



Year in Review 2015





Overview

Harvest and its community farm lend itself to be a natural partner with the North Texas Food Bank (NTFB). In 2013, Harvest donated 10,000 meals to kick-off its partnership.

Homeowners have continued to give through canned food drives, produce from the community garden, and cash donations.

Harvest is growing a new generation of philanthropists by educating and connecting children with the land's agrarian history. Through the community farm, children are learning how to build a sustainable community and the importance of giving back.

2015 Harvest Highlights

- In February, Harvest had a total of **95** occupied homes.
- By the end of 2015, Harvest will have a total of **230** occupied homes.
- In 2015, Harvest has provided **2,570** meals.
- Breakdown:
 - Harvest Community Garden: 250 Meals
 - Harvest Freedom Fest: 1,513 Meals
 - Harvest Goes Back to School: 815 Meals





Harvest Community Garden

Result: 250 meals

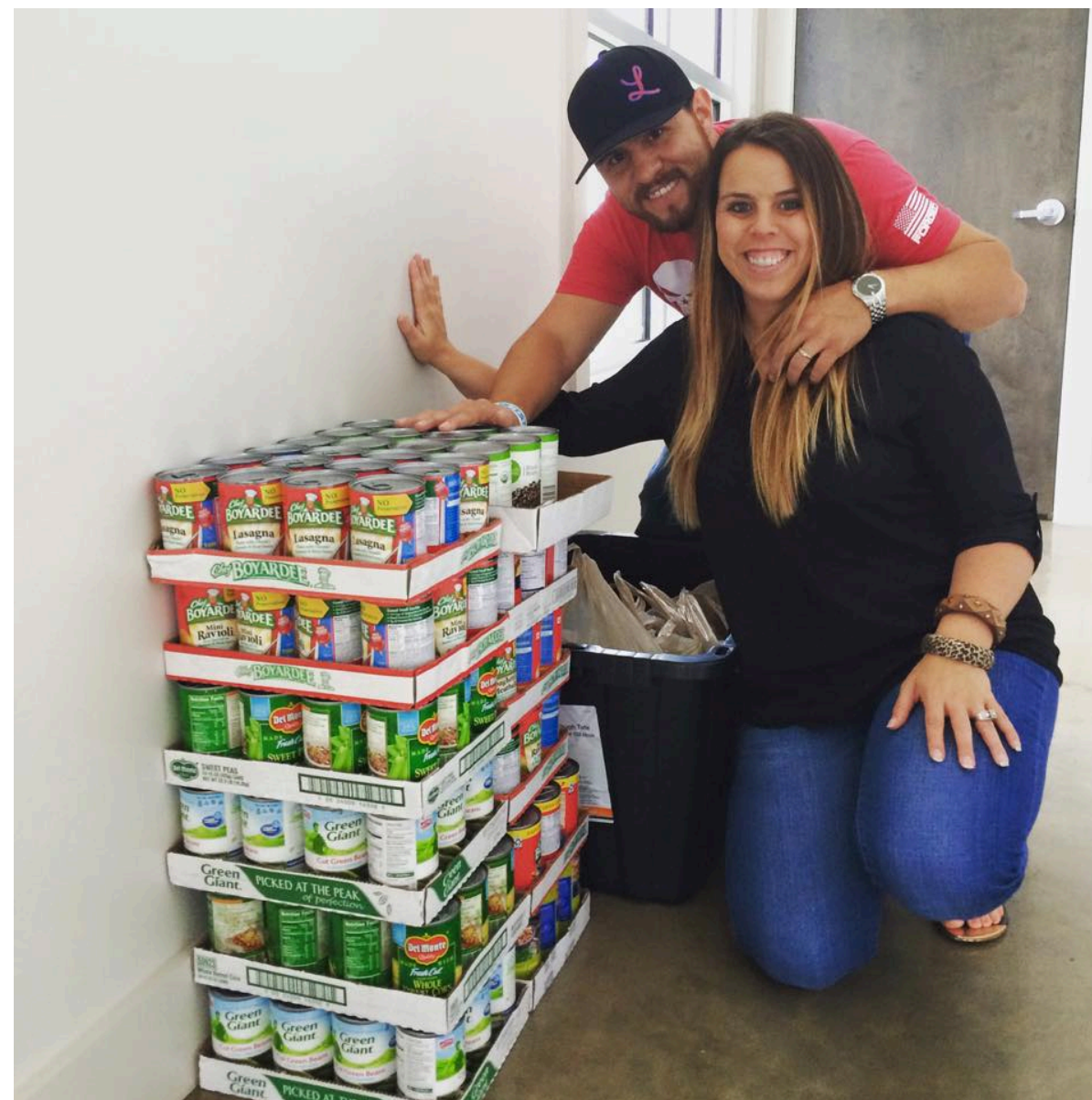
Harvest neighbors know that the NTFB desperately needs fresh produce and they have stepped up to address that need. They are managing three garden plots that have been designated specifically for the NTFB. Homeowners Renee and Kasie serve as garden captains, who help inform and engage the Harvest NTFB volunteer team as well as other homeowners on the garden (e.g., watering, planting, harvesting).

This fall, the NTFB volunteer team grew squash, purple beans, and carrots. Our homeowners harvested and donated more than 30 pounds of produce to the NTFB!

In November, we created a demonstration garden growing broccoli, swiss chard, white turnips, sugar peas, white onions, and black kale. Our first harvest was turnips, swiss chard and black kale. We donated more than 350 pounds of fresh produce to the NTFB...that's 250 meals!

Our homeowners loaded up their cars and took the produce to a partnering agency. Our garden captain literally turned her car into a turnip truck taking more than 290 pounds of turnips to the food bank!

We love seeing our homeowners jump in and serve those in need!



Harvest Memorial Day Freedom Fest (May 2015)

Result: 1,513 meals

Memorial Day weekend is a time where we pause and remember those men and women who died while serving in the country's armed forces. People across the country gather together for picnics, parades, and concerts. At Harvest, we used our Freedom Fest as another opportunity to help end hunger in our area. We set a goal of donating 1,000 cans to the NTFB. We are proud to say we met and exceeded that goal by 10%! We had the North Texas Food Bank truck onsite collecting canned goods, which was required for entry into the event.

Additionally, the day before the event, we held a canned good scavenger hunt around the neighborhood as a way to engage Harvest children. We were so encouraged to see the children's enthusiasm...even on a rainy day! The Harvest kids filled two large NTFB boxes with canned goods in a span of two hours! We were so proud of them!



Harvest Goes Back to School (September 2015)

Result: 815 meals

We hosted a back to school party that brought together kids from all grade levels. More than 150 kids attended the event! The day was filled with snow cones, games, and a visit from The Critter Man! We always look for ways to help the NTFB and this event was no exception.

Our friends from Michael Chaumont's State Farm Agency graciously sponsored our dunking booth, which we in turn used to raise funds for the NTFB. Kids and parents purchased tickets and spent the afternoon dunking the Chief of Northlake Police, our General Manager, and Lifestyle Manager. We also opened it up for kids to dunk each other! We raised approximately \$270.





Harvest Testimonials

“Having a garden has not only given us the opportunity to teach our kids about weather, farming, and responsibility but it has been an invaluable reminder to us that all good things take preparation, hard work and a little bit of luck.”

– April Welborn

“I like to dig in the dirt. Not the good dirt but the dirt where nothing is growing.”

– Luke Welborn, age 4

“I believe everyone should give back in whatever capacity. We all have a privilege that can help someone else. Since I ended up here, at Harvest, I was interested in renting a garden plot at the same time we were needing to start one for the food bank - it seemed as though this was my space and time to do my part - and I truly enjoy it. Knowing that we will help feed a child; a single mom or dad; a veteran; or someone just struggling to make ends meet was a reward every time I saw another sprout or bloom in one of the garden beds. What a good feeling to know you are a small part of the reason someone smiled today.”

– Renee Simmons

Harvest is a great place. I have a lot of friends here, and I love that they taught us how to grow food. And I'm glad that they put a play ground, and a pond. And I am thankful for Harvest.

– Zoe Jackson, age 8