

Summer 2011

generous helpings

houston 
foodbank
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

YOU'RE FEEDING
Children All
Summer Long!



stories of your gifts at work...see inside

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Thank You for Keeping Kids from GOING HUNGRY



Brian Greene
President and CEO

Dear Friend,

As a dad, I can't even imagine how desperate I would feel if I couldn't afford to feed my children. To watch as they suffer and start to fall behind their peers. To hear them say "I'm hungry" and not be able to do anything about it.

I wish this problem wasn't as prevalent and serious as it sounds. But sadly, it is. In fact, we now know that the problem of hunger is even more pervasive than we once thought.

Summer is the time of year when children living in poverty are at the highest risk of going hungry. As you probably know, when school lets out, cafeteria doors close. Kids who depend on a balanced breakfast and lunch each day at school are suddenly left wondering where their next meal will come from.

With your help, the [Houston Food Bank](#) is working hard to combat the very real problem of summer hunger. Through summer feeding programs, food fairs and partner agencies, we're making needed food available to precious children and struggling families. With the move to our new facility coming in just a couple of months, we're expanding our capacity and ramping up our services.

Please also take a few minutes to read the stories on the following pages and see how your gifts affect the lives of southeast Texans – especially children – everyday.

Thank you for helping fight summer hunger and giving kids a better chance for success!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Greene".

“Thank you and God bless you.”

Being out of work is never easy. But when you have a family depending on you, it adds an even greater level of worry and distress.

For Griselda, raising her three teenage children is a gift and a joy. But it's also a great challenge as a single mother in need of a job.

Her grown daughter and 2-year-old granddaughter, Melissa, are staying with her, too. Her daughter is anything but a burden – in fact, she's the only person in the household who has a dependable income right now. She's working hard and going to school at night to try to make a better life for herself and the rest of her family, but for now, her paychecks just aren't enough to fully support everyone.

Griselda cares for Melissa while her mom is at work and school and the two obviously share a special bond. With a grandchild she loves as her own and three growing kids at home, Griselda feels a huge responsibility to keep her family healthy.

But when she can't afford to go to the grocery store for nutritious food, that becomes difficult. And during the summer, families like Griselda's struggle even more because kids who normally have two

free meals at school everyday are suddenly without.

Fortunately, your support of the [Houston Food Bank](#) means partner agencies like St. Joseph Catholic Church in Houston can provide a lifeline for hungry kids and their families. Your gifts enable Griselda to take home good, healthy food to feed her family – things like bananas, carrots, grapefruit, potatoes, bread, canned goods and many other staples.

Sister Lucia, Director of Social Ministry for St. Joseph's, says the summers are particularly busy at the food pantry since families of school-aged children often need a little extra help to make up for the lack of school meals.

Griselda is so grateful for your help in this time of need for her family. Without a place like St. Joseph's to go for groceries when the money has run out, she doesn't know what she'd do.

“Thank you and God bless you,” she says sincerely.



Griselda with her granddaughter, Melissa

Thank You for Helping Fight **SUMMER HUNGER!**

You help families when they need it most.

Kids are full and happy, thanks to you.

Elderly southeast Texans are living better lives because of you.

Thank you for feeding our hungry neighbors.

Hungry children are grateful for the meals you help provide.



THANK YOU

MARATHON OIL



Thanks to Marathon Oil for their generous multi-year gift of \$50,000 to support the [Houston Food Bank's](#) mission. This gift will provide 150,000 meals over the next two years for our hungry neighbors.

SOUPER BOWL OF CARING



Souper Bowl of Caring had another tremendously successful year, raising \$2,112,263 in cash and food donations, which provides 2,817,409 meals for hungry

families. Thanks to the Souper Bowl of Caring staff and all of the grocery stores, media partners and other groups who supported this wonderful event.

EMPTY BOWLS

Empty Bowls 2011 was a great success! Local artists donated 1,175 one-of-a-kind, hand crafted bowls. We sold approximately 875 bowls and raised over \$49,000. Thanks to all of those in attendance, the events committee, artists, volunteers and our sponsors: Whole Foods Market, Lawndale Art Center, Houston Center for Contemporary Craft, Ceramic Store, Green Bank and CultureMap.



THE BEAUMONT FOUNDATION

The Beaumont Foundation of America presented [Houston Food Bank](#) with a \$100,000 donation for food purchase. Since 2006, the Foundation has donated more than \$500,000 to the Food Bank to help provide nutritious food to the community.



SAVE THE DATE

HOUSTON RESTAURANT WEEK | August

Don't miss Houston Restaurant Week 2011. Diners will enjoy a special three-course gourmet dinner for just \$35 (not including beverages, tax and gratuity). A two-course lunch option is also available for \$20. Participating restaurants will donate \$5 for each dinner and \$3 for each lunch to the [Houston Food Bank](#). For exact dates and participating restaurants, visit www.HoustonRestaurantWeek.com.



“We want to be part of the solution.”



Chevron employees volunteer to help sort food at the Houston Food Bank.

The [Houston Food Bank](#) is very fortunate to consider as partners some of our community's most distinguished corporations. When thinking of groups that make an impact in the areas of volunteering, funding and in-kind gifts, Chevron immediately comes to mind.

Chevron has long been a key partner of the Houston Food Bank, but recently the company has stepped up to an even greater level of support. With the move to our new facility, one of the major expenses would have been furnishing the

office furniture. But Chevron has significantly helped the Food Bank with furniture costs.

That's because the company generously donated the furniture from a facility it recently decommissioned.

“We felt that it was a way to make a contribution,” says Chevron Public Affairs Manager Joni Baird. “[The Food Bank] could save a lot of money and use those funds to buy more food.”

In addition to furnishing our new facility, Chevron is playing

an important role in the creation of the Food Bank's new IT system, which will make us faster and more efficient than ever. Randy Krotowski, Food Bank board member and senior executive in Chevron's IT department, is working hard to help the Food Bank build cutting edge technology solutions.

Chevron's support doesn't stop there. The company also makes generous financial contributions and regularly sends its wonderful employees to volunteer in the warehouse.

“Literally one of the most serious issues in Houston is hunger and we want to be sure we help make a difference in that issue,” says Joni.

And they're living up to their word.

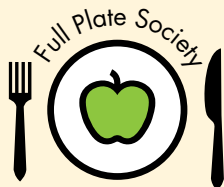
“Not only do we want to continue our involvement,” says Joni. “We want to increase it because [hunger] is such an important issue. We want to be part of the solution.”

THANK YOU, Chevron, for being a true champion of hunger relief in southeast Texas.



Volunteer by visiting houstonfoodbank.org or contact Volunteer Services at 713-547-8609

LEAVE A LEGACY WITH THE FULL PLATE SOCIETY



The Full Plate Society is an honorary society recognizing individuals who have included the [Houston Food Bank](#) in their estate plans through a will, trust, life insurance gift or other planned gift. To help you as you plan for a way to preserve your resources and values and pass them on to your family and community, the Houston Food Bank now offers a free **Personal Estate Planning Course**. This is a home-study course designed to help you achieve a smart, effective legacy plan that meets

your philanthropic and financial goals. To sign up, please contact Amy Ragan at 713-547-8629 or aragan@houstonfoodbank.org. You can also find answers to some of your gift-planning questions at houstonfoodbank.org – just follow the link to “Donate” and click on “Donate Money,” then click on “Gift Planning/Wills.” As long as there are hungry people in our community, the Houston Food Bank will be here to serve them – and your commitments will allow us to continue fighting hunger for years to come.

“God bless you.”

Jennifer, Jamie and Jason are the very definition of “good kids.” They’re smart, ambitious, never get into trouble and do their best to help their mom.

Jennifer wants to be an event planner one day, her sister Jamie dreams of being a pediatrician or a forensic scientist and their younger brother Jason is always talking about becoming an architect or airplane engineer.

Their mother, Teresa, has always stressed the importance of education and hard work. And working hard is something she has modeled very well.

As a home health nurse, Teresa provides full-time, hands-on care for very sick and elderly, homebound patients. Sadly, when her patient passes away, Teresa not only mourns the loss of someone she’s grown close to, but she’s also out of work until she’s hired again by a new patient.

She loves caring for people of all ages, and between nursing jobs, she babysits and does whatever else she can to get her family through the gap in full-time employment.

They usually manage to get by during these temporarily difficult times with the help of Jennifer’s part-time

job. But this time, since the woman Teresa was caring for passed away, she’s had to go much longer than usual without a new patient, despite looking for work diligently. She even carries her resume with her everywhere and says she’s willing to do any kind of work she can find.

“Right now I’m so worried,” she says. “I don’t know how we’re going to pay the bills.”

And without school meals to depend on this summer, not only is Teresa going to have to figure out a way to pay their bills, she’s going to have to find a way to provide three meals a day for her kids instead of just one.

But you’ve made that task a little easier through your gifts to the [Houston Food Bank](#). Teresa was able to apply for SNAP (formerly Food Stamps) with the help of the Food Bank’s SNAP Outreach

Program, and she now also receives emergency food assistance from Second Mile Mission in Stafford, a Food Bank partner agency.

She’s overwhelmingly grateful that you would choose to help her and her children as they work to get back on their feet.

“Thank you very much for everything you do,” says Teresa, sincerely. “God bless you.”



HUNGER 
CAN'T WAIT
A Campaign to Grow the Houston Food Bank

HUNGER CAN'T WAIT:

Update on the Campaign to Grow the [Houston Food Bank](#)

It's still not too late to be a part of the Campaign to Grow the Houston Food Bank! We've extended the deadline for the special customized brick pavers for those who want to visibly show their support of the fight against hunger by having their names or loved ones' names etched in stone and placed in front of the new Food Bank facility. These special, personalized pavers are available at three levels: \$250, \$500 and \$1000. Visit the "Hunger Can't Wait" section of www.houstonfoodbank.org to order yours today!

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart.”

Lionese Whittaker, Branch Director for the Holthouse Boys & Girls Club in Houston, starts to cry as she tells the story of two sisters, 2nd and 3rd graders, in her program.

The girls go to the Rusk magnet school and Lionese describes them as very smart and sweet. They also have three younger siblings at home. One night, no one came to pick them up from the Club, so she drove the girls home. When they got there, no one was home and the girls had to climb through a window to get inside.

As a loving mother herself, it breaks Lionese’s heart that many of the children she cares for everyday are practically raising themselves. In fact, the 3rd grader she took home that night told Lionese she loves coming to the Club because she gets to eat. She said they didn’t have any food at home.

Fortunately, your support of the [Houston Food Bank](#) means the children at the Holthouse Boys & Girls Club get to eat full, balanced meals everyday after school and twice

a day all summer long. Plus, for the kids truly suffering from chronic hunger, the site also offers the Food Bank’s Backpack Buddy Club to provide children with food to eat over the weekend when the Kids Cafe meals aren’t available.

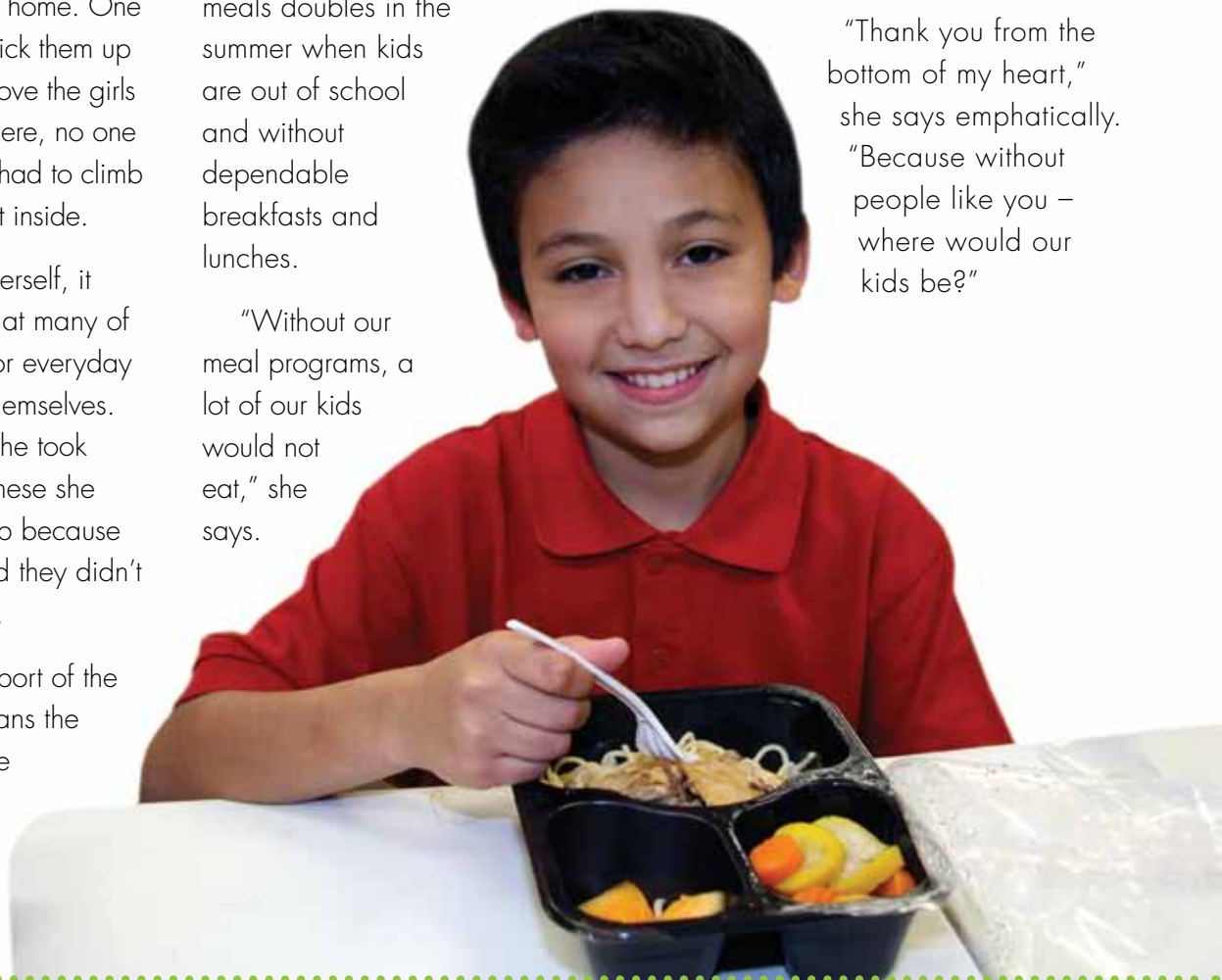
Lionese says the number of children coming to the Club for meals doubles in the summer when kids are out of school and without dependable breakfasts and lunches.

“Without our meal programs, a lot of our kids would not eat,” she says.

Lionese and her staff are working hard to break the cycle of poverty in their community by investing in the lives of young people year-round. They’re helping them succeed in school, develop healthy habits and most of all, keep them safe and off the streets. And Lionese says having meals at the Club helps to accomplish all of these goals.

Healthy food gives kids the energy to learn and play – and Lionese is endlessly grateful to you for helping her kids succeed.

“Thank you from the bottom of my heart,” she says emphatically. “Because without people like you – where would our kids be?”



houston 
foodbank
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

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FEEDING
AMERICA

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