



Partner Agency Newsletter

December 2017

SPOTLIGHT: Culinary Training Program

The Central Texas Food Bank is offering a 12-week culinary training program that will run 5 days a week, 30 hours per week. This program is a mix of classroom time and hands-on job training designed to teach basic culinary skills such as equipment operation, knife skills, and basic cooking techniques. It provides real-world experience in the Food Bank's state-of-the-art kitchen, working with commercial equipment and food production. Please post these flyers ([flyer](#) and [tear tags](#)) at your distributions to share with clients and volunteers!



The program is free and open to anyone in the community, subject to eligibility requirements. Class sizes are limited so we can provide individualized attention and instruction.

Apply today and get started on your culinary career!
Application deadline for the next class is Friday, January 5, 2018
For more information, FAQs and application form,
visit www.centraltexasfoodbank.org/kitchen today.

Events:

Stuff the Bus

Whole Foods Market is teaming up again with Capital Metro for their "Stuff the Bus" campaign, from December 1 through December 14, to make sure families in need have a complete holiday meal this season. After breaking last year's record, this year's goal is to raise 150,000 meals for our neighbors. Click the title link above for more info!

Austin Trail of Lights

More than two million twinkling lights will transform Zilker Park into a holiday wonderland for the 53rd Annual Austin Trail of Lights from Saturday, December 9, through Saturday, December 23. The event features 40 light displays, at least 20 food vendors, a 90-foot Ferris wheel, four light tunnels, two music stages and more. This year, attendees are encouraged to bring a healthy non-perishable food item to donate to the Food Bank!

TEFAP Forecast:

Here is a list of items we are expecting to receive from USDA/TEFAP in December:

Applesauce

Canned Diced Tomatoes

Canned whole kernel corn

Canned sliced tomatoes

Canned peach slices

Canned dry pinto beans

Policy Updates:

Due to a recent Texas Department of Agriculture TEFAP audit, there are several policy changes and additions that have been added into the Partner Agency Policies & Procedures Manual. Please take a look at the updates [HERE](#). Additionally, the Food Bank communicated your feedback about the “Zip Code Restrictions” policy to TDA during this audit, and we are happy to announce that this is one of the policies that has been changed. Thank you for your continued support and feedback!

Closures:

The Central Texas Food Bank will be closed at 3pm on **December 15th** for a staff event, and all day on **December 25th**, **December 26th** and **January 1st** in observance of the holidays. There will be no pickups, deliveries, or shop-for on these days. If you normally pick up or receive deliveries on these days, either order extra food the week prior to the holiday or contact Michelle ASAP at (512) 684-2150 to schedule an alternate pick up day at the Central Texas Food Bank. Pick up dates and

times are subject to availability. Regional deliveries will not be rescheduled, but agencies who usually receive deliveries may schedule a pick up at Central Texas Food Bank as our schedule permits. [CLICK HERE](#) to see how these changes will affect your ordering window.

Reminders & Resources:

Partner Agency Facebook Group

The Central Texas Food Bank has created a Facebook group for our partner agency staff, volunteers, and supporters in order to facilitate information sharing among our partners! Please use this page to share ideas, ask questions, and exchange resources. The Food Bank will occasionally post about new/incoming product, grant opportunities, and general hunger-relief news.



You can find the Facebook page [HERE](#). Once you click on the “Join Group” icon on the page, a group administrator will approve your request. *Posts including profanity, content demeaning of any person/group, or otherwise offense will be removed. Please help us ensure that this remains a positive and helpful space. If you have any questions, please email agencies@centraltexasfoodbank.org



Free Thinkery Admission

The Thinkery, an evolution of the Austin Children’s Museum, invites all families with Texas Electronic Benefits Transfer cards (Lone Star Cards), Texas WIC cards, and MAP identification cards to show their card(s) to receive FREE general admission tickets. Please print these flyers ([English](#) and [Spanish](#)) to notify your clients today!

Contact the Team:

Name	Title	Phone	Email Address
------	-------	-------	---------------

Heath Ribordy	Director of Services	512-684-2503	hribordy@ centraltexasfoodbank.org
Kara Prior	Agency Relations 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 Specialist	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