



Highlights of the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent

The Community Food Bank of Victoria began operating May 16, 1986. Executive Director, Amelia Salinas, while working with a child abuse prevention program, noted that hunger was an underlying problem in most abuse cases. A ten month feasibility study was conducted that included gathering information from Food Banks in Houston, Austin, Corpus Christi, & San Antonio. Support was enlisted from the H.E.B. Grocery Chain, and permission given from Second Harvest National Food Bank Network to move forward. Amelia received a donation of a small building and the Food Bank was born.

The H.E.B. Grocery Chain continues to be instrumental in the success of the Community Food Bank with donations of not only food, but equipment, training, and financial support. In 1986, the Community Food Bank provided support to seven counties. The Food Bank was moved to several donated buildings as the operation grew, until 1993 a Capital Campaign was launched to construct a facility designed specifically for the unique needs of a Food Bank. The Food Bank is now housed in a 21,000 sq. ft. debt-free building that was built for \$568,000 with money raised from grants from foundations such as the Meadows Foundation, M.G. & Lillie A. Johnson Foundation, Wood Family Trust, and Mabee Foundation.

In 2007 the Community Food Bank began its dba as the Food Bank of the Golden Crescent (FBGC) to identify better with its eleven county service area. Currently, FBGC is the support system for 100+ agencies such as soup kitchens, emergency food boxes, pantries, or senior citizens programs in a 9,963 square mile service area which includes eleven counties: Calhoun, Colorado, DeWitt, Goliad, Gonzales, Jackson, Lavaca, Matagorda, Refugio, Wharton, and Victoria. In 2014 the Food Bank distributed over 3.6 million pounds of food and related products to agencies participating in our food distribution program. Continuing the Kid's BackPack Program at participating schools providing nutritious food for children over the weekend. FBGC also serves through a Mobile Food Pantries to reach rural communities where there are no agencies to serve at-risk populations.