



PRESS RELEASE
(For Immediate Release)

Contact:

Emily Bell, Communications and Marketing Manager
(806)350-1427 W (806)679-6480 C

High Plains Food Bank Coordinates Hurricane Harvey Relief Efforts for Victims in Southeast Texas

Amarillo, TX - High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) is heartbroken for thousands of fellow Texans affected by Hurricane Harvey, and has made preparations to help facilitate relief. HPFB asks businesses, schools, and faith based organizations in our community, who are conducting food and fund drives for hurricane victims, to coordinate relief efforts with High Plains Food Bank.

HPFB is collaborating with Feeding Texas, our statewide network of food banks, which will help streamline food bank delivery efforts in the days and months ahead, easing the disaster recovery cost for many communities.

High Plains Food Bank will directly support The Houston Food Bank and their ***Help After Harvey*** campaign will all food, product, and monetary donations collected for hurricane relief efforts. The Houston Food Bank, a sister food bank in our statewide network, will have the most crucial impacts now in the short-term relief phase, (providing food, toiletries, and other necessities to hundreds of area shelters who are postured to provide humanitarian aid to thousands of evacuees), and during the long-term recovery road for victims.

Civic groups, schools, churches, and businesses in Amarillo have taken action to gather needed relief supplies and funds for those along the Texas coast. However, food and supplies must be appropriately sorted and packed before it can be sent to coastal relief agencies. Food banks along the coast have themselves been damaged by wind and flooding. They lack both the staff and volunteers to sort and prepare donated food for distribution to relief agencies.

Organizations wishing to conduct food drives are being asked to ***register their food drive with High Plains Food Bank*** by going to www.hpfb.org/helpafterharvey. Organizers are asked to provide containers for the food they collect (boxes and sturdy sacks) and to provide transportation (deliver the food directly) to the High Plains Food Bank at 815 Ross Street in Amarillo, TX.

“The relief response from residents in Amarillo, Canyon, and the Texas Panhandle has been a merciful outpouring of generosity,” expressed Zack Wilson, Executive Director of High Plains Food Bank. “We have heard the true needs from our statewide network, Feeding Texas, who is in daily contact with our affected sister food banks who are serving local shelters, partner churches, and charitable agencies. At this time, we are prepared to mobilize our community to respond in a way that will serve relief teams at the Houston Food Bank best. Food waste is a top concern for uncoordinated donation efforts. We want to avoid that at all cost.”

High Plains Food Bank will serve to ensure that disaster relief donations make the most impact, and that our community’s donation processes are streamlined to best serve Texas coast staff, volunteers, and victims.

The most needed items are:

- Hand-held snack items such as granola bars
- Ready to eat items (pop-top cans or flavored packaged tuna, etc.)
- Shelf-stable pantry items such as peanut butter, canned veggies and soups
- Cleaning supplies (bleach, non-bleach, paper towels, etc.)
- Personal hygiene items (toothbrushes, toothpaste, feminine care, deodorant, etc.)
- WE WILL NOT ACCEPT GLASS CONTAINERS that could be damaged in transportation

The destruction and damaging effects of Hurricane Harvey will require state and even nationwide assistance now and in the months and years ahead. The best form of support right now is monetary donations that can be used to purchase items needed, and avoid the costs of sorting and transporting to the coast.

For additional information call Emily Bell at 806-350-1427 or email her at emily@hpfb.org.

High Plains Food Bank will facilitate relief efforts as a humanitarian resource, believing the Texas Panhandle will continue to provide hope and resources for those hurting in the aftermath of Hurricane Harvey.

###

About High Plains Food Bank

Food banking solves two problems: hunger and waste. High Plains Food Bank (HPFB) is a humanitarian resource responsible for securing, processing, and distributing food to charitable organizations who provide it directly to persons in need in the top 29 counties of the Texas Panhandle. In 2006, HPFB distributed 7.6 million pounds of food to around 96,000 Panhandle residents. High Plains Food Bank also supports programs that improve food insecurity and health among the people we serve through our Kids Cafe program, Direct Mobile Distribution program, and The Garden at High Plains Food Bank. It is High Plains Food Bank’s mission to alleviate hunger for the 1 in 7 in the Texas Panhandle who struggle with food insecurity, including 1 in 4 children.