

## 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.