Fiscal Year 2020* Financial Summary

Income
$95,759,246

* July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

53.6% Donated Food & Product $51,285,697

17.9% Contributions $17,096,887

1.3% Reimbursement for Purchased Food $1,252,498

2.2% Shared Expense Revenue $2,151,214

21.6% USDA Donated Product $20,680,754

3.2% Other Income $3,068,657

.2% Investment Income $223,539

Expenses
$90,621,871

* July 1, 2019 - June 30, 2020

96% Program & Distribution $86,981,465

4% Administration & Fundraising $3,640,406
Dear Friends,

What a year. Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Regional Food Bank was on its way to reaching new heights of service and distribution, commemorating a 40th anniversary, and introducing innovative ways to help shorten the line. Then suddenly, everything changed. Since March, the Regional Food Bank has pivoted its focus to meeting the increased need for food assistance throughout our 53-county service area. We are so proud of our team and the network of more than 300 community-based partner agencies who have remained open and continue to find ways to serve our neighbors in need of food assistance while also ensuring the safety of volunteers and staff.

With crisis comes the opportunity to lean into innovation and discover new ways to provide services. We are happy to say that the Regional Food Bank continues to innovate new ways to operate in a lean fashion while adapting to the growing and evolving needs of the people we serve.

Since 1980, the Regional Food Bank has served with a single goal in mind – fighting hunger while feeding hope. We appreciate all of you who have supported our efforts and joined in the fight against hunger. Together we are fighting hunger and feeding hope.

With gratitude,

Deb Bunting, 2020 Interim CEO

Ben Williams, Board Chair
1979
A group of concerned Oklahoma City citizens, led by Rodney Bivens, formed a task force to fight the ever-present reality of hunger in the community. As a result of the task force, the Regional Food Bank was founded on May 15, 1980 and becomes the 21st food bank in the nation. The first location was a 10,000-square-foot warehouse right in the middle of what is now Scissortail Park in downtown Oklahoma City. In that first year, the organization distributes 280,000 pounds of food.

1981
The Oklahoma Legislature passed the Good Faith Donor Bill aiding the Regional Food Bank’s ability to get surplus from the food industry to help Oklahomans living with hunger. The organization also purchases 14,000 square-feet of warehouse space in Automobile Alley. The new space made the Regional Food Bank fully operational with facilities for dry goods, refrigerated products and frozen items.

1985
The Regional Food Bank began its Rural Delivery Sites Program after acquiring a truck that could maintain frozen food. Along with expanding the Regional Food Bank’s service area, the program ensured that no partner agency in the Regional Food Bank’s network would have to drive more than one hour to pick up food. That drive time is now cut to 30 minutes. The program quickly became a model for other food banks to follow across the country.

1987
In less than a few years, the Regional Food Bank had once again outgrown its warehouse space. Then president of the Regional Food Bank’s Board of Directors, Burns Hargis, said at the time: “We are, in some ways, a victim of our own success. We are literally busting at the seams, are in desperate need of more frozen storage, more salvage space and premises which permit more efficient operations.” Generous donors made the purchase of a new 36,000-square-foot headquarters south of downtown Oklahoma City possible. The move also allowed the Regional Food Bank to continue expanding its programs and reach to more counties in central and western Oklahoma.

2000
After an extensive capital campaign, the Regional Food Bank builds its current location, a 90,000 square-foot, state-of-the-art distribution center in southwest Oklahoma City. The building was dedicated in 2000 and in the following year the organization distributes nearly 17.3 million pounds of food, a 21% increase over the previous year.
2003
The Regional Food Bank pilots its first Food for Kids Program, the Backpack Program, in five Oklahoma elementary schools. The program provides kid-friendly, nutritious food to elementary school children who are identified as food insecure. The program now exists in all 53 counties in the Regional Food Bank’s service area. In the summer of 2003, the Regional Food Bank partners with the USDA to begin the Summer Feeding Program, providing free meals and snacks to children under the age of 18 during the summer months. Two expansions – in 2007 and 2015 – added a larger dedicated Volunteer Center, added Hope’s Kitchen, additional freezer space and much-needed offices.

2008
Work is finished to expand the Regional Food Bank’s headquarters by adding 30,000 feet of dry warehouse space, 6,000 square-feet of freezer space and a newly expanded Volunteer Center.

2012
The Regional Food Bank starts its Food & Resource Center Program to encourage partner agencies to provide greater access to food by extending hours and days of operation, provide client-choice shopping, increase access to fresh fruit and vegetables and create ways to connect clients to other resources to begin addressing root causes of food insecurity. The program now has 15 partners across central and western Oklahoma.

2013
A devastating tornado tears through the Oklahoma City metro, the Regional Food Bank establishes a temporary disaster relief center in Moore to distribute food, water and supplies. It soon became apparent that there was a real need for ongoing food assistance in Moore, south Oklahoma City and Norman. As a result, the Regional Food Bank established the Food & Resource Center in Moore that today serves as a model Food & Resource Center for the network.

2020
The Regional Food Bank shifts into disaster relief mode in response to the impact of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Relying upon its core values of innovation, vitality and stewardship the Regional Food Bank team works to ensure that the network of partner agencies had the food and safety supplies such as masks in order to safely serve the growing need of Oklahomans seeking food assistance. In April, the Regional Food Bank distributed 6.2 million pounds, a new record for a single month.
New Food & Resource Center Serves Northwest Oklahoma

The Regional Food Bank was happy to welcome the Hope Center in Woodward as the 15th Food & Resource Center. The Hope Center serves residents living in 17 communities located in six counties in northwest Oklahoma.

“We want to give the people that we serve the idea that something good is going to happen and that we can help them with that,” said Eric Cox, Chairman, Hope Center Board of Directors.

As a Food & Resource Center, the Hope Center not only provides food assistance in a client-choice model but also connects people with community resources that help to meet their everyday need.

“It’s all about providing variety, quality and nutritious food while also introducing essential resources,” said Jim Struby, chief community impact officer. “We are so happy to welcome the Hope Center and look forward to witnessing the impact they will have on the northwest Oklahoma households they serve.”
Link2Feed: Collecting Data to Inform the Future

During fiscal year 2020, the Regional Food Bank introduced a new client management software called Link2Feed to help better understand the impact of services and provide insight into who is seeking food assistance. The user-friendly, cloud-based software enables the Regional Food Bank and its partners to more efficiently collect and manage client data and assistance statistics. Prior to Link2Feed, partners would submit data to the Regional Food Bank in a variety of formats that would then have to be inputted by hand.

Throughout the fiscal year, staff at an initial number of partners and programs began using Link2Feed. One of those partners was New Emergency Resource Agency (NERA) in Ponca City. Tom Short, executive director, said his team has already discovered several advantages to Link2Feed in the limited time they have spent with the program.

“The possibilities are inspiring,” Short said.

Link2Feed will also help partner agencies streamline the intake process, moving much of what was once done by pen and paper to an online system. For partners like the Manna Pantry in Yukon, speeding up the intake process is very important. Operating out of a small space, clients must wait outside before entering the Manna Pantry.

“The real impact of Link2Feed will be huge,” said Sherri Rogers, Manna Pantry director. “All of our volunteers say the system is easy to use and we are very excited to go paperless.”

Throughout fiscal year 2020, the Regional Food Bank provided Link2Feed training to personnel at 47 Kids Café sites, 120 Summer Feeding locations, 10 food pantries and three Commodities Supplemental Food Program distribution sites. For the Kids Café and Summer Feeding sites, it is the first time the Regional Food Bank has offered partners an online platform for tracking on-site services, individuals served and meals provided.

Over the next five years, Link2Feed will become the singular platform for recording and reporting for most of the Regional Food Bank’s programs, helping to quickly measure impact and reach and pinpoint where needs exist.

“By collecting data from our partners and programs using Link2Feed we can ensure that we are always providing help where it is most needed.”

Jim Struby
Chief Community Impact Officer
Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma
Blake Shelton Supports Response to COVID-19

Thanks to fellow Oklahoman and music superstar Blake Shelton, the work of the Regional Food Bank was featured on the season 18 finale of “The Voice,” on which he serves as one of four coaches.

The finale was viewed by more than 7 million fans of the show. During the finale, the four coaches each dedicated a performance to the country’s response to helping others during the COVID-19 pandemic.

In April, Shelton made a significant donation to the Regional Food Bank to help in its response to the pandemic. He chose to highlight the work of the Regional Food Bank during his finale segment and he and Gwen Stefani dedicated a performance of their hit “Nobody But You” to the work of our organization and the work of food banks across the country. The segment featured footage of the Regional Food Bank staff in action and shots of staff watching a sneak preview of the performance days prior to the finale.

Guarding Against Hunger

In late April 2020, Gov. Kevin Stitt approved the activation of 25 Oklahoma Air National Guardsmen from the 137th Special Operations Wing to assist with the Regional Food Bank’s operations. In March, the Regional Food Bank had closed its volunteer opportunities to the public out of an abundance of caution. The Guardsmen helped to pack emergency food boxes at the Volunteer Center and at the Food & Resource Center in Moore.

“The Guardsmen arrived at a crucial time to help us prepare emergency food boxes,” said Deb Bunting, interim CEO. “We were so impressed with their efficiency and work ethic and productivity. We are very grateful for their assistance. It was a real shot in the arm for our staff to have their help at this crucial time.”

In the month they worked at the Regional Food Bank, the Guardsmen sorted and packed more than 1.1 million pounds of food.

National Guard in the Volunteer Center - 2020
Photo Credit Tech. Sgt. Kasey Phipps U.S. Air National Guard
Kirkpatrick Family Fund Reaches Milestone in Donations

For more than 30 years, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund has remained committed to fighting hunger in Oklahoma by providing financial assistance to the Regional Food Bank. In the past year, their collective support crossed the $1 million milestone.

“We are so grateful for the generosity and partnership of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund,” said Cassie Gilman, chief development officer at the Regional Food Bank. “Their gifts have assisted the work of the Regional Food Bank for a large part of our existence and have helped develop us into the organization we are today.”

Beginning with their first gift in 1983, the Kirkpatrick Family Fund has given generously to the organization, including crucial gifts to capital campaigns which vastly increased the Regional Food Bank’s headquarters to meet the growing need of hunger in the state.

Thanks to donors like the Kirkpatrick Family Fund, the Regional Food Bank continues the important work it does to provide food assistance, and hope, to Oklahomans living with food insecurity.

Smaller Gifts Add Up in Response to COVID-19

At the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Regional Food Bank’s Development staff began noticing more and more donations arriving in the mail that included notes of encouragement and gratitude. Many of these donations were $100 or less and donors wrote messages of how they wished they could give more. Several $1,200 donations came in with a note from the donors stating they were donating their stimulus check because there were other Oklahomans who needed the help more than they did.

The Development staff posted the notes and letters on a bulletin board and set it up in the hallway to share the messages with other on-site staff.

“Pre-pandemic, we would receive notes with some donations but starting in April, it seemed messages were included with nearly every donation,” said Cassie Gilman, chief development officer. “The level of care and concern expressed from our donors was just the right amount of encouragement we all needed at the time.”
Richisons Join Fight Against Hunger

Soon after the COVID-19 pandemic arrived in Oklahoma, Cassie Gilman, the Regional Food Bank’s chief development officer, received a call from Charis Richison, who wanted to make a major donation to help with the organization’s response to the pandemic. The next day, Mrs. Richison called again, this time to make an even larger personal donation. And, within the week, she and her husband, Chad Richison, founder and CEO of Paycom, announced an additional personal donation of $2 million.

“I am passionate about this state and wanted to help ensure Oklahomans who struggled during the pandemic didn’t have to worry about food,” Mr. Richison said. “We are fortunate to be able to partner with the Regional Food Bank to help keep food supplies going and get them into the hands of those in need.”

“To say the timing of the Richisons’ support was crucial is an understatement,” said Gilman. “Their significant donation couldn’t have come at a better time.”

Overall, the Richisons donated $2.1 million to support the Regional Food Bank’s response to COVID-19.

“We are all blessed to have organizations like the Regional Food Bank in our communities,” Mr. Richison said. “I’m happy to support sustainable nonprofits that step up to ensure Oklahomans have access to basic needs and encourage others who are in a position to help to do so, by giving either of their time, their talents or financially.”

The couple’s personal philanthropic spirit is also visible throughout Paycom, a corporate donor to the Regional Food Bank.

“We are the sum of our people, and those who make up Paycom are passionate about serving others,” Mr. Richison said.

Donated Trailers Help Support Increased Need

Thanks to generous donations and grants, the Regional Food Bank’s fleet of trailers continues to expand, creating more options to provide assistance to its network of partners.

The expansion has allowed the Regional Food Bank to donate two refrigerated trailers to the Jesus House in Oklahoma City and loan two 53-foot refrigerated trailers to the Community Market of Pottawatomie County.

Daniel Matthews, director of Community Market of Pottawatomie County, says the trailers helped the Food & Resource Center with around-the-clock storage for protein, dairy and produce provided through the Coronavirus Food Assistance Program.

"Because of the trailers, we have maintained our level of service throughout the pandemic,” Matthews said.
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*Officers and board members listed served July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020.
2020 By the Numbers

47.08 MILLION
+4.28 Million than 2019
Meals Provided

14.2 MILLION
+1.7 Million than 2019
Pounds of Produce Distributed

1,385
+75 than 2019
Partner Agencies

448,498
+58,500 than 2019
Miles Driven by Fleet

36,995
*-5,000 than 2019
Children Fed Through Food for Kids Programs

*COVID-19’s impact on school closures and disruption in afterschool programs in March, April and May impacted total number of children served.

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Please visit rfbo.org/annualreport to view an interactive version of this annual report that includes lists of food and financial donors for FY20.