



CASE FOR SUPPORT

OVERVIEW

Despite Houston's apparent prosperity, 15 percent of our population – nearly 900,000 people – lives in poverty.

As one of Houston's largest hunger relief organizations, Target Hunger serves five of Houston's most income challenged neighborhoods – areas of town where more than 30% of people, on average live below the federal poverty line (U.S. Census Bureau). Last year, 100% of the households we served were at 101-200% of the federal poverty level. Target Hunger assists individuals in inner city neighborhoods and has grown to become one of the largest organizations in Houston that distributes food to hungry families.

The demographics of food insecure individuals continues to change with the aging of the baby boomers and an increasing population of Hispanics needing bilingual services, and Target Hunger is experiencing these shifts first-hand. For example, two of the areas served by Target Hunger (Kashmere Gardens and Eastex-Jensen) are among the 11 zip codes with the highest number and percentage of impoverished older adults within Harris County (A Spotlight in Aging, United Way of Greater Houston).

BACKGROUND AND MISSION

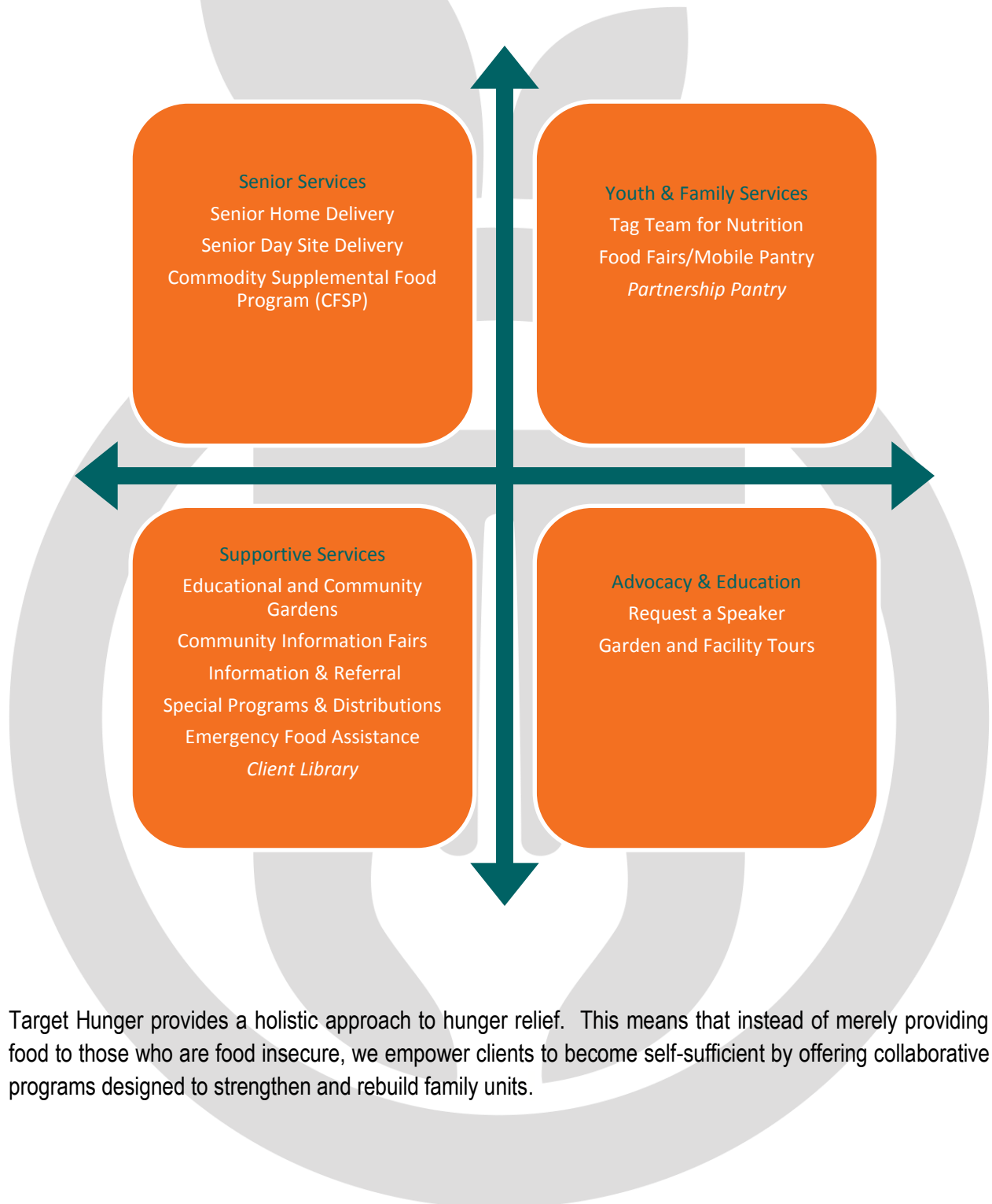
In 1983, Representative Mickey Leland, along with Representatives Benjamin Gilman of New York and Tony Hall of Ohio formed the House Select Committee on Hunger to find sustainable solutions to national and international hunger and poverty. Houston was one of the communities on which the Select Committee focused, with a designated hearing in Houston in 1986. This hearing led to the local involvement of the United Way and a host of community leaders to identify areas in Houston where the needs of the hungry were not being met.

Target Hunger was founded in 1989, as a result of this process, to address hunger issues in the Fifth Ward. Since that time, the organization has grown to include the neighborhoods of Kashmere Gardens, North Forest and Denver Harbor. Today, Target Hunger is one of Houston's largest organizations providing food to hungry elderly, children and families with a system of food pantries, a central food hub, community and educational gardens, senior home delivery routes, senior day site routes, and community food fairs. In 2017, the organization distributed more than 5.1 million pounds of food and served more than 46,000 individuals.

Target Hunger's mission is to alleviate hunger and its root causes in the neighborhoods we serve. Our vision is to create a community where nobody goes hungry, and individuals are able to provide food for themselves and their families.

TARGET HUNGER'S HIGH-IMPACT PROGRAMS

For nearly thirty years, Target Hunger has been on the front lines of hunger relief and food insecurity in Fifth Ward and surrounding northeast Houston neighborhoods. We provide community-based programs and services that impact five of our city's most under-resourced zip code areas.



Target Hunger provides a holistic approach to hunger relief. This means that instead of merely providing food to those who are food insecure, we empower clients to become self-sufficient by offering collaborative programs designed to strengthen and rebuild family units.

Food Pantries

Target Hunger's core programs focus on a simple but profoundly important service: providing direct food assistance through a system of food pantries and a high-impact meal distribution program.

- We operate 5 Food Pantries (located in zip codes 77016, 77020, 77026, 77028 and 77078) that serve individuals and families who need food assistance. In addition, we provide emergency food relief in times of crisis. Following Hurricane Harvey, we provided emergency food assistance to thousands of displaced residents. In the six months following the storm we distributed food, ice, water, and supplies to more than 20,000 individuals

Senior Support Services

To help some of the most vulnerable elderly members of our community, Target Hunger provides much-needed services that are specifically targeted to senior citizens when they most need help.

- Through our collaboration with local **Senior Day Site Programs**, Target Hunger delivers groceries to 10 local senior citizen activity centers that provide daytime activities to encourage and support senior independence and self-enrichment. Volunteers are key in helping with the distribution of food, providing fun activities and coordinating holiday celebrations. The program serves approximately 300 seniors each month.
- Target Hunger's **Home Delivery Program** delivers nutritious food to approximately 250 senior citizens along 16 routes who are unable to visit a Target Hunger pantry due to health issues or a lack of mobility. In addition, our **Adopt-A-Route Program** engages corporate partners, church groups, and community organizations in delivering groceries and helping monitor the well-being of home bound clients. Our research shows that these programs make a tremendous impact on our clients' health and quality of life and enable them to remain living independently for much longer than would otherwise be possible.

Educational and Community Gardens

Research and experience shows that impoverished communities benefit in a myriad of ways from developing community gardens. First and most simply, they help reduce hunger by supplementing the canned and packaged supplies that stock the shelves of food pantries. Moreover, they are an excellent source of fresh fruits, herbs and vegetables, all of which are often missing from the daily diet of many people living in poverty. (Source: Urban Harvest).

Following the example of other communities around the United States, Target Hunger operates 3 community gardens that produce an average of 2,625 pounds of vegetables per year.

Community gardens are a highly cost-effective means of procuring nutritious food. Local residents and community-minded individuals volunteer to work in Target Hunger's gardens.

LEADERSHIP AND FUNDING

Target Hunger is led by C.E.O. Sandy Wicoff, who manages a dedicated staff of 11. The organization is governed by a distinguished board of directors and also benefits from the guidance of an advisory committee whose members are all deeply committed to the community and to advancing Target Hunger's mission.

Our cash-operating budget for 2018 is \$1,000,000. Roughly one third of our annual operating budget is provided by the United Way of Greater Houston. Another important source of revenue is our annual fundraising gala, with the balance provided through the generous support of corporations, foundations, and individual donors. In addition to cash contributions, Target Hunger will leverage an anticipated \$7 million in in-kind contributions in 2018, including our headquarters, pantry facilities, food, and other donated items.

WAYS TO GIVE

Target Hunger must raise roughly \$1,000,000 this year to provide urgently needed food assistance to those in our inner city neighborhoods and to operate and expand our vital programs, whose key focus is strengthening families and communities, and providing the tools for self-sufficiency.

Target Hunger welcomes your support in several ways:

- Make a financial contribution.
- Become a sponsor of the annual Gala Royale, Will Walk 4 Food, or other special events.
- Make a planned gift by naming Target Hunger in your will.
- Make a gift of appreciated securities, land or property.
- Host a "CANnecting with Hunger" Food Drive at your place of business or worship.
- Become a volunteer and help our clients face-to-face.
- Adopt-a-Route in our Senior Home Delivery program.

For more information on ways to give and how you can become involved with Target Hunger, please call Tiffany Stafford, Director of Fund Development, at 832.767.1677 ext. 102 or email tiffany.stafford@targethunger.org.