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# Food bank enlarges warehouse to help needy in Brazos County

By Kelley Bullock  
 Reporter

Although the Brazos Food Bank for the Bryan-College Station area is operating comfortably from its new warehouse, the organization nearly had to shut down before its address change on April 1.

"We had almost suspended operations for the two months that we were moving, because we had to leave the other warehouse and put things in temporary storage until we could move them here," said Sharon J. Shaw, director of operations for the Brazos Food Bank. "We kept the normal operations going. That is, the volunteers would pick up food from the various stores and then deliver the food directly to the agencies."

About 16 agencies help distribute food to the needy people.

"There are an awful lot of needy people out there," Shaw said. "There are a lot of agencies that help them, such as the Red Cross, various churches which have established pantries and the (Twin City) mission."

"We then will redistribute to agencies which will pass the food on to the needy people. We don't deal with the needy people themselves."

The Brazos Food Bank hopes to grow so that it will serve even more needy people in the local community.

"Eventually, we will have the capability to get hundreds of pounds of almost anything at one time," Shaw said. "My concern is having space for growth."

The warehouse the food bank had

before had been donated. It was about 1,000 square feet, while the new leased warehouse is about 5,000 square feet.

"The old warehouse was a very generous offer on the part of the owner," Shaw said. "He donated it because he had no need for it, but as soon as he had a need, we had to go."

"They gave us as much time as

food is either donated by various businesses or bought by the bank at a low rate.

"There's a lot of surplus food, such as from grocery stores and wholesalers," Shaw said. "We gather the food and put it through the pipeline to the people who really need it."

"We collect between 3,500 pounds

longer than that," Shaw said. "We usually deliver the bread the day, so it never gets very old."

Because the demand for food is great, the food bank is preparing to expand its operations.

"We are preparing to begin the Houston Food Bank," Shaw said. "It is a very large organization that collects enormous quantities of food."

The Brazos Food Bank has about 150 to 200 pounds of food from food barrels in every month.

"As we become more known in the community, various agencies will contribute," Shaw said. "For instance, one of the grocery stores called me and said, 'I have a bunch of candy Easter baskets when they got here they melted.'"

"So I went over to the store and picked up six cases of Easter baskets that were melted. The baskets looked like Easter smurfs, but they were perfectly good. Now they are all gone."

"We gave a bunch to the Red Cross, who made Easter baskets for the children. And we gave them to the College Station Club."

At the end of the last year the bank collected food from students who were moving out of dorms.

"Last year, we got quite a bit of canned goods," Shaw said. "We are exploring the possibility of collecting canned goods from the area and from apartments in the area."

*"Eventually, we will have the capability to get hundreds of pounds of almost anything at one time. . . . The grocery stores donate because the alternative is to throw the food in the dumpster. That's what they did before the food bank existed here."*

Sharon J. Shaw, food bank director of operations

they could, and it took us a long time to find something suitable."

In order to lease a building, the Brazos Food Bank relied on funds from the United Way, which gives \$5,700 per year.

"The United Way is the chief support for our organization, because it does take money to lease this building, pay for utilities and pay for office supplies and various little things," Shaw said.

A one-year lease for the warehouse costs the bank \$300 per month, and utilities cost from \$100 to \$200 per month, said Michael Stecher, president of the board of directors for the bank.

The organization is run by volunteers, except for the director of operations, who is paid \$100 per week as a part-time employee, and the

and 4,000 pounds of bread per week. Most of it is picked up by volunteers who go to four Safeway stores and two Winn Dixie stores in Bryan and College Station. Then they take it directly to agencies that give to the needy. We never see it here.

"In addition, the stores usually contribute from 250 and 500 pounds of dairy products per week."

The grocery stores donate because the alternative is to throw the food in the dumpster. That's what they did before the food bank existed here."

The food given to the bank is older food or cosmetically damaged food that the store cannot sell anymore, but is perfectly edible.

"Bread has a shelf-life of a day in a store, but the bread really lasts a lot

longer than that," Shaw said. "We usually deliver the bread the day, so it never gets very old."

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# Mutilated fish wash ashore after shark attack

PORT ARANSAS (AP) — Marine life experts were called on Monday to determine whether a shark's attack on a swimmer is linked to the mutilated bodies of several fish that washed ashore, officials said.

April Dawn Voglino, 16, was recovering Monday from surgery at a Corpus Christi hospital, where she was taken after a 5-foot shark bit off her arm below the shoulder, officials said.

The Kingsland teen-ager's condition was upgraded from serious but stable to poor by doctors

at Memorial Medical Center, hospital official Helen Persad said.

Nueces County Commissioner J.P. Luby said a meeting was planned for Tuesday, and experts would be asked whether the attack was related to the mutilated baby sand sharks, turtles and a large amberjack that washed ashore Sunday.

Voglino was in chest-deep water near Mustang Island Saturday when the shark attacked her. She was swimming with her father, Robert Voglino, who pounded at the shark and carried his

daughter ashore after the shark swam and was not injured.

Luby said Voglino and her parents were at an isolated beach near Aransas Beach 2 p.m. when the attack took place.

"We've had people bitten before, but not as major as this," Luby said. "If there are a lot of sharks in the area, I want to know about it."

Luby, whose precinct covers 2 1/2 miles of beach, said the attack was probably an isolated case and he would not order the beach closed.

at Memorial Medical Center, hospital official Helen Persad said.

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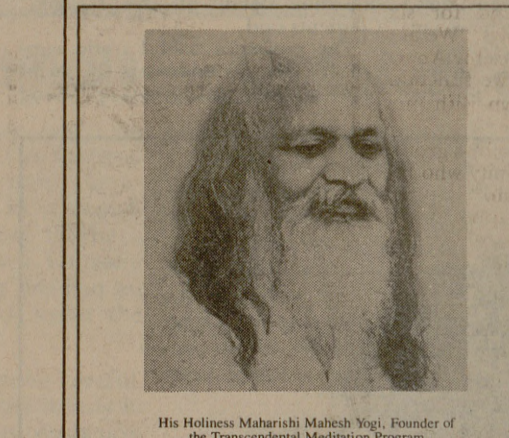
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His Holiness Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, Founder of the Transcendental Meditation Program

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