Thanks to the generous support of our donors, Feeding Texas and our statewide network of food banks were able to feed thousands of Texans in the days immediately following Harvey and make the commitment to be there for the long term with increased levels of support.

25% OF TEXAS RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY HARVEY have had PROBLEMS PAYING FOR FOOD.

Hurricane Harvey made landfall on the Texas coast on August 25, 2017. Over the next five days, hundreds of thousands of Texans were affected by damaging winds and devastating flooding. Today, over six months later, individuals and families continue to face challenges created by the storm.

When Disaster Strikes: How Harvey Increased Food Insecurity

Response

Before Hurricane Harvey’s winds and rains had even stopped, the first families were facing the need for food assistance. Tens of thousands of people were displaced from their homes. Food banks provided food and prepared meals while these people were in shelters or motels. Other families received assistance when the locations where they normally get their food were flooded or inaccessible.

Recovery

Nearly half of Texans who were affected by Harvey reported some income or job loss. Some of these people were already food insecure. Others need food assistance for the first time in their lives. Food banks help meet this need with nutritious food so people can focus on other needs.

Rebuilding

Many families will be food insecure for months to come because of the disruptions caused by Harvey. Even families who were previously stable financially may find that the costs of repairing their houses or a decrease in wages makes it difficult to make ends meet. By providing food and support services, food banks help these families stabilize faster.
Feeding Texas served as a central point of contact and information hub for our member food banks and donors. We worked with state and local officials throughout the response phase, including having a Feeding Texas staffer in the State Operations Center operated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management.

Our disaster staff knew what was needed – food and grocery supplies, equipment, and staff – and where. By acting as coordinator, we maximized the impact of the food banks in our network. Although Harvey impacted six of our food banks directly, every food bank in our network pitched in with food and other supplies in the weeks immediately following the storm. The stories below offer just a few highlights of this response.

The Coastal Bend Food Bank
The Coastal Bend Food Bank (CBFB) in Corpus Christi serves an 11-county area, including the city of Rockport, where Harvey made its devastating landfall. Hours after the storm cleared, CBFB quickly identified emergency distribution locations for food and supplies for hundreds of families and was also key in distributing insulin to insulin-dependent diabetics who lost their supply in the storm. Staff from the San Antonio Food Bank aided CBFB by delivering food directly to affected residents with the help of local volunteer firefighters.

Southeast Texas Food Bank
Lines for water were one mile long in both directions in Beaumont when the municipal water supply became unsafe to drink. Southeast Texas Food Bank distributed water to thousands of families during the nine-day water crisis.

Montgomery County Food Bank
Working with Habitat for Humanity, the Montgomery County Food Bank fully stocked the pantry and refrigerator of each house that Habitat is rebuilding after the storm.

The Food Bank of the Golden Crescent
The Food Bank of the Golden Crescent was back at work the day after Harvey hit, while the storm was stalled over the area. By Sunday, they were delivering food to shelters and handing out food directly from the food bank and any other sites they could physically get to.
Thanks to your donations, the Feeding Texas network of food banks is able to provide support to meet immediate needs, break the cycle of food insecurity, and help Harvey victims rebuild their lives.

**Reimburse and Replenish**

Many of our food banks – both those directly in the storm’s path and those who rushed supplies into the disaster zone – depleted their stocks. They are now in the process of replenishing these supplies. Food banks also had higher fuel and personnel costs, with many staff working around the clock to meet the needs of Harvey victims. Your donations will allow them to cover these costs without impacting their ability to meet the normal need in their communities.

**Meet Increased Demand**

Food insecurity in the disaster areas has increased and food banks are preparing to meet the needs of individuals and families in these areas. Low wages, loss of employment and housing repair costs are just some of the reasons families may look to cut household costs, often scaling back on food expenditures.

Many food banks are expecting the number of people they serve to remain at double the normal levels for several months. These food banks will not only increase the amount of grocery supplies they provide through their regular agencies. They will also:  
• deploy mobile pantries in the hardest hit areas,  
• stock food trucks that prepare meals for people with damaged kitchens, and  
• prepare special food boxes for families with specific dietary needs.

**Build Capacity for the Next Disaster**

Even before Harvey recovery is finished, our food banks are building their capacity to meet the challenges of the next storm. They are making improvements such as:  
• installing patches to allow diesel generators to power facilities,  
• building additional warehouse space to store more disaster boxes, and  
• purchasing additional equipment such as fork lifts so that they can move larger amounts of products during disasters.

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*The Southeast Texas Food Bank quickly depleted its supply of 5,000 disaster boxes when Harvey hit. The West Texas Food Bank shipped additional, pre-packed food boxes. This meant the Southeast Texas Food Bank could quickly serve those in need without having to ask for additional volunteer help from local residents who were stressed dealing with the storm.*
Because of your help, Feeding Texas and our statewide network of food banks have served tens of thousands of Texans already. We appreciate the support of all our donors and wish to recognize the following major contributors to our relief and recovery efforts:

Albertsons Companies Foundation  
America’s Test Kitchen  
Andeavor Foundation  
Arby’s  
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas  
Bob’s Red Mill Natural Food  
California Pizza Kitchen  
Causecast Foundation  
Eat’n Park Hospitality Group  
Fausto Rotundo  
Gayle and Tom Benson Charitable Foundation  
Hand In Hand Hurricane Relief Telethon  
H-E-B

James Avery Jewelry  
Major League Baseball and Major League Baseball Players Association  
Meadows Foundation  
New York Life  
Qualcomm  
Shiner Beers  
SolarWinds  
Texas Monthly Magazine  
Tracy Rawl  
United Healthcare Services  
Walton Family Foundation  
Weatherford International  
Whataburger

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