

*See all recent Agency communications.*



## November Partner Agency Newsletter

### In this Issue:

[Spotlight](#)

[Resources](#)

[Important Reminders](#)

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### Upcoming Closures

**IMPORTANT- The food bank will be closed on Friday, November 11, 2022 for Veterans Day.** This means all regularly scheduled pick-ups and deliveries are cancelled during this time. Below are the modifications being made to the ordering schedule as a result of this closure.

<b>If you are picking up or receiving delivery on:</b>	<b>Your ordering window opens on:</b>	<b>At:</b>	<b>Your order is due on:</b>	<b>At:</b>
Mon., Nov. 14	Tue., Nov. 8	10:15 am	Wed., Nov. 9	9:00 am

Tue., Nov. 15	Wed., Nov. 9	10:15 am	Thu., Nov. 10	9:00 am
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**IMPORTANT**- The food bank will also be closed from **Thursday, November 24, 2022 through Friday, November 25, 2022 for Thanksgiving**. This means all regularly scheduled pick-ups and deliveries are cancelled during this time. Below are the modifications being made to the ordering schedule as a result of this closure.

<b>If you are picking up or receiving delivery on:</b>	<b>Your ordering window opens on:</b>	<b>At:</b>	<b>Your order is due on:</b>	<b>At:</b>
Mon., Nov. 28	Mon., Nov. 21	10:15 am	Tue., Nov. 22	9:00 am
Tue., Nov. 29	Tue., Nov. 22	10:15 am	Wed., Nov. 23	9:00 am

**If your organization will be in need of a rescheduled pick-up during these closures, please reach out to your relationship manager** to see what may be possible. Reschedule spots will be limited and are available first-come, first-served.

For the most up-to-date closure information, please refer to the [2022 Holiday Guide](#) and the [closure section](#) of the [agencies page](#) on our [website](#).

## Spotlight



## Special Saturday Distributions at Austin Spanish Seventh Day Adventist

Please join us in [reading more](#) about the Special Distributions that Austin Spanish Seventh Day Adventist hosts to serve their community nutritious food boxes. Thank you for Austin Spanish Seventh Day Adventist for all of your hard work and dedication.

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## Resources for Partners and/or Clients



## Recipe of the Month

Did you know that the eggplant is in the same family as potatoes and tomatoes? Read more on the benefits of eating eggplant and an awesome penne pasta recipe to try at home [here](#).

## Food Inventory Update

Like so many other organizations around the country and around the world, the Central Texas Food Bank continues to experience instability in our inventory and food sourcing. As we have shared previously, this is not an

isolated situation unique to Central Texas. *(Please see links at the end of this message for articles related to the crisis other food banks are experiencing.)*

There are several reasons for this, which are outside of our control:

- Global and national supply chain issues
- A dramatic reduction of loads from the USDA TEFAP Program available for us to order, over 60 YTD
- Decreased donations from retailers
- The expiration of federal food programs that were established during the pandemic
- All of these factors have combined to affect both the amount of food donations we get and the amount available for us to purchase.

We are working hard to optimize every possible avenue to deal with this situation, both in the short term and for the long run, as well as sourcing substantial quantities of fresh produce, which is more easily accessible in today's national food supply and meets our goals to provide healthy food options.

We also want to increase our efforts to fight the system reasons for hunger including developing a workforce development program, increasing our SNAP and benefits enrollment work, and connecting neighbors to resources they need like health and housing. We have also continued to waive handling fees to give Partner Agencies more flexibility to source food with their financial resources.

**Articles related to the crisis other food banks are also experiencing:**

<https://foodbanknews.org/food-banks-strategize-against-rising-inflation-declining-aid/>

<https://www.npr.org/2022/06/02/1101473558/demand-food-banks-inflation-supply-chain>

<https://www.cnn.com/2022/05/04/politics/inflation-high-prices-food-banks/index.html>

<https://www.marketplace.org/2022/09/12/food-banks-see-a-surge-in-demand-as-food-inflation-hits-low-income-families/>

## CTFB Wholesale Club

While the uncertainty around food sourcing remains and while none of us can buy our way out of the current food supply chain issue, we are launching a wholesale club to leverage our collective financial strength. We have heard loud and clear that you are willing to purchase the most needed items for those you serve. We will work with our network of national food wholesalers to secure the best pricing possible on bulk orders, and make those items available to your organizations at cost. We want to hear from you how we can make this program as successful as possible. Please give us your input by completing the form at the link below, we will follow up with more questions.

**Please complete by Noon on Monday 11/7/22:** [Please click here to access our Wholesale Club interest form.](#)

## Reusable Plastic Containers

One of the necessary items to our sustainability is the ongoing supply of fresh produce offered by our network of donors across the country. The packaging many growers and donors utilize in their supply chains are plastic crates known as Reusable Plastic Containers (RPCs). Your agency plays an essential role in RPC recollections, as these RPCs need to cycle back into the supply chain for reuse. Please continue to return any retail crates (RPCs) to CTFB when picking up your order or receiving delivery. You can see an example of these crates on [this flyer](#). Thank you for your help!

## Important Holiday Season Update

Due to ongoing supply chain issues and impacts from Avian Bird Flu, there is a reduced supply of turkeys nationwide. We've successfully purchased a limited

number of turkeys for our Partner Agency Network and CTFB Community Partners special events.

Please keep an eye on the shopping list for turkeys and whole chickens. The turkeys available are **14-16 lbs** each. at **\$1.60/lb**. Be mindful they come 4 turkeys per case so please plan your pick-up or delivery accordingly.

If your agency responded to our February turkey commitment survey, we have already placed your birds on order therefore you do not need to order from the shopping list.

We are working to find options for sourcing additional holiday food items. In the meantime, please continue to look at other sources for your holiday food needs.

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## Important Reminders

### Civil Rights Training Instructions

If you, your staff or volunteers are having any issues with the new Civil Rights Training, please review our Civil Rights Training Instructions [here](#).

### Agency Express Training

We are excited to share a new resource to assist our partner agencies with using Agency Express. Please click [here](#) to view a short instructional video. In addition, please click [here](#) to review our Agency Ordering FAQs.

## Contact the Team

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