

FOODBANKING

In the Big Bend



An Official Publication by the Alpine Branch of the.....

West Texas



Food Bank

Alpine Delivery & Activity Schedule:

- Friday, June 24th –

Delivery to Fort Davis and to Assembly of God Church in Alpine.

- Monday, July 4th –

Independence Day Holiday, Food Bank Closed.

- Friday, July 8th – Delivery to Fort Davis

- Monday, September 5th – Labor Day Holiday, Food Bank Closed.

- Tuesday, October 25th – Culinary Canvas Gala Event

- Friday, November 11th – Veterans Day, Food Bank Closed.

- Thursday, November 24th and Friday, November 25th Thanksgiving Holiday, Food Bank Closed

- Monday, December 25th – Christmas Day, Food Bank Closed

- Monday, January 2nd – New Year's Day Holiday, Food Bank Closed

A Hot Time for Tomatoes in Alpine

Thanks to Carlos Flores and the folks at Village Farms, we have lots of fresh tomatoes for our agencies this week. These are very nice tomatoes, but some may be a bit too ripe for slicing. They will still be fine in salsa or soups. We can thank the west Texas heat for ripening the tomatoes so quickly that there was an excess for us to pick up and distribute to the people who need it.

Village Farms of Marfa, TX has certainly generated many pleasant thoughts for many people who look to West Texas Food Bank's network of hunger-relief agencies for assistance. More than 27,000 pounds of juicy, ripe, fresh tomatoes (that's almost 1500 cases) were received Monday in Odessa and another 6,000 pounds went to El Paso. We have already distributed over 3,000 pounds in the Big Bend area and have two more pallets to go. The tomatoes, which are at their peak freshness, are being distributed at no cost to hungry families in El Paso, the Big Bend, and the Permian Basin. This donation of fresh produce provides crucial hunger relief during the difficult summer months when children do not have access to school lunches and food bank supplies often may run low.

Tomatoes are a staple ingredient for the Tex-Mex cooking that is native to many of our clients and loved by virtually all West Texans. But, the tastiness and versatility of this favorite fresh produce item is of almost second importance to the Food Bank according to Hyta Folsom, the Food Bank's Executive Director. "We encourage agencies to provide balanced and nutritious meals for their clients. Fresh tomatoes are a delicious source of vitamin C, as well as being one of the best sources of lycopene's cancer-fighting properties. Healthy people are better able to face adversities with a positive spirit, and take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves. We are very grateful to Village Farms for this donation."

Since January 2004, West Texas Food Bank has received more than 190,000 pounds



is member of
America's
Second Harvest
The Nation's
Food Bank Network

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of fresh tomatoes from Village Farms. When the amount available from Village Farms exceeds what the local Food Bank's agencies can distribute, it is offered to sister food banks, including those in Lubbock, and San Angelo. This cooperative program benefits West Texas Food Bank as well, because they earn credit toward the purchase of food donations that are made available by other areas of Texas.

Although its main headquarters are located in New Jersey, Village Farms is truly a company that has a heart for the needs of the citizens of West Texas.