

# **HUNGER AND POVERTY SOLUTIONS FOR THE FAITH COMMUNITY**

A guide for congregations/organizations  
seeking to improve hunger and poverty issues  
in Tom Green County.



**TOM GREEN COUNTY HUNGER COALITION**

This booklet has been compiled by the Faith Based Task group  
of the Tom Green County Hunger Coalition which is supported  
by the Texas Hunger Initiative, San Angelo Region.



TOM GREEN COUNTY HUNGER COALITION

## Introduction

More than 1 in 5 adults and 1 in 4 children in Tom Green County are food insecure and at risk of hunger. These statistics represent thousands of individuals who struggle each day to acquire enough food to get by. This is both unacceptable and unnecessary.

The community already plays a major role in improving food security and alleviating poverty in our city. Each congregation/organization can take additional steps to ensure that children, families, and seniors have the nutritious food and necessities they need to flourish.

In this guide, created by Tom Green County Hunger Coalition, there are tested, effective solutions to address the problem of hunger and poverty. These solutions already exist in the community and need the support of local congregations/organizations. They generally require limited financial commitments, but can make a very substantial impact on hunger.

Congregations/organizations, as well as anyone who is concerned about hunger and poverty, will benefit from the resources included in this guide. Download a copy at [www.texashunger.org/sanangelo](http://www.texashunger.org/sanangelo).

For more information about the Faith Based Task Group of Tom Green County Hunger Coalition, contact co-chairs

Cindy Harper, 325-340-8977, [jefferyharper@zipnet.us](mailto:jefferyharper@zipnet.us)

or Lizzie Simms, 936-552-9925, [lizzie\\_christian@hotmail.com](mailto:lizzie_christian@hotmail.com)

Other participants in this group include: Becky Bookter, Dana Bolinger, Charlie Smith and Betty Teston

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# Community Garden

Located on Fort Concho grounds beside school

## Overview

The Community Garden was initially created several years ago by the Texas Hunger Initiative San Angelo Region. It was recognized on the Let's Move White House blog in 2013. Then the drought and lack of volunteers led to the garden not being maintained. In 2015, a nursing student pursuing her master's degree in public health took on the project and revitalized the garden. Once again, the lack of volunteers resulted in a garden full of weeds.

In 2017, a parent at Fort Concho Elementary took on the project to reconstruct the garden and reduced the number of beds for planting. This size should be more manageable, and it is hoped to be able to duplicate at other area schools.

The garden's primary goal is to provide hands-on gardening and nutrition information for students at Fort Concho Elementary and provide families the opportunity to adopt a plot and garden in their neighborhood. Tasks that need to be done include: garden work - preparation, tilling, weeding, planting, fertilizing, watering, and harvesting garden when ready.

Previously, Fort Concho students were excited to plant and watch the vegetables grow and then be able to pick them.

## Impact on Hunger and Poverty

The Community Garden provides fresh produce and promotes healthy meals.

## How to Help

Many volunteers are needed beginning in spring and throughout the year.

## Contact

Mary Herbert, [mary\\_herbert@baylor.edu](mailto:mary_herbert@baylor.edu), 656-4170

Betty Teston, [Betty\\_Teston@baylor.edu](mailto:Betty_Teston@baylor.edu), 374-1443

Martin Zapata - Garden Project Leader and parent of student at Fort Concho Elementary

Visit Texas Hunger initiative website for more information,

[texashunger.org/](http://texashunger.org/)



# Helping Hands

**Galilee Community Development Corporation**

## Overview

Helping Hands primary goal is for more low-income elderly homeowners to have a safe, secure, and weatherproof home in which to live. Services provided include repairing and restoring homes in collaboration with community volunteers at no cost to the homeowner. Repairs include things that a handyman would do - caulking, painting, light carpentry, light plumbing, cleaning, etc. We do not do those things that require a permit from the city, i.e. heavy plumbing, electrical, or roofs.

## Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Our services allow seniors to have help in restoring their homes when they can no longer do the home repairs themselves. It will often allow them to continue living in their own homes for a longer period of time instead of going to a nursing facility. It is our way of giving back to those who came before us. Even though seniors are our focus, it often impacts multiple generations within the family.

## How to Help

Volunteers will need to fill out a volunteer release form and have on the job training by their team captain or others at the work site. Team captains have a meeting at Home Selection Night and receive training about the guidelines and procedures of choosing the house they will work on, visiting with the homeowner, assessing what can be done in the home on one day, arranging the ordering of supplies with people at City Lumber, organizing the work for the work day (Blitz Day) and conducting the final walk through with the homeowner. Volunteers of all skill levels are needed.

Helping Hands happens on the first Saturday of April, unless Easter falls on that weekend. That day is called Blitz Day. Home Selection Night is in early to mid-February for the team captains. They are also open to teams working separately during other times of the year for special emphases or if they are not available in April, i.e. Goodfellow Air Force Base teams only at GAFB for short periods of time, or churches who want to do mission work during the summer.

The goal is to repair at least 30 homes on Blitz Day with an average of 10 volunteers per team. There are usually approximately 400 volunteers on Blitz Day.

“We offered to build a ramp for an elderly lady because she had difficulty getting around. She was not sure if she needed it because she was not using a wheelchair. However, before our Blitz Day arrived, she had a stroke, was wheelchair bound, and truly needed the wheelchair ramp.”

## Contact

For volunteering both individually and as a team, call Mary Herbert at 325-656-4170. For information about applications, call Stephanie or Leia at 325-655-6700.

Website of organization - [www.galileecdc.org](http://www.galileecdc.org) (Helping Hands is under Galilee Community Development Corporation, so their website is used.)

# Hope & a Haircut

## Overview

The mission for Hope & a Haircut is to provide free professional haircuts to the lower income or homeless individuals in San Angelo. Several times a year, Calvary Baptist Church hosts Hope & a Haircut. Local stylists and volunteers come together on a Saturday to share the love of Jesus, feed those who come, and in the process, bless them with a professional haircut.

## Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Haircuts are provided to those in the community who typically would not enter a salon.

A hot meal is provided on the day of the event.

Each person is shown dignity, and with that comes hope.

## How to Help

Hair stylists and volunteers for registration, meal serving, clean up, etc. are needed.

Number of volunteers needed: 20-30.

## Contact

Stacy McCormick, 325-227-0919, [stacymccormick28@hotmail.com](mailto:stacymccormick28@hotmail.com)

Find us on Facebook [@hopeandahaircut](#).

“Lives are being changed for the kingdom, and in return the volunteers are blessed to be able to provide hope and a haircut with others. It has been a blessing to provide in a unique way for the public. A great need in San Angelo.”

*Stacy McCormick*



# House of Faith

## Overview

House of Faith is a grass roots, faith-based, community supported ministry that provides free after-school and summer programs for children and youth and events for families. Children's programs, called Backyard Bible Clubs, are held for K-5<sup>th</sup> grade students on Wednesday and Thursday afternoons at 15 different locations. A weekly middle/high school program is on Monday nights from 5:30pm-8:00pm and includes a hot meal, games, social time, worship and a message. All House of Faith programs including summer programs and camps are free to attend. Transportation is provided at no charge for all House of Faith programs.

House of Faith programs are designed to fulfill the mission of "Taking Jesus to neighborhood children, youth, and families" in an atmosphere that fosters faith in God and gives the opportunity to build healthy, mentoring relationships and positive self-esteem while teaching and encouraging students to make positive life choices, impacting their lives and the generations to come.

In working with schools and churches, we were able to nominate a single mother who had recently had surgery and could not get out much for the St. Paul's Food for Families during Christmas.

## Impact on Hunger and Poverty

House of Faith partners with many churches and ministries in San Angelo to connect with families in need. Snacks are provided at Backyard Bible Clubs, and a meal is served every week for our youth group.

They distribute information about the Kids Eat FREE program to the families of children who attend House of Faith programs.

## How to Help

All volunteers must fill out an application and pass a background check. Volunteer training is held every school year. There can never be too many volunteers!

The youth program is Monday 5:30pm-8:00pm at House of Faith. Back Yard Bible Club volunteers help on Wednesday and Thursday during the school year from 2:00pm-5:00pm. Other volunteer opportunities are available.

The House of Faith office is open Monday-Friday, 9:00am-5:00am.

## Contact

For more volunteer information and permission forms for programs contact:

Annie Zesch, 325-486-8637, [hofvolunteer@gmail.com](mailto:hofvolunteer@gmail.com)

Website: [www.hofministries.org](http://www.hofministries.org)

# Kids Eat FREE

## Summer Meal Program

### Overview

Since 2010, the goal for Kids Eat FREE has been to feed more children during the summer when school was not in session. In San Angelo ISD, over 8,500 students receive free or reduced meal benefits. During June, Tom Green County schools offer free breakfasts and lunch at their summer school sites for all children 18 or younger. But what happens in July and August? **Kids Eat-FREE** happens!

Volunteers participate in:

- Meal Service - cook, serve, food procurement (donated or purchased), assist at meal site.
- Activities - arts & crafts, music, education, provide program during lunch at meal site.
- Outreach opportunity - can include neighborhood canvassing and passing out flyers.

This program is coordinated thru the Texas Hunger Initiative San Angelo Region office and funded and supported by several churches who purchase, prepare and serve the meals.

### Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Free lunch provided Monday-Friday during July and August to children and family members who accompany those children.

Families have expressed thankfulness for this program. It helps reduce the cost to feed a family during these months. The children enjoy the activities.

### How to Help

Volunteers are recruited through many churches, but individuals are welcome to volunteer and participate. A meeting is held prior to the start of the program where the specifics are reviewed, including food handling and safety.

Volunteers can request to help by contacting the THI San Angelo Region Office, 36 E Twohig, Suite 201. Volunteers provide contact information and dates available to volunteer.

Dates of program - July thru August 11am-1pm

Number of volunteers needed varies at each site.

### Contact

Betty Teston, Child Hunger Outreach Specialist, 374-1443, [betty\\_teston@baylor.edu](mailto:betty_teston@baylor.edu)

Mary Herbert, Regional Director, [mary\\_herbert@baylor.edu](mailto:mary_herbert@baylor.edu)

Information available during the program about meal sites at:

[www.texashunger.org/sanangelo](http://www.texashunger.org/sanangelo)



# Meals for the Elderly

## Overview

Meals for The Elderly provides a hot, nutritious meal each weekday while ensuring individual well-being through personal contact.

Other services such as weekend sacks of food, frozen sacks of food, heaters, fans and blankets are also provided to our recipients when they are available based on donations and funding received.

The primary goal of our organization is to serve the homebound elderly of Tom Green County and Miles by providing a hot, nutritious meal each weekday to combat senior hunger.

We currently serve approximately 700 seniors in Tom Green County and Miles, Texas.

## Impact on Hunger and Poverty

We help relieve hunger by providing a hot, nutritious meal each weekday to homebound seniors that cannot stand or have other limitations that hinder them from being able to prepare their own meals.

## How to Help

Volunteers need to fill out an application that can be picked up in the office or can be found on the website [www.mealsfortheelderly.org](http://www.mealsfortheelderly.org). The volunteer director will then contact them to discuss volunteer opportunities and individual training.

The office is open Monday–Thursday 8:00am–4:30pm & Friday 8:00am–12:30 pm. Meals are picked up by volunteers for delivery between 10:00am and 11:00am Monday–Friday and are delivered no later than 1:00pm.

There are 48 routes that go out each weekday and each route must have at least one volunteer. Many people enjoy delivering in pairs.

## Contact

### For Clients:

Lori Rodriguez, Case Manager 325-655-9200, [casemgmt@mealsfortheelderly.org](mailto:casemgmt@mealsfortheelderly.org)

### For Volunteers:

Kelly Usry, Volunteer Director 325-655-9200, [volunteer@mealsfortheelderly.org](mailto:volunteer@mealsfortheelderly.org)

[sameals@mealsfortheelderly.org](mailto:sameals@mealsfortheelderly.org)

Website: [www.mealsfortheelderly.org](http://www.mealsfortheelderly.org)



# Neighbors Café

## Soup Kitchen

### Overview

This is a new ministry opportunity beginning operation in 2018. The goal, initially, is to serve a nutritious hot meal, free of charge, at 12:00noon, Monday thru Friday. Though not a part of Rust Street Ministries, the café is located in the Rust Street Ministries facility at 803 Rust Street, San Angelo, TX.

### Impact on Hunger and Poverty

This service will provide a daily meal in a presently under-served neighborhood. It will further introduce people to the many resources available through Rust Street Ministries.

### How to Help

Neighbors Cafe is seeking organizations who will provide a cooking team (or teams) for this effort. There is a fully equipped commercial kitchen available for meal preparation. Each organization is responsible for furnishing the food for their meal.

### Contact

Charlie or Judy Smith, 325-277-7236, [msjudyj@hotmail.com](mailto:msjudyj@hotmail.com)



# Project Dignidad

## Emergency Food Program

### Overview

A ministry of hope in San Angelo since 1976, Project Dignidad is an ecumenical ministry that provides food in emergency situations to individuals and families. Food consisting of vegetables, produce, staples and canned goods are given directly to families. Numerous local churches, individuals, and civic organizations provide financial and food donations that support Project Dignidad.

Hours of operation are from 9:00am until 1:00pm, Monday thru Friday, twelve months a year.

### Impact on Hunger and Poverty

While there are many programs provided through government funds or “not for profit,” most of them require lengthy periods of time to qualify. They do not help the person who has a family emergency, whose car breaks down and their transportation to work is lost. The key word is “emergency” need.

Project Dignidad assists with food, medication needs, and home utility bills, as finances allow.

### How to Help

Congregations can become a permanent participating member by having a representative on the board of directors.

Collect food or donations as a mission project for Life Groups/Sunday School Classes.

Volunteer as an individual to serve once a week for 3 hours.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of Dignidad. They screen, take histories, and determine the food needs of the family. Volunteers are “vetted,” and the training is easy.

### For more information call 658-7885

Iglesia Presbiteriana Nazareth at 313 West Avenue N



# Rust Street Ministries

## Community Outreach Ministry

### Overview

Rust Street Ministries is a community outreach ministry located in San Angelo, Texas. They provide help with basic needs and life skills at no charge to those living in the San Angelo area. Their programs are designed to serve the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, and physical needs of the community by providing temporary assistance with food, clothing, household items, and furniture.

They also connect those served with others who help with support, counseling, and life-equipping skills.

### Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Rust Street Ministries runs several programs in order to achieve their goal of helping those in need in the San Angelo and Concho Valley area. Year after year, starting with their humble beginnings in 1995, they have either added to or expanded upon the services offered. Today, they continue to improve their efforts to bring neighbors together through the programs they provide. These programs are:

- Clothe Thy Neighbor
- Closet on Wheels (COW)
- Food for the Soul
- Garden of Eden
- Concho Valley Turning Point



### How to Help

Rust Street Ministries' affective outreach to serve the community is only possible through the hundreds of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteers. Volunteers may donate time by volunteering a day or a few hours each week, share financial resources, or pray.

There are a lot of ways to get involved helping neighbors – help on the loading docks, sorting donations, in the pantry or office, or more. No one is too young or too old to be involved.

Volunteers need a background check. A LOT of volunteers are needed! Rust Street served over 27,000 people in 2017!

Rust Street Ministries operates year-round, Monday-Thursday, 10:00am-2:00pm and Friday, 9:00am-12:00pm.

### Contact

Bryan Jarvis, Rust Street Ministries, 803 & 819 Rust Street, 325-486-1004

[bjarvis1964@gmail.com](mailto:bjarvis1964@gmail.com)

[www.ruststreetministries.org](http://www.ruststreetministries.org)

# Somebody's Rusty Ministry

## Help for the Homeless

### Overview

The mission of Somebody's Rusty is to not reinvent the wheel but instead to come alongside ministries that are already in place, helping the homeless such as Methodist Assistance, Rust Street Ministries, Freedom Fellowship, the Wesley Soup Kitchen and many others. Items and monies gathered will be distributed to these and other entities already in place in our community. The hope of this ministry is also to share not only the Bread of Life, the Risen Savior Jesus Christ and the warmth of His love, but to share literal bread, warmth and comfort to those without hope, trying to find their way.

### Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Somebody's Rusty is a nondenominational ministry based out of First United Methodist Church that contributes financially to the weekly Sunday Morning Breakfast at First United Methodist Church that feeds approximately 80-100. Events are held to provide needed items (see list below).

### How to Help

Volunteers needed for these events:

**Tidings of Last Tuesday:** Clothes collection with distribution on the last Tuesday of the month, 1:30pm-3:00pm at FUMC. (*They are always accepting men and women's new or gently used clothing, sturdy tennis shoes or walking shoes, and toiletry items.*)

**Laundry Love:** Free washers and dryers provided at a local laundromat (Stop-n-Wash on MLK and W. 15<sup>th</sup>). Supper, a nurse, free haircuts, free showers, and detergent are also included and available. Nonperishable food and hygiene item donations are always welcome and accepted. Offered in spring and fall.

**Undee Sunday:** October 14, FUMC and participating churches

Underwear and socks are collected and laid at the altar. Participation in other churches is encouraged and appreciated.

### Contact Information:

Candis Hicks, 325-763-7387, [hunterfan@suddenlink.net](mailto:hunterfan@suddenlink.net)

Facebook page- Somebody's Rusty



# Through GOD Comes Justice

## Jail Ministry

### Overview

A program to provide Christian services to inmates, detainees, Sheriff's Department, and their families within the framework of the values of the Christian faith and the teachings of our Lord Jesus Christ. Can provide consultation to church bodies and individuals. Also provides referrals and necessities, such as food, clothing, shelter, and Christian counseling, as available, for the inmates, detainees, persons on probation, parolees, Sheriff's department, and their families.

The goal is to assume and share the blessings and responsibility of fulfilling the full Gospel as commissioned by Christ Jesus and to emphasize, encourage, and promote the ministry.

### Current Areas of Ministry:

**Encouragement:** Approximately 350 cards mailed bi-monthly to recently released or struggling inmates/Sheriff's Department/jail personnel

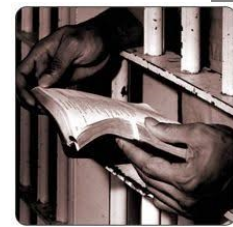
**Newsletter:** Reaches 1300+ inmates - primarily in the state of Texas

**Pen-Pals:** Designated people reaching out to the incarcerated to develop a spiritual bond offering immediate involvement in a church upon release

**Correspondence Courses:** Two 8-lesson studies, two 13-lesson studies, and a complete study of the book of Romans, averaging 375 studies processed monthly

**One on One Counseling:** With inmates/employees, averaging 10 people in counseling per day

**Bible Distribution:** Average of 120 Bibles issued per month



### Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Provide referrals and necessities, such as food, clothing, and shelter.

### How to Help

By becoming a volunteer, you can make a meaningful contribution to the community. There are a variety of programs for volunteers of all levels, from inexperienced to professional. Volunteer application and background check required.

### Contact

Vickie Lancaster, 325-486-0868, [tgjministry@gmail.com](mailto:tgjministry@gmail.com)

<http://www.tomgreencountysheriff.org/jail-ministry>

# Wesley Trinity Daily Bread Soup Kitchen

## Overview

Open 11:00am-1:00pm, Monday-Saturday, and on most holidays, the "Soup Kitchen" feeds as many as 175 people or more daily, with the average patron eating three or more servings of hot food, as well as cold beverages, crackers or bread, and dessert or fresh fruit. Recognizing that many of our patrons feel especially isolated during the Christmas and other seasonal holidays, the Soup Kitchen remains open on most holidays and serves special holiday meals for its patrons. A full-course meal, gifts for the children (donated by members of Wesley Trinity and other sponsors), and other activities help to brighten the season for our patrons.

## Impact on Hunger and Poverty

Daily Bread Soup Lunch Program is designed to provide nourishing hot meals at noon Monday through Saturday from 11:00am to 1:00pm. Children, women, and men who would not otherwise have a sustaining meal on a daily basis are welcome to partake of this meal. The meals consist of a nourishing homemade soup or stew and/or a main dish served with meat and vegetable, bread, dessert, drinks, and often other side dishes. Adequate nutrition is a major health issue, particularly among children, the elderly and the mentally ill. There is no other program in San Angelo delivering this specific service to this constituency. Most persons eat two or more servings. Daily Bread Soup Lunch Program is helping to decrease hunger in San Angelo. Daily Bread feeds 40,000+ meals annually.

## How to Help

You can help in many ways. Volunteer to serve in the kitchen, play music, cook, stock groceries and many other opportunities. If you have the talent, we can find a place.

## Contact

Daily Bread Soup Lunch Program  
301 West 18th Street, San Angelo, Texas 76903

Pam Burke, Director (860)593-2522

Daily Bread Coordinators (325)653-9028

Karen Green, R.N., Wesley Nurse (325)653-9361

Ola McCorkle, Volunteer Coordinator (325)212-4162



# West Texas RSVP

## Senior Volunteer Program

### Overview

The West Texas RSVP has the dual purpose of engaging persons 55 and older in volunteer service to meet critical community needs and providing a high quality experience that will enrich the lives of volunteers and those they serve.

RSVP promotes the engagement of older persons as community resources in planning for community improvement and delivery of volunteer services. Through RSVP, older adults discover uses for their creativity, their energy and their expertise. RSVP involves seniors in service that matches their personal interests and makes use of their skills and lifelong experiences with nonprofit organizations and public agencies in need of volunteer service.

### Who Qualifies to Be an RSVP Volunteer?

Any person 55 years of age and older who wishes to share their experience, knowledge and skills is eligible to join RSVP. There are no restrictions based on education, income, or experience, nor any membership dues. Anyone who wants to feel useful, needed, and appreciated will profit from becoming part of the RSVP network. For persons new to San Angelo, RSVP serves as an excellent vehicle for making new friends and becoming involved in the community.

### How Can I Become an RSVP Volunteer?

Becoming an RSVP volunteer involves a very simple procedure. Simply call the RSVP office anytime between the hours of 8:00am-12:00noon or 1:00pm-5:00pm, Monday through Friday. \*\*\*You may come by the office, but please call first to ensure that someone is in the office. An RSVP application will then be completed and the RSVP staff will visit with you about your volunteer preferences. After that, you will be on your way to an unexpected sense of well-being and satisfaction which you will have gained from your volunteer experience.

### Contact

RSVP - San Angelo

618 S Chadbourne St, San Angelo TX 76903

325-223-6388

Dolores Schwertner, [dschwertner@wtrc.com](mailto:dschwertner@wtrc.com)

Teresa Covey, [tcovey@wtrc.com](mailto:tcovey@wtrc.com)

