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The South Texas  
Food Bank

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# Food for the Mind

A NEWSLETTER OF THE SOUTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

## Kids Café Children Receive Special Treats this Holiday Season



*"Spurs-tastic" Christmas: Spurs player Danny Green held a special meet and greet with the kids from the Laredo Housing Authority Kids Café after the December 26th game.*

It was a very special, sports-filled season for the South Texas Food Bank's Kids Café Program. Over 50 children at two different Laredo Kids Café sites got to meet two popular basketball players.

On November 6, Harlem Globetrotter Star Orlando Melendez "El Gato" made a special appearance at the Benavides Boys & Girls Club to present the Harlem Globetrotter's anti-bullying initiative, "The ABC's of Bullying Prevention." The event was open to the local children and their parents. Over 30 children attended the hour-long interactive presentation. Melendez traveled down to Laredo several days ahead of their scheduled appearance at the LEA to do this special presentation.

Twenty children from the several Laredo Housing Authority

Kids Café sites were chosen at random to attend the San Antonio Spurs-Brooklyn Nets game on December 26th at the AT&T Center in San Antonio, Texas. The youngsters not only got to enjoy the game, but got the opportunity to meet and greet Danny Green after the game.

"Thank you to Danny Green from the San Antonio Spurs for inviting children of our community and

thank you to the Harlem Globetrotters for visiting the Benavides Boys & Girls Club," South Texas Food Bank Executive Director Alma Boubel said. "Also, special thanks to all the food bank donors and Kids Café sponsors. Their support makes special and unique opportunities such as these possible for the children in our program." ●



*Border Trotting: Harlem Globetrotter Orlando Melendez "El Gato" (Center back) poses one of the groups that attended his presentation at the Benavides Boys & Girls Club of Laredo.*

## All-Stars Fundraiser to Feature Dak Prescott and Jason Witten



**Da' Boyz:** Jason Witten, left, and Dak Prescott will be the special guests at the food bank's All-Star Fundraiser in February. Photo Source: Tim Heitman-USA TODAY Sports

Two top Dallas Cowboy's players will be joining forces with the South Texas Food Bank to raise funds for the always important mission of feeding the hungry in South Texas.

NFL Quarterback Dak Prescott and Tight End Jason Witten will be making their way down to the Gateway City on Saturday, February 24, 2018 to participate in the All-Stars Fundraiser - a set of two events that are not only geared towards raising funds, but also to create awareness on the realities of hunger, promote healthy lifestyles and the importance of giving back to the community.

This is the first time that these two athletes travel to the Laredo area.

The first event consists of a Pep Talk at the Laredo Civic Center Auditorium and is geared to children and teenagers. The second event will be a fundraiser dinner that will feature Prescott and Witten as

the key note speakers. The dinner at the Civic Center Ballroom will also feature a silent auction and a unique meet and greet opportunity for the guests. Great seats are guaranteed.

Individual tickets cost \$150 and tables for 10 guests start at \$1,500. Call the food bank's Marketing Department for more information or to purchase tickets.

"We are beyond thrilled to put on this event," said Alma Boubel, Executive Director of The South Texas Food Bank. "The food bank board had wanted to change the direction of our fundraising activities for a while now. Besides the need for food, the food bank advocates for nutrition and healthy lifestyle choices. What a better way to bring together two closely-related topics than through sports."

Boubel pointed out that the food bank started to prepare for this new sports-oriented direction by making possible two special

initiatives this fall and winter. In November, the food bank helped coordinate a special appearance by Harlem Globetrotter Star Orlando Melendez "El Gato" at the Benavides Boys & Girls Club. Then, on December 26, the Kids Café sponsored 20 children from the Laredo Housing Authority sites to travel up to San Antonio to enjoy a Spurs game and meet NBA Star Dany Green.

"We have received a very positive response about this new direction that the food bank has decided to take. Sports is another way in which we can continue to shine a light about the realities of hunger and its negative impact on nutrition, health and the overall quality of life of communities as a whole," she added.

The All-Stars Pep Talk and Dinner ft. Dak Prescott and Jason Witten will be one of only two major fundraiser events for the food bank this year. A similar event featuring several San Antonio Spurs players has been tentatively scheduled for July. Sponsors that purchase a \$10k or \$15K level table for the February fundraiser will be able to attend the NBA event for no additional cost. "When you purchase at those two sponsorship levels, you basically get a 'buy one, get one' free," Alma Boubel noted.

The proceeds of these fundraisers will be used to continue to purchase food for the food bank's different food programs and initiatives throughout its eight-county area, which includes: Webb, Zapata, Jim Hogg, Val Verde, Maverick, Kinney, Dimmit, and Starr. ●



## 2016-2017 Lead Hunger Partners

From October 1, 2016 to September 30, 2017, the following Lead Hunger Partners made aggregate contributions or commitments of \$5,000 or more and/or donated 1 million pounds or more of food and products. Thank you to these individuals, businesses and organizations for investing in the fight against hunger in South Texas.



The  
Guadalupe and Lilia Martinez  
Foundation



Lamar Bruni-Vergara  
Foundation



**A.R. "Tony" and Maria J. Sanchez Family Foundation**

**Arturo N. Benavides, Sr.**

**Audrey & Carlos Zaffirini, Jr.**



# SOUTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

PROUDLY PRESENTS



★ ★  
DAK PRESCOTT  
&  
JASON WITTEN



# ALL-STARS

February 24th, 2018

SOUTH TEXAS  
FOOD BANK



HUNGER

**Pep-Talk**  
**10:30AM-12:00PM**  
**Grades 1st-12th**

**Fundraising Dinner**  
**6:30PM-10:30PM**  
**Civic Center Ballroom**

For Table Sponsorship Information & Ticket Purchases:  
(956)726-3120

ALLSTARS@SOUTHTEXASFOODBANK.ORG  
www.southtexasfoodbank.org



## Giving Back

The South Texas Food Bank relies on the generosity of the community to continue its mission of feeding the hungry. Thank you to the businesses and organizations that volunteered and collected food in benefit of the food bank.



Alexander H.S. students drop off food donation.



St. Patrick's A.C.T. group donates their time.



U.I.S.D. Salinas Elem. student collected food in benefit of the food bank.



Laredo ATT Employees helped prepare bags for CSFP.

### MISSION STATEMENT:

To alleviate hunger in South Texas by collecting and distributing food through partner agencies and programs while creating awareness and educating the community on the realities of hunger.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Erasmio Villarreal, President

Doug Howland, President—Elect

Robert Diaz, Treasurer

Kevin Romo, Secretary

Aide Brooks, Historian

### BOARD MEMBERS

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Hugo Flores

Anna B. Galo

Christina Garcia

Valeria Rubalcaba

Eduardo Saenz

Romeo Salinas

Ed Sherwood

John R. Solis

### Advisory Members

Romelia Cardona

Galo Garcia

### Our Funding

The South Texas Food Bank is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization headquartered in Laredo, Webb County, Texas, and serves eight counties in South Texas: **Val Verde, Kinney, Maverick, Dimmit, Webb, Zapata, Jim Hogg, and Starr.** The food bank's produce donations, resources, income and revenue sources come through diverse partnerships and collaborations. We also apply for and receive foundation grants and pursue diverse community fundraising opportunities.

For more information on how you can join the fight against hunger, contact STFB Executive Director Alma Boubel at (956) 726-3120 or at: [aboubel@southtexasfoodbank.org](mailto:aboubel@southtexasfoodbank.org)

### Food for the Mind Newsletter Staff

Alma Boubel,  
*Executive Director /  
Newsletter Contributor & Editor*

Angie Osterman,  
*Development / Grant Writer /  
Newsletter Writer & Editor*





## THE SOUTH TEXAS FOOD BANK

P.O. Box 2007  
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### H.E.B. Donates Oatmeal to Food Bank Clients



***Oatmeal Time:** Alma Boubel, STFB Executive Director (Center) poses with food bank staff the morning of the oatmeal delivery.*

The South Texas Food Bank received a donation of a trailer load of oatmeal from the H.E.B. grocery chain of Texas on December 12, 2017.

The shipment of 5,760 cans of H.E.B.

Quick Oatmeal were donated to the food bank with the intent to help the 28,000 families that the food bank serves on a monthly basis.

"The food bank and our thousands of clients sincerely appreciate H.E.B.'s contin-

ued support of our mission of feeding the hungry," said Erasmo Villarreal, South Texas Food Bank Board President.

"In its continued commitment to battling hunger in Texas, H.E.B. will be delivering the gift of food this holiday season with a special truckload delivery of H.E.B. Quick Oats Oatmeal to the food bank," noted the H.E.B. media advisory sent out in December.

The oatmeal was distributed to the food bank clients through the food bank's network of local and regional member agencies.

H.E.B. is the longest standing partner of the South Texas Food Bank. Their partnership spans 28 years, dating back to the founding of the food bank. Every year, H.E.B. donates millions of pounds of food, including daily bread that is picked up in all the store locations in Laredo and throughout the service area. ●