pat and Becky just got new Dell computer systems that will greatly improve their efficiency. Yea!

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San Marcos, TX 78666



Holiday Food Drives a Success



Over 54,670 lbs. of food was donated during our Holiday Food Drives from September through December

Thanks to the many organizations and individual donors who responded to our need for food



The garage full of food for the Holidays