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Foster Family, Hunt Family, MountainStar Sports Group Foundation Announce \$1 Million Grant to El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank

Donation will help Food Bank respond to increased need for meals in El Paso as families are impacted by COVID-19

EL PASO, TX – April 6, 2020 – The Paul L. Foster Family Foundation and the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation, in partnership with MountainStar Sports Group Foundation, have established a matching grant program of \$1million to assist El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFH). The gift will enable the food bank to continue providing food and nutrition assistance to the hundreds of thousands of El Pasoans who are especially vulnerable during the COVID-19 crisis.

“El Pasoans Fighting Hunger plays a key role in our community by ensuring that any family experiencing food insecurity in El Paso has access to meals,” said Woody L. Hunt, co-owner

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of MountainStar Sports Group and Chairman of the Hunt Family Foundation. “As more families face new financial constraints due to COVID-19, we want to help make sure those families are still able to put food on their tables and that no one in our community suffers from hunger during this crisis.”

Over the past two weeks, demand for meals and other services has dramatically increased in El Paso and surrounding areas as more families are being impacted by COVID-19. The Food Bank has not only seen a surge in families accessing its services, but also a decline in volunteers, which has resulted in long lines and wait times as families arrive at the Food Bank.

Stuart R. Schwartz, Board President of EPFH said the COVID-19 pandemic has led to an immediate crisis in El Paso. “Food insecurity has grown exponentially,” he said. “The mission of El Pasoans Fighting Hunger is to address this very need, to bring comfort to those who have to make the difficult decision to pay rent or put nutritious food on their dinner table.” Schwartz continued, “This matching grant is a godsend. The Food Bank is so very grateful to the Hunt and Foster families, as well as MountainStar Sports Group, for their extraordinary and generous gift. We encourage others to donate during this crisis so that the Food Bank can achieve the full match to continue our important work.”

Susan E. Goodell, Chief Executive Officer of El Pasoans Fighting Hunger said El Pasoans’ need for the Food Bank at this time is critical. “Our Food Bank has been serving families in El Paso County for years, but the need we are seeing in this moment could not be greater.” She added, “We must be prepared to aid families through this crisis. We are so thankful to the Fosters, Hunts, and MountainStar Sports Group for their help during this time, and for others in our community who can donate money or time, we ask you to do so. The need at this time is extraordinary, and urgent.”

The Food Bank is anticipating that even more families will need access to its services and meals in the coming weeks, and it said the best way to meet that increased demand is

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through monetary donations. The fund established by the Paul L. Foster Family Foundation, the Hunt Family Foundation, and the MountainStar Sports Group Foundation will match all donations made to El Pasoans Fighting Hunger up to \$1million.

For more information on how to contribute to the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank, visit <https://elpasoansfightinghunger.org/>

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About El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank: El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank (EPFH) is El Paso's only food bank and a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest hunger relief network. With a current 22.3% of the population living below the poverty line, EPFH commits to making sure no one goes hungry. In 2019, EPFH worked diligently with more than 132 partner agencies to distribute more than 30 million pounds of food in 3 county areas: El Paso, Hudspeth and Culberson. The mission statement of EPFH is "to combat the hunger crisis in our region by strategically procuring and distributing nutritious food through community partners . . . because no one should go hungry." Please visit www.elpasoansfightinghunger.org to learn more.