

## PRESS RELEASE

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### EL PASO FOOD BANK RECEIVES GRANT FROM CHILDREN'S FOUNDATION

*Savannah, GA:* Operation Hungry Child, Inc, a non-profit organization located in Savannah, Georgia, is pleased to announce that the El Paso division of the West Texas Food Bank, an affiliate of Feeding America, is the recipient of their latest award (gift?) – a grant to support nutritional education in the El Paso public schools.

Operation Hungry Child (OHC) was formed as a response to the rapidly increasing problem of childhood hunger in America. The mission of OHC is to increase public awareness of the problem and to provide assistance to specific programs of child hunger relief organizations. Food banks around the country are struggling in these tougher economic times with demand steadily rising and supply falling.

Awards are based on program content (emphasis on children), originality, and need (both of the organization and the target group). “We are especially pleased to make this award to the people of El Paso as we are aware of the struggles of this border city and the diligence of the food bank staff in El Paso as they work to fill their needs,” said Lindsey Buck, Executive Director.

The El Paso nutritional education program is directed at helping children learn to make healthy food choices and to encourage them to adopt a more active lifestyle. A crowd-pleasing element of the program is a session directed at healthy and inexpensive food choices which includes a hands-on exercise where the students create peanut butter and banana sandwiches on wheat bread. “That session always gets attention,” said Marissa Acosta. “Many of these children aren’t aware that snacks can taste good and be good for you. They are part of the potato chip culture first created by their parents.” Ms. Acosta is the Nutritional Coordinator for the West Texas Food Bank.

OHC’s spring award went to America’s Second Harvest of the Coastal Empire to support nutritional education in the Kids Café program which serves more than 2500 Savannah area children.

To learn more about the good works of the West Texas Food Bank, go to [www.wtxfoodbank.org](http://www.wtxfoodbank.org).

To learn more about Operation Hungry Child, go to [www.operationhungrychild.com](http://www.operationhungrychild.com).