

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**KINDER FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$1 MILLION MATCH DONATION  
TO HOUSTON FOOD BANK TO SUPPORT WINTER STORM URI RELIEF**

***Donation continues foundation's generous support of the Houston Food Bank***

HOUSTON – Kinder Foundation has announced a generous \$1 million donation to Houston Food Bank to help families hit hard by the recent arctic freeze. This matching gift is to be used for immediate needs following the catastrophic impact of Winter Storm Uri, given in the hopes that it inspires others to also donate to Houston Food Bank to help our neighbors in need.

“If you want to support Houstonians hit hard by the recent freeze, we hope you will consider giving to the Houston Food Bank,” states Nancy Kinder, President and CEO, Kinder Foundation. “Right now, the Houston Food Bank is a lifeline for thousands of Houstonians who are struggling.”

The Kinder Foundation’s matching grant urges others to donate now so that their gifts will be tripled to make the most impact. For every \$10 donated by February 28, 90 urgently needed meals will be provided to senior citizens, kids and families in need.

Individuals have missed work, suffered damage to their homes and lost food from prolonged power outages, and Houston Food Bank is providing food and water so that they can focus their resources on recovery expenses. For those already on the verge of food-insecurity, a disastrous event like this can be catastrophic. This is a strain on an already elevated food-insecurity crisis brought on by the pandemic.

“The COVID-19 pandemic has had an enormous socio-economic impact upon the communities in which we work and live. Families living in poverty, the isolated elderly, people with disabilities as well as a growing number of recently unemployed are all facing desperate times,” says Brian Greene, president/CEO of Houston Food Bank. “And now they are reeling from the winter storm disaster.

“While water and power are back for most of Houston, this crisis will linger for weeks and months to come,” says Greene. “The reality is that it is low-income families who suffer the most in times like this, they are the ones that can’t afford to make-up the loss of food in their refrigerator and freezer from loss of power, they are the ones who, if they do have damage to their homes, don’t have the resources for that to begin with, and will now have to make difficult decisions of going without other necessities like medicine to make up the difference. That is where Houston Food Bank steps in to help, and it is the generosity of donors like Kinder Foundation that allows us to offer hope when it might seem like there is little or none.”

To help meet the need, Houston Food Bank has relaunched their Neighborhood Super Site distributions, first implemented at the start of the COVID pandemic, across the city to distribute necessary food and

water into the community. This incredible matching opportunity from the Kinder Foundation will help provide triple the nourishing meals to southeast Texans facing hunger.

Due to the pandemic, Houston Food Bank doubled its distribution to help meet the increased need, serving many people who never sought food assistance before. While demand was beginning to drop slightly, the winter storm impact has caused an increase in demand with partners reporting longer lines again.

The mission of the Kinder Foundation is to support Greater Houston as a model city for economic opportunity and quality of life by providing transformational grants in the areas of urban green space, education and quality of life.



### **About the Kinder Foundation**

The Kinder Foundation, a family foundation established in 1997 by Rich and Nancy Kinder of Houston, Texas, provides transformational grants that impact urban green space, education, and quality of life. More at [www.kinderfoundation.org](http://www.kinderfoundation.org).

### **About the Houston Food Bank**

Houston Food Bank's mission is to provide food for better lives. Last year we provided access to 104 million nutritious meals in 18 counties in southeast Texas through our 1,500 community partners which includes food pantries, soup kitchens, social service providers and schools. We have a strong focus on healthy foods and fresh produce. In addition to distributing food, we provide services and connections to programs that address the root causes of hunger and are aimed at helping families achieve long-term stability, including nutrition education, job training, health management and help with securing state-funded assistance. We are a resource for individuals and families in times of hardship. We are a solution to food waste, working with grocery stores and growers to rescue food before it reaches landfills. In collaboration with our community, we advocate for policy change and promote dialogue on ways to increase access to food and to improve the lives of those we serve. Houston Food Bank works alongside our partner food banks in Montgomery County, Galveston County, and Brazos Valley. Houston Food Bank is a certified member of Feeding America, the nation's food bank network, with a four-star rating from Charity Navigator.

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