



What's Up

Fall 2023 Newsletter

Benefits Have Been Reduced, and Your Support Has Made a Positive Difference

Many programs have changed in 2023, some of which have put an added strain on families in our local communities. Early this year SNAP benefits were reduced for some people, meaning that those relying on the state grocery assistance program received less help. Summer brought changes to SoonerCare benefits, leaving some people without the healthcare assistance they had been relying on. These cuts, along with higher food prices, have put more families at risk for food insecurity. For many of our clients, the food they receive from the pantry makes it possible for them to afford to pay for utilities and other necessities while still being able to provide meals for their family. For others, that box of food they pick up simply means they will now have something to eat.

Most Americans today have not had the experience of being hungry because they have no money to buy food. We open the doors of the food pantry each week and hand out boxes of food to help those who live in our community and may be at risk of having that experience. Our mission is only possible with the support of our community--those who donate their money, food, and time to Hooker Fights Hunger. Thank you for being our partner. You are making a difference!

Stocking Shelves

For the past few months, Hooker Fights Hunger has been seeing an increase in pantry visits from both new and returning clients. The additional demand for food has required us to begin receiving two deliveries per month from the Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma, along with the food we purchase from Mills' Ideal Foods. Food prices are higher for all families, and even the food we receive from the food bank is more expensive. Our goal is to have staple foods in stock so we can be there for those who need assistance.



Our amazing volunteers stock food arriving from the food bank. They make the job look easy, although there is a considerable amount of planning needed to make sure all the cases of food get where they need to be.

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted." -- Aesop

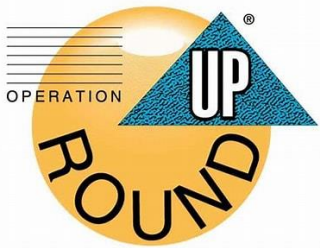
Hooker Fights Hunger Inc.
305 W Highway 54, Hooker OK | pantry hours: Wednesdays 5-7 pm
www.hookerfightshunger.org
contact: info@hookerfightshunger.org (580) 324-3263

SPOTLIGHT ON DONORS

Hooker Fights Hunger has been blessed to receive assistance from some of our area's most generous corporate and individual donors. Thank you to everyone who supports our organization and our community.

Guymon Walmart Associates

Hooker Fights Hunger received a very generous \$3,000 donation this year from the Walmart Foundation, as recommended by the associates of the Guymon Walmart Supercenter. The donation was used to purchase food for the pantry program. Walmart has donated to our pantry since we opened in 2020, and we greatly appreciate the support the local staff and management gives to our program. Thank you, Guymon Walmart!



TCEC Employees, Trustees, and Operation Round Up

TCEC, its employees, trustees, and the TCEC Foundation's Round Up Program are amazing donors to Hooker Fights Hunger. This year we have received \$5,000 from the TCEC Round-Up program, \$1,000 from the TCEC Employees Fund, and \$172.86 from the TCEC Board of Trustees. This support came at a time when funds were needed to stock staples for summer and fall, and fewer donations are received during the summer months. Thank you TCEC for all you do to help our food pantry program!



Seaboard Foods

The support we receive from Guymon Seaboard Foods is outstanding. The management of the Seaboard plant has provided three large donations of pork tenderloins to our pantry in 2023, allowing clients to have a delicious protein choice in their food boxes. Our clients love them! Seaboard Foods has been a great partner to the food pantry since we opened in 2020. Thank you, Seaboard Foods, for your generous support of our pantry and our community.

Community Organizations and Individuals

Hooker High School's StuCo, True Blue OHCE, and Clover Buds 4-H are just a few of the community organizations that support Hooker Fights Hunger. Their time and effort in organizing food drives and packing backpacks for kids have been a vital help to our program.

The Hooker Fights Hunger Food Pantry would not be able to operate without the support provided by individuals and organizations in our community and surrounding communities. Thank you for the difference you are making.



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Hooker Community Blood Drives

Hooker Fights Hunger takes an occasional day off from providing food assistance to host Hooker Community Blood Drives at the pantry facility. The First National Bank of Hooker sponsors the drives several times each year. The facility works well for the Coffee Memorial Blood Institute mobile team, and we are happy to be able to assist with these important events. The November drive this year was special! Coffee Memorial offered a donation to the pantry if our blood drive donations were increased by 10%. The community responded, and not only gave life-saving blood donations but also earned a \$170 donation to Hooker Fights Hunger.

2023 Christmas Angels Project

For the last several years, Hooker Fights Hunger has been working with the Hooker Christmas Angels project. This year the project was merged into our pantry program. In recent years donations to the project have been dwindling, and with the pantry program in place we are now serving many of the eligible families throughout the year. With those things in mind, Hooker Fights Hunger is making changes to the project to help fit it into our mission. We want to continue to ask community organizations to assist us in signing up those who need food assistance. We also want to use the power of our pantry to provide clients with some special Christmas foods that we cannot afford to offer throughout the year. We hope community members will support these changes and continue to give to the Christmas Angels project to help up make the holidays brighter for families in Hooker and the surrounding communities. If you have questions about the project, please contact Jim or Mary Beth.

Pantry Distributions

January 1, 2022 through October 31, 2023

Total Number of Households served: 220

Total number of people served: 656

Total number of distributions: 2,484

Total number of people served in distributions: 9,852

Total number of pounds of food distributed: 89,963

Ways You Can Help

Donations: Monetary donations are always appreciated. Because we are a 501(c)(3) organization, your donation may be tax deductible. Mail your donation to Hooker Fights Hunger, PO Box 395, Hooker OK 73945, or donate online at www.hookerfightshunger.org. You can also donate with our PayPal QR Code included at the right side of this page.

Canned food donations are also welcome. You can drop off donations when the pantry is open, Wednesdays from 5 pm to 7 pm, or call (580) 324-3263 and we will set a time to meet you.

Volunteering: If you would like to volunteer to help fill food boxes and distribute food, we would love to have you! Email us at info@hookerfightshunger.org or call Mary Beth at 580-522-1655 for more information.



Scan. Pay. Go.

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2022-2023 Friends of Hooker Fights Hunger

The Board of Directors of Hooker Fights Hunger thanks the businesses and individuals who have donated to our organization. Your support is vital to the success of our efforts to assist people in our local communities.

Seth Adams
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Sheila Blankenship
City of Hooker
Fred Clement Welding
Clover Leaf 4-H Club
Marilyn Cogburn
Michelle Collier
Sherri Danklefs
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ExxonMobil Foundation
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HHS Student Council
HHS HALO

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Hooker Hardware & Auto LLC
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Hooker US Post Office
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Loves Family Foundation
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Mills Ideal Foods
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Tyrone Baptist Church
UKOGF Fund
Amanda Vega
Walmart, Guymon location
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Robbie Wayman
Eddie and Traci Welch
Donald and Teruko White
Amber Williams
Aaron Wit

Platinum Sponsors



Hooker Fights Hunger Inc is a non-profit 501(c)(3) company located in Hooker Oklahoma. Our 2023 board of directors are: James Puyear, President; Velma Smothermon, Vice-President; Mary Beth Puyear, Treasurer. We are a volunteer-based organization. No board member, advisor, administrator, or associate is compensated for their service.

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