

For Immediate Release before Monday, Aug 16, 2010

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Tarrant Area Food Bank to fill gap between first day of school and when students are approved for free or reduced-cost school meals

Food Bank's mobile pantry to join Arlington Charities' School Supplies Program for one day

ARLINGTON and FORT WORTH, TX (August 10, 2010) — For the first time during its annual distribution of school supplies, Arlington Charities in Arlington will also be able to supply food to help fill the gap between the beginning of school and when students are approved for free or reduced-cost meals.

Tarrant Area Food Bank will bring its Mobile Pantry to the first day of Arlington Charities' School Supplies Program on Monday, Aug. 16, from 8 to 11 a.m. at 811 Secretary Dr., Arlington 76015.

Tarrant Area Food Bank staff and volunteers will distribute healthy lunch items such as lean cold cuts, sandwich bread, fresh fruit and finger veggies and shelf-stable milk as well as the usual Mobile Pantry offerings of fresh produce and frozen meat. The Mobile Pantry will also hand out cookies and fruit chews donated for the event by Whataburger.

According to Melanie Gibson, executive director of Arlington Charities, up to 900 children will be served Monday. School supplies will also be distributed Tuesday and Wednesday, Aug. 17 and 18.

Gibson says that the agency annually provides school supplies for some 1,200 Arlington ISD students. Families are screened in advance and on the day of the event for eligibility for the school supplies program. For more information, call Arlington Charities at 817-275-1511.

Arlington Charities regularly accesses food for its pantry from Tarrant Area Food Bank. This past fiscal year (July 1, 2009 – June 30, 2010) the agency picked up 250,550 pounds of food from the regional food bank in Fort Worth.

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