

Fighting Hunger Facts

In 2009, the High Plains Food Bank distributed 4.7 million pounds of food to the Texas Panhandle

The Food Bank now distributes over 500,000 pounds of food each month!

On average, the Food Bank is assisting approximately 8,000 families throughout the Texas Panhandle.

The amount of people seeking assistance has increased about 40 percent since 2009 – mostly due to job losses locally and people being unable to keep up with growing expenses.

Vast majority of above people are seeking help for the first time and the families have children under 18 years of age

Over 49 million Americans at risk of hunger/food insecure

From 2006-2008, 16.3 percent of Texans lived in households that were food insecure

Food insecure **does not** mean "hungry right now," "going to bed hungry tonight," or "not knowing where your next meal is coming from.

Food insecure **does** mean "facing hunger," "at risk of hunger," or "forced to decide between food and other necessities (medicine, rent, utilities etc)

Over 40 percent of the Food Bank's total distribution goes to our rural counties

Through our Kids Cafe program, we serve over 1,000 meals on average to at-risk children each week night

In 2009, we served over 130,000 total meals through our 7 Kids Cafe locations

We serve over 600 children on average each month at all our Kids Cafe locations

According to the 2008 American Community Survey (release by Census Bureau), the total population of Potter County was 118,145. Of that amount, 26,189 of the population lived in poverty

The above is a 2 percent increase in poverty from the previous year

Altogether, over 68,000 people in the Texas Panhandle live on or below the poverty line

Approximately 9,600 different people receive assistance through emergency food programs through the High Plains Food Bank in any given week

40 percent of the members of households served by the High Plains Food Bank are children under 18 years old

Among all client households served by emergency food programs of the High Plains Food Bank, 87 percent are food insecure – 56 percent of those are experiencing hunger right now

56 percent of clients served by the High Plains Food Bank report having to choose between paying for food and paying for utilities

For every \$1 donated, the High Plains Food Bank can distribute \$5 worth of food (or approximately 4 meals)!

The High Plains Food Bank now purchases many food items because it does not receive them as donated items

An average purchase of a truckload of food items costs between \$10,000 – \$20,000

Our truck fuel bills exceed \$3,000 per month

The High Plains Food Bank serves 29 total counties (including all 26 in the Texas Panhandle) – 30,000 square miles!

