Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry

A Season of Momentum

Tresha Silva, CEO

What a remarkable quarter this has been. As I reflect on the past three months, one word comes to mind: momentum. 2026 has been a landmark year for the Bastrop County Emergency Food Pantry and Support Center, and this quarter brought that truth into sharp focus.

In September, our community answered the call for **Hunger Action Month**, raising critical funds for our **NIBBLES** program, which serves 302 children across seven Bastrop elementary schools. I am deeply grateful to everyone who wore orange, hosted a NIBBLES bag build, or made a gift. You ensured that children in our community have nourishment on the weekends when school meals are out of reach.

This quarter also brought two milestones that will shape our future. We were approved for a $300,000 grant from the **St. David's Foundation**, a transformative investment that will allow us to design a mobile pantry van bringing the dignity of choice directly into the most rural, underserved neighborhoods in Bastrop County. For the first time, we will reach past transportation barriers to deliver not just food, but long-term stability. This grant also funds a designated benefits coordinator who will walk alongside neighbors as they navigate applications for SNAP, Medicare, and other vital safety nets. We also launched two new programs that are already changing lives. First, **Open Table (Mesa Abierta)** brought our Hispanic neighbors together around cooking demonstrations focused on managing diabetes and hypertension, with participants asking for more. The second program, **Chosen Beginnings**, in partnership with **Chosen Women Empower** and supported by St. David's Foundation, has already provided nutritional access and maternal health resources to 12 expectant and postpartum mothers. Every milestone this quarter was made possible by you, and as we head into the holiday season, we are grateful to know you stand with us. **Thank you!**

COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORTING

July - September 2026

Quarter 3 at the Food Pantry has been a busy time! The **Bastrop Whataburger** team (left, top) volunteered with us to build NIBBLES bags, process inventory, and assist with a Fresh Food for Families distribution. We also received generous proceeds from **Film Alley** (left, middle), donated through their annual Summer Family Film Festival. Film Alley has been a long-time supporter of our mission, and we are deeply grateful for their continued partnership.

We were also humbled by the generosity of four local businesses: **Christopher David Homes, A&G Electric, Kana Real Estate, and First National Bank** (left, bottom). These groups came together to donate proceeds from a home they all had a hand in building and selling, a beautiful example of community spirit in action.

176,680

POUNDS DISTRIBUTED Q3 2026

vs. **139,493** in Q3 2025, ensuring families had nutritious meals on their tables.

2,431.6

VOLUNTEER HOURS IN Q3 2026

vs. **1,627** in Q3 2025, donated by hunger heroes who gave their time, talents, and compassion.

Open Table (Mesa Abierta), August 8, 2026, focus on nutritional education for hypertension.

Upcoming Events

NOV 7 Elgin Empty Bowl

We are calling all fans, foodies, and community champions to join us for the **9th Annual Elgin Empty Bowl SOUPer Bowl Event!** Taking place on **Saturday, November 7, 2026, from 11 am - 1:30 pm**, at the Elgin High School, we are sure it's going to be a memorable time bringing in essential funds to support our mission. Let's tackle hunger together and ensure no bowl in Bastrop County stays empty.

FEB 6 Bastrop Empty Bowl

Save the date for the upcoming **22nd Annual Bastrop Empty Bowl!** This community-favorite event is returning to the Bastrop Convention Center on **February 6, 2027**. Check out our website's Event page for information on sponsoring the event, registering your soup, or donating a silent auction item!

Feedback From Our Neighbors

The pilot program **Open Table (Mesa Abierta)** came to life this past quarter, with the first bilingual class held on August 8 focusing on hypertension, and the second on September 19 addressing diabetes. Both sessions featured a healthier adaptation of a traditional recipe, and each attendee left with the ingredients to recreate it at home. The response from neighbors was overwhelmingly positive. One participant shared, ***"Everything was wonderful. We loved the fellowship of cooking together and enjoying the dish with others."*** Neighbors highlighted the value of having a Nutritionist's guidance and the clear explanations about how blood sugar affects the body. The enthusiasm was unmistakable: participants asked for classes twice a month, healthy dessert and chicken recipes, nutrition education for children, and somatic activities like yoga. One neighbor summed it up simply: ***"All the information was excellent, and so was the recipe."*** We are actively seeking funding to continue bringing this valuable program to our community.

September 2026

Hunger Action Month

Every September, the Food Pantry joins Feeding America in recognizing **Hunger Action Month,** a time we dedicate to raising critical funds for our **NIBBLES** program (Nutrition in Backpacks Before Littles Exit School). NIBBLES ensures that **302 students** across 7 Bastrop campuses head home each weekend with a **five-pound bag of nourishment**, typically containing shelf-stable milk, juice boxes, microwavable meals like mac and cheese or ramen, fruit, and snacks.

This year, we invited the community to join us in three ways: hosting a NIBBLES Bag Build, becoming a monthly NIBBLES donor, and wearing orange with us on September 29. Two organizations answered the call! A local 4H group (bottom, left) and the Holiday Inn in Bastrop both hosted bag builds, constructing and donating bags to support our students.

Our Hunger Action Month fundraising brought in **$4,765.93**, enough to purchase contents for roughly 476 NIBBLES bags. We are also deeply grateful to our monthly NIBBLES donors, **Jana Lynch (Painted Artist)** and the **Bastrop Church of New Beginnings**, whose ongoing generosity ensures that the enrolled students have the nourishment they need to thrive. Thank you!

Get Involved Today

Your time and donations are the heart of our mission.
Thank you!

Ready to volunteer? Get an insider's look at your investment at work. Head to BastropFoodPantry.org/Volunteer to sign up today! Send additional questions to Sherry Darvin, Volunteer Coordinator, at: SherryDarvin@BastropFoodPantry.org

A gift today helps us plan for tomorrow. To make a secure donation scan the QR code or visit the link below to contribute to the Food Pantry's mission of providing food access to Bastrop County neighbors. Donate Here. Thank you!