

**THE HELPING CENTER OF MARBLE FALLS AREA, INC.**



**PRESS RELEASE**

**AUGUST 16, 2023**

## **Helping Center Receives Award**

The Helping Center is pleased to announce that it has received the prestigious “Nourishing Award” granted by the Central Texas Food Bank. The award was presented to Executive Director Sam Pearce at the recent Partner Agency Conference on August 11<sup>th</sup>. THC was one of only 4 pantries to receive this honor among a field of 260 food pantries in Central Texas. The award was acknowledged by the State of Texas with a formal Resolution signed by State Senator Pete Flores, and Pearce was given a Texas Flag that was flown over the State Capitol.

“This award represents the culmination of 36 years of service to the greater Marble Falls community”, stated Pearce. “We were recognized as having demonstrated excellence in our food distribution model, for emphasizing the nutritional value of fresh fruits and vegetables, and for hosting community education initiatives. We are deeply grateful for this recognition of our mission.” Board President Paul King added, “The Helping Center, which is sponsored by ten local churches and supported by over 50 volunteers, is privileged to serve families 2,000 times each month. Since we opened the new facility in 2021, we have experienced more than a 3-fold increase in food assistance. By providing food to those in need, we feed the hungry and help individuals and families to remain in their homes or apartments and to afford the basic necessities of life. We are humbled to receive this award, which clearly acknowledges the support of our churches, efforts of our volunteers, and generous donations provided by citizens, civic groups, and foundations.”

Through July of this year alone, THC has served client families 12,967 times providing 370,000 pounds of food valued at over \$1 Million. Additionally, its LEARN for LIFE education program is entering its third year. Initiatives include children’s literacy events, adult and youth nutrition programs, cooking demonstrations, financial literacy classes, health awareness events, and a scholarship program.

The Helping Center welcomes interested parties or groups to tour the food pantry. Tours can be arranged by calling 830.693.5689. Donations may be mailed to P.O. Box 402, Marble Falls, TX 78654 or dropped off at 1016 Broadway, Marble Falls.