

4th Annual Food Drive to Benefit Capital Area Food Bank of Texas: We CAN Do It!

November 13th-20th, 2009

(Second in a series of three)

AUSTIN, Texas—As the Nutrition 332 (Community Nutrition) Annual Food Drive to benefit the [Capital Area Food Bank](#), an entirely student-directed donation and awareness raising program, enters its 4th year, I took some time to sit down with Jane Tillman, instructor for NTR 332 and Lecturer in the Department of Nutrition, to find out more about just how the Food Drive works:

Q: If I recall, your class was going to vote on the title of the drive for this year. Has the class had an opportunity to choose a title or theme?

A: *They want to use the Rosie the Riveter theme, We CAN Do It. We have checked and the main art work is in the public domain. We will be posting flyers all around campus—keep an eye out for them. Rosie the Riveter represents strength in a time of need, and the students thought that it was most fitting given what is currently happening in the world.*

Q: Current students and alumni would like to know how to help your class collect donations. Where can people interested in helping bring donations?

A: *There will be manned and unmanned collection bins available to receive nonperishable canned goods. Like last year, the bins will be located in Jester, West Mall, and of course, Gearing Hall. For the first time this year, we will have a collection bin in Welch Hall.*

Q: When will the collection take place?

A: *Nov. 16-20. A collection bin will be manned from 9-2 in Jester M-F (Nov 16th-20th). A collection bin will be manned at West Mall Monday-Wednesday (Nov 16th-18th) from 9-2 and we are experimenting with having a manned bin in Welch from 9-2 on Thursday and Friday (Nov 19th-20th). An unmanned bin will be available in Gearing Hall from Nov. 13 - Nov. 20.*

Q: Will the collection benefit the Capital Area Food Bank?

A: YES

The 4th Annual NTR 332 Food Drive “We CAN Do It” will be held from November 13th-20th, 2009. Donations of canned goods will be collected at the following locations:

Gearing Hall—Nov 13th-20th 9am-5pm (unmanned)

Jester Hall—Nov 16th-20th 9am-2pm

West Mall—Nov 16th-18th 9am-2pm

Welch Hall—Nov 19th-20th 9am-2pm

Q: Is there a way for someone who is not on campus to donate to the food drive?

A: *Yes, they could drop donations off at Gearing Hall anytime.*

Q: Are there any additional campus groups involved this year? You mentioned that, in the past, student groups like sororities and Women in Natural Sciences have helped with the Drive.

A: *Our major group involved is the Nutrition and Wellness Association. Their participation and continued support ensures that we can solicit donations; without them, there would be no Food Drive. They will be providing the tuna for sale, and will help man the booths. One of our students, Meghan Mager, has made arrangements where she works to solicit food donations from the patients at the office where she works! Kelley Schall has gotten permission to solicit donations from the Austin Dietetic Association at their meeting in November. We are writing a brief article on the problem of food insecurity that will be put on the table tents at Jester, Kinsolving and other campus dorms where there is food service.*

Q: You mentioned that, in the past, your students have sold cookies to augment the cash donation. Will there be an activity like that this year? Any details you can provide about alternate fundraising would be fantastic!

A: *We are delighted to accept cash donations. We will have collection boxes at our manned bins, and people can either buy and donate a can of tuna for \$1, or make any donation. We will have small apples and some kind of cookie available as incentives for donations, but don't plan to charge for them.*

Hunger in Central Texas by the Numbers:

~Nearly one in five central Texans is food insecure

~41,000 children under the age of 18 in Travis County are confronted with food insecurity every day

~61% of Austin Independent School District students are eligible for free or reduced lunch

~Approximately 200,000 or 20% of Travis County residents are classified as "working poor" by the Texas Department of Human Services

~Between 2000 and 2003, the number of households in Travis County increased by 23,274, the majority of which (21,822 households) fell in the lowest three income brackets having an annual income of \$24, 999 or less

~The annual income needed for a Travis County family of four without employee sponsored health insurance to "afford" to live in the Austin area is \$53,080. That 257% of the Federal poverty level