

Fighting Hunger in 13 North Texas Counties

In the 13 north central Texas counties served by Tarrant Area Food Bank:

- The population totals 2.86 million residents, according to U.S. Census Bureau estimates for 2006.
- Almost 418,000¹ of these Texans live in extreme poverty² and often do not have enough to eat.
- More than 136,000 of them are children.¹ That is nearly one-fifth (19.5 percent) of all children living in this area.
- Children are one-third of all individuals living below 100 percent of federal Poverty Thresholds.²

In Tarrant County:

- Almost 224,000 individuals—including more than 86,000 children—live in extreme poverty, that is, below 100 percent of the federal Poverty Thresholds.¹
- Nearly half (48 percent) of all school children qualified for the free and reduced-cost school meals program during the 2008-09 academic year.³ That is more than 157,000 children.

Among all households served by Tarrant Area Food Bank:⁴

- Most do not have great numbers of children—68 percent of households have three or fewer members and many households consist of one elderly person;
- 55 percent have a total annual income of less than \$10,000 from employment, pensions, or some form of Social Security;
- 50 percent have to choose whether to buy food or pay for utilities;
- 46 percent must choose whether to pay for medicine or groceries.

Among all recipients of food assistance from the Tarrant Area Food Bank network:⁴

- 47 percent are non-Hispanic Caucasian;
- 26 percent are non-Hispanic African-American;
- 24 percent are Hispanic;
- 35 percent are children.

Tarrant Area Food Bank distributes food through 300 charities such as: Emergency food pantries and shelters, soup kitchens, senior citizen centers, the weekend BackPacks for Kids program, low-income day care centers, after-school programs including Kids Cafes, residential treatment programs, HIV/AIDS programs, disaster relief agencies and more.

Each month, on average, the network distributes groceries to more than **35,000 households** and serves **500,000 meals and snacks**.

Counties served include: Denton, Johnson, Parker, Bosque, Cooke, Erath, Hamilton, Hill, Hood, Palo Pinto, Somervell, Tarrant and Wise.

¹ Based on U.S. Census Bureau 2006 population estimates by county and 2005 poverty percentages by county, the latest available poverty rates for counties.

² U.S. Census Bureau Poverty Thresholds are similar to U.S. Health and Human Services Poverty Guidelines. Poverty Thresholds for 2005 include a maximum annual income of \$19,971 for a family of four.

³ Texas Education Agency, "2007-2008 Students Economically Disadvantaged County Totals."

⁴ Regional report for Tarrant Area Food Bank from *Hunger in America 2006*, a nationwide survey in 2005 of Americans who seek emergency food assistance. The national survey was sponsored by the national network of regional food banks, Feeding America, formerly known as America's Second Harvest.