

Houston Food Bank Programs

In addition to distributing food and other needed supplies to 400 southeast Texas hunger relief programs, the Houston Food Bank provides nutrition education and job training:

Backpack Buddy Club

At participating schools, children relying on free or reduced-priced lunches during the school year can take home child-friendly, nonperishable and vitamin fortified food on Fridays. Fiscal year '07-'08 Backpack Buddy Club served 7,273 unduplicated children and distributed 20,070 food sacks.

Community Kitchen

Community Kitchen offers training in culinary skills at the Keegan Center through preparation of nutritionally-balanced meals for Kids Cafe and a variety of nonprofit organizations. Thousands of meals are produced each week.

Kids Cafe

Each month, Kids Cafe provides nutritious meals in safe surroundings for as many as 500 kids, as well as food safety, nutrition education, and hands-on instruction to help create healthy lifestyles. In the summer, the number of children served doubles.

Operation Frontline

With this national nutrition education and financial literacy program, adults, children and families learn how to stretch limited resources and move toward securing a healthy lifestyle through a variety of free, four- to six-week courses.

Red Barrel

Red Barrels offer a convenient way for grocery shoppers to donate nonperishables to their neighbors in need. The red barrels are located in more than 200 stores.

Second Chance

On the Job Training (OJT) and warehouse certification for Texas Department of Criminal Justice prisoners, probationers and others.

Serving for Success

With Second Chance as a launching pad, Serving for Success will provide more food for hungry people through a collaboration that prepares individuals within the criminal justice system and others for success in the workplace and the community. The Food Bank conservatively estimates a 10% drop in recidivism with this program.

Social Services Outreach

Outreach specialists work with clients of Food Bank partner agencies to raise awareness and provide application assistance for state-funded social and health services (food stamps, Medicaid, CHIP). Approximately 532,000 people are eligible for Food Stamps in Texas. Only 55% actually use the service.