

VISUAL/NEWS FEATURE OPP

Page 1 of 2

DATE: Saturday, March 26, 2011

Childhood heroes real and make-believe, various activities to entertain young guests in food bank warehouse

Breakfast with the Stars children's festival to benefit Tarrant Area Food Bank's *BackPacks for Kids* feeding program

VISUALS: In a 70,000 square-foot warehouse full of food, young children and their parents/grandparents interact with imaginary characters--Tweety Bird, Spiderman, Snow White, Darth Vader and more--AND with real role models--firemen, a doctor, beauty queens, ballerinas and more. Also, children can shoot hoops with TCU basketball players, try out martial arts, play early childhood musical instruments, dress in costumes for photos, finger and face paint, interact with exhibits from the Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, and more.

WHAT: BREAKFAST WITH THE STARS for young children and their parents/grandparents features kids' activities and breakfast buffet with childhood favorites real and make-believe. Families also get a peek at the Tarrant Area Food Bank 70,000 square-foot warehouse. Proceeds benefit the Tarrant Area Food Bank BackPacks for Kids weekend feeding program.

WHEN: Saturday, March 26, 2011 from 9:30 to 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Tarrant Area Food Bank, 2600 Cullen St., Fort Worth, 76107

WHO:

- Volunteer Committee of 39 parenting couples who organized Breakfast with the Stars
- Childhood heroes real and make-believe
- Members of the TCU Basketball team
- Young children with parents and grandparents
- Tarrant Area Food Bank Community Kitchen chef and students who prepare and present the breakfast buffet

WHY: To help fund the Tarrant Area Food Bank BackPacks for Kids program that provides nutritious, nonperishable and kid-friendly food in backpacks for school-aged children at high risk of hunger to take home each weekend. In the 13 counties served by Tarrant Area Food Bank, an estimated 120,000 children are at risk of hunger, often on the weekends.

HOW:

Breakfast with the Stars is organized this year by 39 parenting couples and sponsored by 36 businesses and not-for-profit entities and nearly 40 couples, families and individuals.

(Tickets are on sale through March 25; \$20 for children 12 and younger and \$40 for adults.)

ABOUT BACKPACKS FOR KIDS

Currently, Tarrant Area Food Bank provides the BackPacks for Kids program in 26 elementary and middle schools in four counties for an average of 1800 children each week. The Food Bank partners with schools with high rates of children eligible for free and reduced-cost meals to supply backpacks filled with nutritious child-friendly, nonperishable food to students and their school-aged siblings who are at high risk of hunger on the weekends.

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Page 2 of 2 – Children’s festival to benefit *BackPacks for Kids* weekend feeding program

BackPacks for Kids SITES:

- HAMILTON COUNTY: City of Hamilton - Ann Whitney Elementary and City of Hico-Hico Elementary
- JOHNSON COUNTY: Grandview Elementary in Grandview – supported by Grandview Baptist Church
- PARKER COUNTY: Brock Elementary School in Brock
- TARRANT COUNTY:
 - ARLINGTON: 4 elementary schools - Roark, Thornton, Webb and Wimbish;
 - FORT WORTH: 7 elementary schools - Edward J. Briscoe, E.M. Daggett, East Fort Worth Montessori Academy, Hubbard Heights, Meadowbrook, Oakhurst and Western Hills;
 - NORTHWEST TARRANT:
 - Azle: 7 elementary schools - Azle, Cross Timbers, Eagle Heights, Hoover, Liberty, Silver Creek and Walnut Creek;
 - Lake Worth - Marilyn Janice Miller Elementary;
 - NORTHEAST TARRANT:
 - Bedford - Spring Garden Elementary;
 - Haltom City - Haltom Middle School;
 - Hurst - Bellaire Elementary.

ABOUT TARRANT AREA FOOD BANK

Founded in 1982 as a private, nonprofit collector and distributor of donated food, Tarrant Area Food Bank provides food and household products to more than 300 hunger-relief programs in 13 counties. Each month, the partner charities provide emergency groceries to as many as 45,000 families and serve 565,000 meals and snacks.

Since 2008, Tarrant Area Food Bank's partner charities have seen requests for food aid rise by 35 percent or more. In fiscal year 2007-08, the Food Bank distributed 17.5 million pounds of food and household items to partner charities. In fiscal year 2009-10, that number was 22 million, and in fiscal year 2010-11 the amount of goods distributed to partner charities is projected to reach 24 million or more. For more information about Tarrant Area Food Bank programs, visit www.tafb.org.

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