



CONTACT(S):

Theresa E. Mangapora, Executive Director
Brazos Valley Food Bank, Inc.
tmangapora@bvfb.org
(979) 779-3663, Ext. 100
EMAIL: tmangapora@bvfb.org

Brazos Valley Food Bank, Inc. and Super Agencies Ready to help Meet Increasing Need for Food Assistance due to Partial Government Shutdown

Bryan, Texas (January 24, 2019) – The federal government partial shutdown is on day 33, and unfortunately, there is no end in sight. Furloughed federal workers are facing the loss of a second paycheck. So far, the Brazos Valley Food Bank, Inc. has received calls from the Transportation Security Administration (TSA) and the Women’s Federal Prison for their employees who are seeking assistance with food.

To address immediate food needs of furloughed federal employees, BVFB’s plan of action is as follows:

Super Agencies:

The following BVFB food pantry partner agencies have agreed to be **Super Agencies**. **Super Agencies** agree to accept federal employee referrals for food assistance, in addition to providing food assistance to those having trouble making ends meet not because of the shutdown. BVFB is stocking each **Super Agency** with Emergency Food Boxes specifically to meet this additional need.

Information on who these **Super Agency** food pantry partners are, how to contact them and where they are:

Brazos County:

Brazos Church Pantry (304 A West 26th St, Bryan)

Pick up during open pantry hours

Call the Main Pantry at (979) 822-2660 or email info@brazoschurchpantry.org

Salvation Army (2506 Cavitt Ave, Bryan)

Pick up during open pantry hours (Every Wednesday 9a-3p) or Call Salvation

Army at (979) 361-0618 to schedule an appointment

The Bridge (408 E 24th St, Bryan)

Pick up during open pantry hours (Every Thursday 6p-7:30p) or Call (979) 704-6037 to schedule an appointment

Madison County:

SonShine Outreach Center (320 N. May, Madisonville)

Call SonShine Outreach Center at (936) 348-5282. If no answer, call (936) 443-9205

Pick up during normal hours Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9a-12p and 1p-4p

Robertson:

Progressive Missionary Baptist (11th & N. Colorado, Hearne)

Call (979) 279-9940 or (979) 422-5562 to schedule an appointment

Pick up during normal pantry hours 2nd Wednesday of the month 1p-3p

Burleson:

Elizabeth Lutheran Church (165 Country Road 307, Caldwell)

Call the Church number (979) 567-4286 to schedule an appointment

Pick up during normal pantry hours 3rd Saturday of every month 8a-12p

Direct Food Assistance to Federal Agencies:

Representatives of the Women's Federal Prison Camp have asked BVFB directly (even after we referred them to the Super Agencies) for weekly food supplies (100+ Emergency Food Boxes) for their workers delivered directly to the prison. Federal workers at the prison are having trouble finding the time (and resources) to visit the established food pantries. **Because of the volume of food boxes, they are requesting, BVFB is taking this on directly.**

Our first deliver to the Women's Federal Prison Camp will be tomorrow, Friday, January 25. We will continue these until the government opens back up.

Federal Prison Camp - Bryan
1100 Ursuline
Bryan, Texas 77803
[979-823-1879](tel:979-823-1879)

If other local, federal offices need food assistance for their employees, contact us, and we will discuss all options (Super Agencies, direct assistance from BVFB, etc.)

If the government shutdown continues into March, in addition to federal furloughed employees, individuals that benefit from programs like the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), otherwise known as Food Stamps, could also need food assistance. **BVFB will develop new/additional strategies to assist if/when this happens.***

*On average, 13% of all households in the Brazos Valley utilize SNAP benefits to supplement their monthly food budget (Brazos Co: 8.8%; Burleson Co: 14.8%; Grimes Co: 15.5%; Madison Co: 14%; Robertson Co: 18%; Washington Co: 8.8%) (<http://www.frac.org/snap-county-map/snap-counties.html>).

To help the **Super Agencies** during the government shutdown, contact them directly.

To assist BVFB with Food, Funds and/or Friends (volunteers) during the shutdown, please review the information below (the food distribution at the Federal Prison is being handled by prison employees – no volunteers needed at this time for this activity).

Food: You, your family, your neighborhood, your place of worship, your student group, service, club, etc. can conduct a food drive for BVFB. Please register your Food Drive at <https://www.bvfb.org/food-drive-registration-form>. For Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) and Food Drive tips, please visit <https://www.bvfb.org/conducting-food-drive>.

Funds: To donate funds via our website (www.bvfb.org), please visit <https://www.bvfb.org/civicrm/contribute/transact?reset=1&id=1>. In the honoree section, please type Disaster Relief in the designated box. While a government shutdown is not a natural disaster like we are familiar with (hurricanes, fires and floods), we are responding to the current presenting needs using the same strategies. Mailed checks can be sent to BVFB, PO Box 74, Bryan, TX 77806. Please write Government Shutdown on your check.

Friends: We need volunteers to help pack Emergency Food Boxes, as well as help with our normal needs (sorting, BackPacks, Senior Bags and Family Boxes). Apply to be volunteer here <https://www.bvfb.org/how-apply-be-volunteer> and explore the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about volunteering here: individuals <https://www.bvfb.org/individual-faqs> / groups: <https://www.bvfb.org/group-faqs>.

About Brazos Valley Food Bank: Our vision is a hunger-free Brazos Valley.

The Brazos Valley Food Bank (BVFB) utilizes food (close to 7 million pounds), funds (\$2.4 million) and friends (over 12,000 volunteer hours) to bring the Brazos Valley closer to being hunger-free. BVFB solves hunger today by distributing nutritious food (87%) through partner agencies that feed people in their communities. Where there are unmet needs, BVFB provides programs - food filled BackPacks for children; on campus School Food Pantries for older students; Senior Bags; Mobile Food Pantries for rural communities, and Screen & Intervene services in health settings to identify patients dealing with hunger. BVFB is ending tomorrow with strategies that educate, empower and prevent hunger – benefits assistance for safety net programs; nutrition education to SNAP-eligible populations and Together We Grow. \$1 donated equals 6 lbs. of food distributed \$1 donated equals 5 meals.