

EL PASO INC. ■

Food bank hits \$1 million goal, announces new challenge

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El Paso Locomotive FC mascot Ozzy, a Mexican free-tailed bat, helps distribute food at El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank last week.

Community en Acción, a network of Hispanic leaders who work to improve the region, and two anonymous donors have established a fundraising challenge in support of El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank.

It will match all donations made to El Pasoans Fighting Hunger up to \$600,000.

On Tuesday, the food bank also announced it had reached its \$1 million matching-grant fundraising goal, which was established in April by MountainStar Sports Group, the Paul L. Foster Family Foundation and the Woody and Gayle Hunt Family Foundation.

“The incredibly generous \$1 million matching grant ... helped us raise an additional \$1 million,” said Stuart Schwartz, El Pasoans Fighting Hunger board chair, in a statement. “And now Community en Acción’s matching challenge is allowing us to fulfill our mission of alleviating food insecurity, especially in the middle of a pandemic.”

The food bank spent \$1.67 million in just the first month of its COVID-19 response, according to a news release. Since the pandemic began, it has distributed up to 11,000 emergency food boxes daily.