



Partner Agency Newsletter

July 2017

Employee Spotlight

Partner agencies hosting mobile pantry distributions should be familiar with these ladies! Kara and Anchal are Mobile Pantry Program Coordinators at the food bank. Here's the scoop on what they do out in the field:

Kara – Tell us a little bit about what you do!

I oversee the Mobile Pantry Program which provides TEFAP product and fresh produce to underserved/unserved areas in Central Texas. I provide training to program partners and coordinate distributions with the Mobile Pantry team. At many of our Mobile Pantry locations, our program partners are CTFB partner agencies. Mobile Pantry program partners help Food Bank staff with every aspect of a Mobile Pantry distribution.



What is the best part about your job?

Building meaningful relationships with our program partners, clients and volunteers is one of the best parts of my job. I am honored to be of service alongside our partner agencies and volunteers. They are some of the most dedicated, selfless people I have ever met. One of the best things about my job is getting to see how our program provides clients with nutritious food, encouragement, positivity and additional resources. I love it when I am able to persuade a client to try a new type of produce and receive a good report at the next distribution. Learning about the history of Central Texas from longtime citizens is also a cherished perk!

What is your background?

Before coming to the Food Bank, I managed a Property Management company with a focus on low income and military family housing. I worked at Goodwill to coordinate a successful employment program for at-risk youth in Central Texas. I also worked with at Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) as an air emission specialist for the Barnett Shale Special Inventory. I am a proud Texas State University Bobcat with a B.S. in Resource and Environmental Science.

Anchal – What is your role at the food bank?

I am a Mobile Pantry Program Coordinator at the Food Bank. The Mobile Pantry Team hosts several free mobile food distributions in the Central Texas region every Monday-Saturday. These distributions provide a variety of non-perishable food items as well as meat and fresh produce. The Mobile Pantry Team partners with several partner agencies across our service area to make these distributions possible. Partner agencies provide their experience with food distributions and knowledge of the community to help us better serve and engage with our clients. Partner agencies help us increase awareness of the mobile distributions as well as help facilitate the distributions by regularly attending each distribution and providing their time to serve clients.



What is the best part about your job?

The best part of my job is regularly interacting with and meeting clients and volunteers. Because I am conducting a mobile distribution every day, I get the pleasure of hearing client and volunteer stories on a daily basis. Connecting and building relationships with the community is not only empowering for clients but it also helps increase our impact in the community. I love that by working with partner agencies and other program partners I am able to provide resources for members of my community who need additional help for the month. Even the smallest bit that we all do together makes such a big impact in our clients' lives.



What is your background?

I have been working at the Food Bank for about a year and a half. I began my time at the Food Bank as an Economic Opportunity VISTA. During my time as a VISTA, I worked with several partner agencies on a project to connect our clients to additional financial stability opportunities. I joined the Mobile Pantry team after the conclusion of my VISTA year in November, 2016, and I am excited to continue working with the team as we work with partner agencies and other program partners to develop the Mobile Pantry Program.

The monthly mobile pantry calendar is always updated on the Agencies homepage on the website. Mobile pantries are a great resource to refer clients to, in addition to other resources in your area.

Reminders and Resources:

Updated Suspension Policy

Excessive Monthly Report Holds

Once an agency has accrued 4 report holds in a calendar year the account will automatically be suspended until the 1st of the following month. The suspension will not be removed until the 1st of the following month, even after the late report is received.

2017-2018 Intake Forms

Now available in the [Agency Resource Center](#) online. Please begin incorporating this year.

Warehouse Procedures

Please inform all volunteers picking up food orders that closed-toe shoes are **REQUIRED** in the warehouse. This issue is always more frequent in the summertime, as many people are wearing sandals.

Partner Agency Conference – Presentation Materials

Visit the [Agency Conference page](#) to access photos and session slides from this year's partner agency conference! Congratulations to all the raffle prize winners!

Contact the Team

Name	Title	Phone	Email Address
Heath Ribordy	Director of Agency Services	512-684-2503	hribordy@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Kara Prior	Capacity Specialist	512-684-2508	kprior@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Tyler Markham	Agency Retail Specialist	512-684-2523	tmarkham@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Karsten Darden	Agency Relations Compliance Specialist	512-684-2505	kdarden@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Jessica Buchoz	Agency Relations Compliance Coordinator	512-684-2513	jbuchoz@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Michelle White	Supply Chain Coordinator	512-684-2150	mwhite@centraltexasfoodbank.org
Vanessa Vela	Accounts Receivable Coordinator	512-684-2103	vvela@centraltexasfoodbank.org