

## News

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### Food Bank Honors Charity Food Pantries

By Lynda Wolverton - STAFF WRITER



From left, Dolores McMillin, Karen Horne, Mary Golt, Traci Kile, Phyllis Grope and Karen Fuller show off Community Link Mission's "Community Resource Development" award at Tarrant Area Food Bank's annual awards luncheon on Sept. 18.

About 300 volunteers, staff members and coordinators from local food pantries were honored at a recent awards luncheon hosted by the Tarrant Area Food Bank.

"Today is all about celebrating what we do together," Bo Soderbergh, executive director of the food bank, said to the group gathered at Southside Church of Christ on Sept. 18. "It's about partnerships, making a difference in the community and about sharing resources."

TAFB feeds approximately 35,000 families each month by distributing food through charities in 13 North Central Texas counties.

"From July 2008 to June 2009, we've increased distribution to our community by 25 percent," Soderbergh said.

"TAFB may have collected the food, but you, our partner agencies, are the reason we did that. You distributed almost 17.5 million pounds of food to the community last year. That's an amazing figure. You are the ones that touch those in need ... you are very important to what we do."

In addition to the 300 honorees, four partner agencies were recognized for Best Practices during the past year:

Community Resource Development: **Community Link Mission, Saginaw** – provides regular updates to its friends, donors, clubs, schools and churches on results of its work, reminding the community of the important work they do.

Client Services: **Jewish Family Services Senior Program, Fort Worth** – provides meatless lunches, allowing participants to maintain dietary laws and restrictions. They also offer English as a Second Language [ESL] classes to newer immigrants.

Collaboration: **First Street Methodist Mission, Fort Worth** – collaborates with case workers and agencies all over Fort Worth and the surrounding area, making arrangements to provide groceries to their clients.

Rural Hunger Relief: **New Haven Ministries, Mineral Wells** – established a mobile food pantry in the communities of Gordon, Mingus and Strawn in Palo Pinto County. Each received a check for \$5,000.

"When I heard that we had won \$5,000, I was thrilled," said Karen Fuller, director of Community Link Mission. "I want to brag on our community and thank them for helping us out."

She was joined at the luncheon by pantry manager and board member Mary Goltl, board member Karen Horne and volunteers Delores McMillin, Phyllis Grope and Traci Kile.

"We started with a little group of people in 2006 that had a vision to make a food pantry happen in Saginaw," Fuller said. "The community has really gotten behind us. We have 15 churches that help us on a regular basis; in addition, the school district, private schools and local businesses have been wonderful."

For more information or to donate, call 817-847-4554 or go to [www.communitylinkmission.org](http://www.communitylinkmission.org).