

WAREHOUSE

Overview

Our primary function is to distribute massive amounts of food to hunger relief charities. The Houston Food Bank receives, sorts, stores and distributes donated and purchased food and government commodities.

Receiving

Food Sources include retailers, wholesalers, manufacturers, growers and the community. Food is weighed and entered electronically into our system; thus giving our agencies a real-time inventory to shop. The product is then stored on our shelves until it's distributed. At any given time the warehouse holds approximately three million pounds of perishable and nonperishable items; food is held for an average of 26 days after it is received, before it reaches the agency's shelves.

Product Recovery Area

Sixteen percent of the product received requires processing: cleaned and sorted. Volunteers work all salvage (dry, frozen and refrigerated) donated to the Food Bank to ensure the product distributed to our agencies meets appropriate guidelines. All product is separated into various categories prior to distribution. Volunteers age 16 and up can work the production lines.

Repack

Volunteers repack beans and rice from 1,500 pound containers into two pound family size bags. Volunteers also sort food drive and other product. Special need volunteers, children under 16 and others can work in this area and experience the Food Bank.

Distribution

Last year through delivery and agency pick up, 36 million pounds of food was distributed. Our partner agencies come to our dock Monday through Saturday, picking up more than 16.5 million pounds a year — 46% of our 400 agencies pick up. The warehouse pulls almost 2,000 orders every month.

Transportation

Our fleet delivers to 54% of our partner agencies, covering an 18-county area that is equivalent to 18,000 square miles. Our fleet comprises five tractors, 12 45' – 53' trailers (five refrigerated, seven dry), eight refrigerated bobtails, three pick-ups with refrigerated box, two beverage trailer and two mini-trailers. Each tractor is equipped with GPS tracking to streamline our delivery process.

BY THE NUMBERS

HFB Herzstein Facility (sq ft)

- Dry storage: 32,550
- Cooler: 6,150
- Freezer: 2,358
- Dock: 9,150

BY THE NUMBERS

- An average pallet weights 1,500 pounds
- A 45' – 53' trailer can hold 20 to 26 pallets
- HFB warehouse is 73,000 sq. ft.