

# Caritas

Beyond Hunger to Hope



Lending A  
*Helping Hand*  
Together



# FIGHTING POVERTY & FOOD INSECURITY

The poverty rate in Waco is 26%, and in McLennan County is 18% (U.S. Census Bureau), above the state and national average. The rising cost of housing, utilities, transportation, and healthcare leaves many of our neighbors having to make impossible choices and painful sacrifices. People we serve have had to choose between buying food and paying for housing, or between food and vital medicine.

**26% = 36,201 Waco residents live in poverty**  
**18% = 47,066 McLennan County residents live in poverty**

Food insecurity affects people from all walks of life. Working families, retired seniors on fixed incomes, the chronically ill, and the disabled all turn to the Caritas for help in emergencies, or as part of their regular meal planning. As we work together to ensure all these people get the nutritious food and resources they need to become stable long-term, we're counting on you for support.

In 2020, due to the generosity of countless donors, volunteers, and community partners, we were able to provide assistance to **40,680** households and processed over **11 million** pounds of food. On average, every family that visits our pantry receives **150+ pounds** of nutritious food.

In addition to serving our clients, we provide monthly nutritious food to **23** local pantries and agencies.

## GET INVOLVED

### Donate Funds

Caritas relies on contributions from the community to support its services and programs. Make a one-time gift, a sustaining gift, or a gift in honor or memory of a loved one on our website at [www.cartias-waco.org](http://www.cartias-waco.org). Donate by mail by making your check or money order payable to Caritas of Waco and sending to Caritas of Waco, 300 S. 15th St, Waco, TX 76701.



### **\$50 = FEEDS A FAMILY OF FOUR FOR A MONTH**

*"I lost my job due to Covid. Going from a stable job with full-time employment and benefits to unemployment was a huge impact on our family. Caritas helped me when I had nowhere to turn. In addition to the bill assistance, I was also able to get food to help feed my family. I am thankful that my family and I had a place like Caritas to turn to."*

*- Sabrina, Client*

### Donate Food

Host a canned food drive at your business, school, church, or with your church group. Whether you're clearing non-expired canned goods out of your kitchen pantry, or your business has pallets of fresh produce, we welcome healthy food donations of any quantity anytime.

Deliver items to our loading dock located at Mary and S. 15th St, Monday through Friday 8:30 AM-3:30 PM. Caritas will pick up large donations by appointment. Please call 254-749-7706.

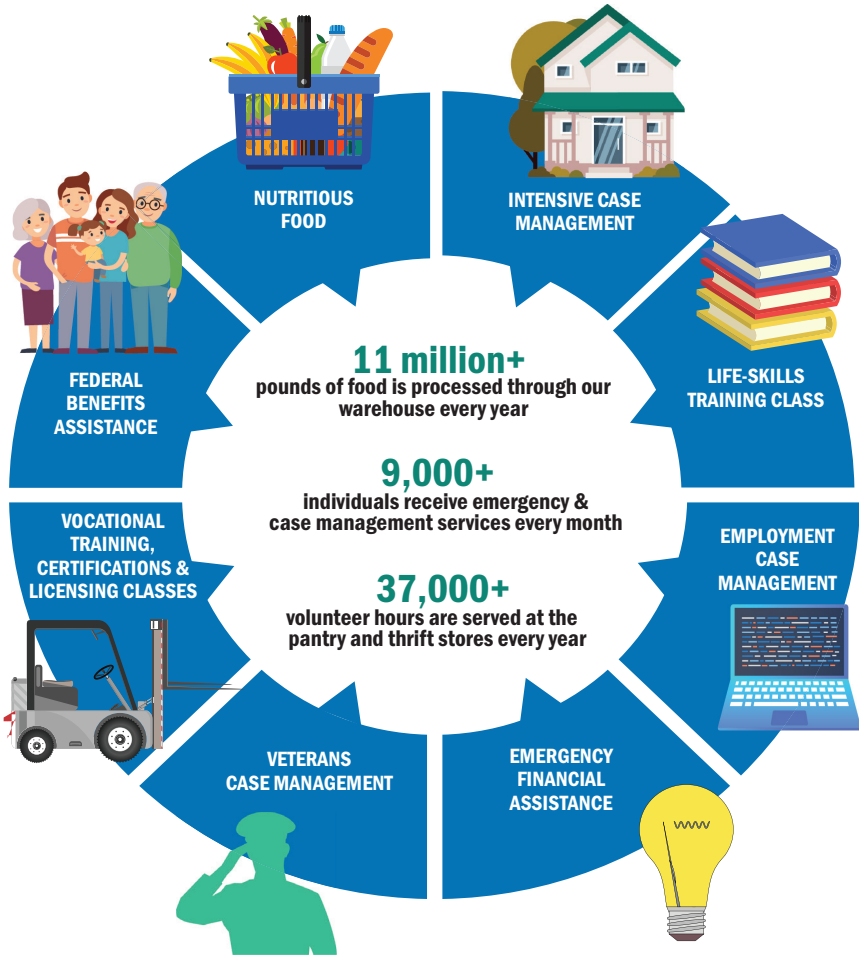
### Volunteer

Volunteers are needed to sort, stock, and distribute warehouse grocery items to clients, and to help sort and prepare items for sale at our Hidden Treasures thrift stores. For information on opportunities, please visit our volunteer page.



# THE IMPACT

It also takes more than food to fight hunger, we offer a variety of case management and emergency services programs to help meet those needs.



***Why does it matter if someone who is hungry eats? How does it impact them and our community?***

Without access to healthy food and healthy eating habits, it's hard to lead a productive life. Our efforts today prevent health issues that shorten lives and strain community resources.

***Why does it matter if someone who's facing poverty has access to a stable job at a living wage?***

Without stable income or sufficient savings, families get derailed by unexpected expenses, develop credit issues, and fall prey to predatory lenders. By investing in our residents' financial stability today, we're affecting our community for generations.

***Why does it matter if someone is facing the tough decision to feed their kids or pay the electric bill?***

Before families can think about the future, they must be able to meet their basic needs. When people thrive, our community thrives.

# HIDDEN TREASURES THRIFT STORES

Support Caritas programs and services by shopping at our  
Hidden Treasures Thrift Stores

## Locations

Waco: 3912 Bosque Blvd.  
(254) 753-0125

Bellmead: 3016 Bellmead Drive  
(254) 799-0777

**Store Hours: Monday-Friday, 12:00 PM-6:00 PM and Saturday, 10:00 AM-6:00 PM**

**Donation Hours: 10:00 AM-2:00 PM at the Bosque Blvd. location**

**Hidden Treasures accepts new or gently used and clean items:**

Household Items	Dishware
Antiques	Kitchenware
Clean, wrinkle free clothes (preferably on plastic hangers)	Electronics
	Furniture

**Please call 254-640-8077 to schedule larger donation pick-ups.**

## FOOD PANTRY HOURS

### Food Assistance

Monday-Friday

8:30 AM - 11:00 AM and 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM

No appointment necessary.

\*Subject to change due to holidays and weather conditions.

**Clients needing case management services, SNAP and utilities assistance  
will continue to be served over the phone and by appointment only.**

**Appointments can be made by calling 254-753-4593.**

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### Annual Fundraisers

**Feast of Caring:** Our popular dessert competition with silent and live auctions.

**Caritas Golf Classic:** Our "Florida Scramble" golf tournament.

### Food Drives

**Stamp Out Hunger:** Second Saturday in May, join postal carriers in donating food.

**Spring Onto Summer "SOS":** Help feed children during the summer months when they no longer have access to free or reduced-price school meal programs.

**Fan Club:** Help keep seniors and families with children cool during the hot months by providing fans and funding to assist with utility payments.

**Food For Families:** The largest one-day food drive in Texas, held the Friday before Thanksgiving. Sponsored by H-E-B, KWTX, and Boy Scouts of America.

**Mission:** to provide urgent support to people in need in our community.

**Vision:** to eliminate hunger in McLennan County, Texas, by providing direct services through its food pantry as well as through advocacy, while working with other hunger relief programs in Central Texas.

254-753-4593

300 S 15th Street, Waco, TX 76701

[www.caritas-waco.org](http://www.caritas-waco.org)

Follow us: @CaritasofWaco

