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*Providing hope and health at Thanksgiving to the most vulnerable in our community.
When you have more than you need, build a bigger table.*

On behalf of the 800 area neighbors we'll serve this Thanksgiving, we're requesting your partnership in the annual 2026 **Community Table Drive Thru**. On November 14th, 2026, we will put lovingly packed Thanksgiving meals on the tables of Denton and Argyle area food-insecure neighbors in partnership with Health Services of North Texas and Argyle United Methodist Church. This will be a special year since it will mark our 25th anniversary of this mission event. "Will you join us in providing hope and help to the most vulnerable in our community?" asks event Co-Chair Madi Nowlin.

The Issue

Healthy North Texas reports that over 10% of Denton County residents experience food insecurity – that is about 100,000 people!

The Facts

- Feeding America indicates that the food insecurity rate is 12.9 percent in North Texas. The North Texas Food Bank translates this into 1 in 8 people, including 1 in 5 children.
- The National Institute on Minority Health and Health Disparities pointedly describes, "limited or uncertain access to adequate and affordable nutritious foods and is a major public health concern."
- The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) defines food insecurity as limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods or uncertain ability to acquire these foods in socially acceptable ways. Poverty and unemployment are frequently predictors of food insecurity. Food insecurity is associated with chronic health problems in adults including diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure, hyperlipidemia, obesity, and mental health issues including major depression.

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What Can We Do About It?

Why does Kelly Hawkins support this event year after year? Her answer, "Community Table is an event that gives a Thanksgiving meal to those who might not otherwise have one." Teri Johnson, Director of Marketing & Communications for Health Services of North Texas reflects, "Community Table gives more than just a delicious Thanksgiving meal to a family that needs a hand up, it gives hope and encouragement. Hope that people care and encouragement that through this gift of a meal a family has one less thing to worry about. When each one of these 800 food-insecure neighbors drives through for Thanksgiving meals lovingly cooked and packed specifically for them, they experience hospitality, generosity and leave with a lasting impression that they are seen and cared for. There is a sense of community. Of belonging. These are values that cross all traditions, beliefs and cultures.

Timeliness

- With rent and food prices increasing at an alarming rate, many families are seeking food assistance for the first time.
 - o 60% of people receiving food donations from the Denton Community Food Center are accessing these services for the first time.
- Of the 100,000 estimated food insecure individuals in Denton County,
 - o About 61,000 of these residents earn too much to qualify for SNAP benefits, but too little to comfortably make ends meet paying for rent, utilities, food, and everything else.
 - o To qualify for SNAP benefits, an individual needs to earn less than \$24,060 per year (165% of the federal poverty level).
- Though many argue about the economics of inflation, the general consensus is that high prices [especially food] are here to stay.
- Often food insecure neighbors face the daily dilemma of deciding to pay utilities, secure groceries, pay the rent, afford medicines... and other fundamental needs that so many of us take for granted.

Next Steps

Will you partner with Community Table for this November 14th, 2026 event by the end of October? Or if you want/need more information to make that decision, would you like to meet in person or set up a call/Zoom meeting? Once we know of your interest in partnering, then we can decide where you and your ideas intersect best for those we serve – gift cards to cover the meal items, financial donation, product donation, etc.

We all look forward to hearing back from you. If we haven't successfully connected by October 1st, we will follow up with a call.

Sincerely,

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