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High Plains Food Bank Partners with City of Amarillo and Amarillo Housing First to Provide Meals for HOPE

Amarillo, Texas – High Plains Food Bank has recently partnered with Amarillo Housing First, in conjunction with the City of Amarillo’s Homeless Outreach Providing Encouragement (HOPE) program, to provide meals and snacks during a 6-month pilot program that begins today. Meals and snacks will be prepared in the Gilliland Community Kitchen (inside Kids Cafe), using new, purchased products and quality standards for taste and nutritional value. Director of Kids Cafe, Maribel Sotelo shared, “People who are struggling with homelessness need healthy meals, including healthy snacks. They don’t need highly processed foods, or foods that further contribute to poor health. When we were approached for this partnership, it was an easy decision to make. It is a priority for High Plains Food Bank and Kids Cafe to be a part of alleviating hunger and helping to provide resources for homeless persons in our community. The two go hand-in-hand.”

Chris Seright, the Executive Director for Amarillo Housing First, shared that he is excited to partner with the City’s HOPE project. “It’s community support like this that will help us fill the gaps and provide resources for the homeless.”

Assistant City Manager, Kevin Starbuck, shared that he is hopeful for the pilot program’s outcomes. “HOPE will provide a coordinated, personalized assessment for homeless persons, with the intent to move each individual from a place of crisis to stability.”

More about the City of Amarillo’s HOPE program and Amarillo Housing First’s partnership can be found at <http://www.amarillo.gov>.

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The High Plains Food Bank is a charitable food and nutritional education/promotion organization that distributes food to over 179 non-profit agencies throughout 29 counties of the Texas Panhandle. In 2016, the food bank distributed over 7.6 million pounds of food (of which over 2 million pounds was fresh produce).

For over 13 years, High Plains Food Bank has offered Kids Cafe®, a program of Feeding America, that provides healthy meals for local children, making provision for the 1 in 4 children in our service area who struggle with food insecurity. In September of 2014, through generous community support, High Plains Food Bank’s Kids Cafe program opened its own facility, the Gilliland Community Kitchen at 2199 SE 8th Street, to better serve the community through increased meal production capacity.