



# Annual Report



2013



  
**houstonfoodbank**  
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

## 2012-2013

*It was our first full year in our new warehouse home, 535 Portwall. In that time, the Houston Food Bank became the largest member of Feeding America – the nation’s network of food banks – not just in square footage, but in food distributed within our 18-county service area. On average, the equivalent of seven tractor trailer loads of food traveled from our warehouse every day with food for 600 partner charities: food pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, residential treatment programs, community centers and other human service organizations where food nourishes body and soul. In addition, Food Bank Social Service Outreach staff helped thousands of families enroll in SNAP, or Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly food stamps), the best long term solution to hunger.*



**Big Response, Bigger Need** In fiscal year 2012-2013, the Houston Food Bank (HFB) provided 64 million nutritious meals to people who struggle with hunger. It’s a huge undertaking, possible only with support from generous donors who give money and food, and enthusiastic volunteers, who give time.

Despite the enormous quantity of food we distribute, it’s still not enough to meet the staggering need. A million people – half of them children – are food insecure in southeast Texas, meaning they may be able to keep food in the house, but not necessarily sufficient nutritious items for a healthy lifestyle. On a typical day, 66,200 people have no food at all – 5,000 of them children.

We may not be able to make sure everyone always has enough nutritious food to eat, but we can make a real difference for thousands of individuals every day. People like the Castillas.

Bertha Castilla and her husband Robert had always been self-sufficient. Robert owned a construction business, but he lost it when Houston’s economy took a dip. Around the same time his business tanked, he and Bertha took in their three young grandchildren. As times became harder, they looked for any means possible to keep food on the table, even going to area waterways to catch fish for the family.

During their good days, the Castillas had never heard of food pantries, but a friend alerted them that there was help at G.R.A.C.E. Outreach Ministries. At first, they were embarrassed, but they had three small mouths to feed in addition to their own. “As an adult, you can wait,” said Bertha, “But kids can’t. You don’t want them to go to bed saying ‘I’m hungry.’”

Bertha says her grandchildren really love the vegetables they receive and the other groceries that sustain them: “Thank you. You never know when you’ll be in line asking for food.”



*Bertha Castilla and her granddaughter, Jasmine Garcia, are glad to get needed groceries for family meals from G.R.A.C.E. Outreach Ministries*

# 2012-2013 Highlights

## Number One, With Your Support

Because our generous community helped us move into a much larger facility two years ago, we are able to work more efficiently. As a result, in the last fiscal year HFB became the largest food bank in the U.S. in distribution to clients, based on a ranking routinely issued by Feeding America that compares the pounds of food distributed in a calendar year by food banks from across the country.

## More People At Risk of Hunger

More people slid into food insecurity, according to "Map the Meal Gap," an annual study by Feeding America. Based on U.S. Department of Agriculture figures from 2010-2011, nearly 11,000 more children and 21,000 more adults were at risk of hunger, lacking consistent access to sufficient nutritious food. One third of children who struggle with hunger are not eligible for government programs like school lunches and breakfasts, food stamps, or WIC.



## Thanks for the Bus!

HFB is more than a warehouse. We function as a community destination for people in need of food assistance and for those who want to help them through volunteer work. In addition, we are a permanent branch for probation officers with Harris County Community Supervision and Corrections. With so many people coming and going, Metro agreed that it would be useful to provide bus service to our front door. Beginning in 2013, Metro began operating a shuttle bus that runs from the Fifth Ward/Denver Harbor Transit Center to HFB, then on to our neighboring Houston Community College Northeast campus. Buses run twelve hours on weekdays.



## EAC at HFB

*The Emergency Aid Coalition, a longtime Houston Food Bank partner agency, graciously assumed operation of the Emergency Food Pantry located at one end of our warehouse. The pantry provides groceries to working families and individuals who struggle with hunger. Most food pantries are open only on weekdays, which makes it harder for those with daytime employment to get assistance. The Emergency Food Pantry is open weekday evenings and all day Saturday.*





### A SNAPpy Vehicle

*Thanks to a truck donated by Kraft, we are taking fresh foods into neighborhoods along with Houston Food Bank staff who help people sign up for SNAP. Our new Kraft mobile pantry stays booked for SNAP enrollment events combined with health and social service fairs at area agencies and community centers. Houston City Councilmember Jerry Davis helped christen the vehicle at its inaugural event, which included a distribution of fresh produce and other nutritious foods to clients (pictured above).*



### Food Banks Around the Planet

Food banks aren't uniquely American. The system for food distribution to combat hunger exists all over the planet. Food bankers from more than 30 countries assembled at the Houston Food Bank for their annual Global Food Banking Network Leadership Institute. The group plans to return in 2014 to continue comparing practices so even more hungry people can eat.



With your support, last year  
the Food Bank provided  
**64 million meals**  
to **hungry children,**  
**adults and seniors.**



### Texas Braggin' Rights

While the Houston Food Bank maintains a solid four-star rating from Charity Navigator, in 2013 Charity Navigator also ranked HFB as the highest-scoring charity in Texas based on financial, accountability and transparency practices. In the year before, we were identified as one of Charity Navigator's Top 10 Top Notch Charities. HFB places highest importance on consistent integrity in use of donor dollars and other resources. We are proud that 95 cents of every dollar goes directly to feed hungry people, not to administrative costs.



### Kale for Kids

HFB is the incubator for a nifty new program that plans to become an independent nonprofit: Brighter Bites, which combines nutrition education with distribution of fresh produce in schools located in food deserts, or areas that traditionally lack full-service grocery stores. HFB provides fresh produce, and a collaborative of other organizations provides nutrition education to encourage families to eat more healthfully.



In 2012-2013,  
the **Food Bank** distributed  
**284,521** food sacks  
to kids in **446** area schools

**296,672** meals for kids  
at **34** after school  
and summer programs

**Volunteers** donated  
**234,400** hours equal to  
**112** full-time employees



On a typical day in southeast Texas,  
**66,200** people are hungry  
and have **no food**.  
**5,000** are children.



### Dining for Good

We're grateful to food journalist Cleverley Stone (pictured above during a Fox 26 news broadcast from the Keegan Kitchen with Food Bank Chef Jose Montoya), founder and chair of Houston Restaurant Weeks, and to Houston's finest restaurants who've participated over the years to raise a cumulative total of more than \$4 million to take a bite out of hunger. Held each August, restaurants donate a portion of each tab from special menus to the Houston Food Bank.

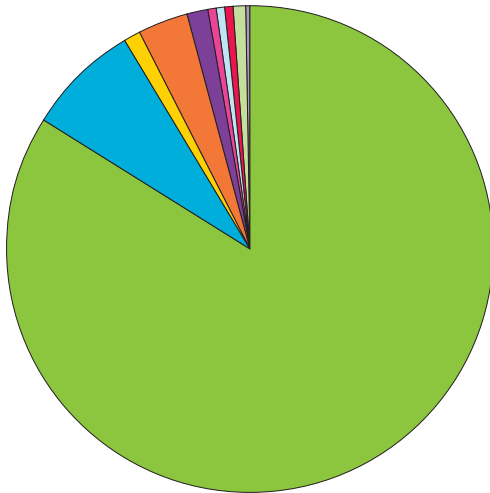


### Advice from the Pros

Can a food bank get advice on improving operational processes from an auto manufacturer? Absolutely. A team from Toyota Production System Support Center spent many hours with our staff over a period of several months to help us increase efficiency in a number of areas in the warehouse and in the volunteer work area. One example: by streamlining the sorting process for meat acquired through the Retail Pick-up program, productivity rose from 500 pounds processed per hour to 4200 pounds using fewer volunteers.

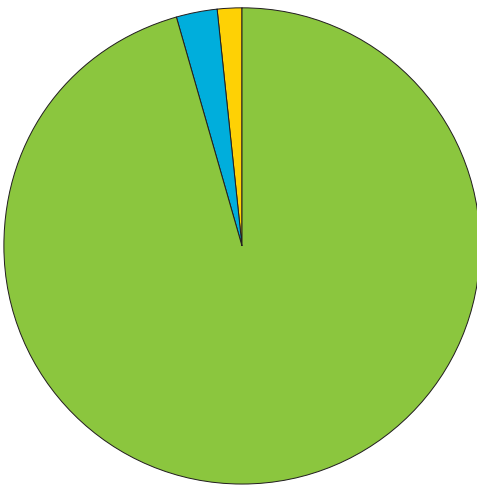
## Financial Data

The Houston Food Bank takes steps to ensure that we carefully steward our resources and demonstrate integrity in all that we do. We uphold our mission with the trust of our staff, board, donors, volunteers, recipients and partners.



### Revenue

\$138,647,721	Donated food/household items
11,558,025	Contributions (including in-kind)
1,827,174	Special events
5,187,415	Government grants/contracts
2,303,218	Agency fees
1,250,110	Sales of purchased food
932,093	Building lease income
798,471	Food preparation fees
1,187,818	Investment return
345,912	Other
<b>\$165,083,941</b>	<b>Total revenue</b>



### Expenses

\$155,013,368	Food distribution program
4,268,172	Management and general
2,636,213	Fundraising
<b>\$161,917,753</b>	<b>Total expenses</b>



## Thank You, Donors!

The following donors sustained the mission of the Houston Food Bank through their generous gifts made in 2012-2013. Contributors who gave \$5,000 or more are listed. In addition to the donors listed below, the Houston Food Bank also wishes to gratefully acknowledge the many contributions made by members of Partners in Hope, our monthly giving society.



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*We thank these donors who chose to include the Houston Food Bank in their estate planning.*

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*The Houston Food Bank wishes to thank these donors for their generous multi-year gifts.*

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*Gifts from these friends supported our ability to function in our facility.*

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*These companies sustain our mission through generous donations of food and other products.*

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 Sysco Food Service  
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\* Deceased

*Though we have done our best to present a complete list, please make our office aware of any omissions or additional information.*

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**Thank you**  
for joining us in the  
**fight against hunger.**

  
**houstonfoodbank**  
Filling pantries. Filling lives.

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