

# ***Family Empowerment Report***



**CSNT**  
Community Services of Northeast Texas, Inc.

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

The Comprehensive Energy Assistance Program, or as we like to call them, Family Empowerment Intake Specialists, have processed over 2130 intakes this year. They have depleted all of the CEAP funding at this time. CEAP HVAC has helped 10 families with either repair or replacement of their HVAC units.

We are very proud of their hard work.

The Community Service Block Grant Family Empowerment team has 63 clients signed up for the Tops Program; seven of the clients have already topped out at 125%.

We now have over 15 Family Empowerment Advocates; they will continue signing families up for TOPS. Our CSBG Family Empowerment Team has also helped 20 families with Stabilization. This includes 2 families with house fires.

Our Tenant-Based Rental Assistance case manager has over 30 clients in the program. He is working with the CSBG Family Empowerment and the Family Empowerment Advocates to make sure the Tops clients have all the resources they need to lead improved, empowered, and self-reliant lives.

I would like to tell you about Mrs. Margaret's Food Pantry. However, there is so much to tell you that I do not have the space, so I have included the flyer in this report.

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE.**  
**DONATE TODAY.**



# Mrs. Margaret's Food Pantry

## Small, but makes a difference

How Mrs. Margaret's Food Pantry got started:

Mrs. Margaret is a 74-year-old from Atlanta, Texas.



One day, she sent a box of food and personal items to the Mount Pleasant Office. She said: Give this to anyone who is in need. As I sat there looking at this donation, I teared up. This sweet person wanted to give to others when she was barely making it herself. After putting everything together and putting it on the bookshelf in the lobby, so many people would ask if they could have some of the food. We let them get what they needed. Why? Because that was what Mrs. Margaret said to do. They were in need; they could have it. We have been keeping the pantry going with only donations from kind people and local businesses; no federal or state help. Mrs. Margaret still gives in many ways. Even after losing her husband recently, it puts a smile on her face to know that what she started with only a small box of food can put a smile on the face and satisfy the hunger of a person experiencing food insecurity. A little bit of Mrs. Margaret's heart is in every item that is given out at our food pantry.

**Mrs. Margaret's food pantry in the Mount Pleasant office is in need of donations of non-perishable food items. The shelves are becoming bare! We would also need travel-sized personal items, such as hair products and toiletries.**



Most of us don't worry about what we are going to eat, if we can brush our teeth or wash our hair. However, the people we serve worry every day. They could be your friend, your neighbor, they could work with you, or go to the same church.

**The pantry is run totally on donations. The pantry serves anyone who is in need, no matter what county you live in.**

**However, WE NEED DONATIONS** of food items, bath items, and household items.

**If you would like to donate, please contact Amy-903-717-7301 or email [amy.perales@csntexas.org](mailto:amy.perales@csntexas.org) or Kari- 903-717-7305 email**



**[Kari.Furnish@csntexas.org](mailto:Kari.Furnish@csntexas.org)**



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**Items Needed – Non-perishable food – canned fruits and vegetables – cereal - shelf-stable items – canned meats (Spam, Vienna sausage, Tuna, Chicken)**

**Travel size – body wash- shampoo- conditioner-lotion – mouth wash- combs- wash cloths – tooth brushes – toothpaste – small bars of soap - floss – toilet paper**

# FAMILY EMPOWERMENT DIVISION

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OCTOBER 2025

## OUR FAMILY EMPOWERMENT DIVISION IS GEARING UP FOR GROWTH!

### NEWS:

AMY PERALES HAS CHANGED POSITIONS AND IS NOW OUR ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT SPECIALIST. HEATHER HUMPHRIES IS NOW LEADING OUR FAMILY EMPOWERMENT DIVISION. HEATHER IS READY TO TAKE FAMILY EMPOWERMENT TO A NEW LEVEL!

### FAMILY EMPOWERMENT PROGRAM

WE CURRENTLY HAVE 84 INDIVIDUALS ENROLLED IN THE JOURNEY TO SELF-SUFFICIENCY.

### CEAP (UTILITY ASSISTANCE)

ALL UTILITY ASSISTANCE FUNDS HAVE BEEN EXPENDED FOR 2025.

### THE STORY TIMELINE:

MRS. MARGARET'S FOOD PANTRY HAS STARTED SOMETHING NEW! WE HAVE RECEIVED ENOUGH DONATIONS FOR 100 HYGIENE BAGS! WE ARE GEARING UP FOR THE HOLIDAYS AND ACTIVELY SEEKING DONATIONS TO PROVIDE FOOD FOR PEOPLE EXPERIENCING FOOD INSECURITY.

### TBRA

THE TBRA (TENANT BASED RENTAL ASSISTANCE) PROGRAM IS RUNNING WELL! THERE ARE OVER 30 FAMILIES IN THE PROGRAM AND THAT NUMBER IS GROWING DAILY!