



Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma

ORGANIZATIONAL RESOURCES PROFILE

Serving
24 Counties in Eastern Oklahoma

Type
Food Distribution

Annual Budget
\$6.4 Million

Food Distributed
17.18 Million Pounds Annually

Web Site
www.okfoodbank.org

Staff
60

Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma provides Oklahoma citizens with over 17 million pounds of food each year. The core services are provided to partner programs spanning 24 counties in Eastern Oklahoma. Additional services are provided through direct distribution programs such as the Mobile Pantry Program, Food for Kids Backpack Program, and the Senior Servings Program.

17 Million Pounds of Food a Year

Moving over 17 million pounds of food a year requires an extensive logistical effort and the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma utilizes a sophisticated technical infrastructure to assist with the solicitation, warehousing, and distribution of food product.



Technical Infrastructure

Inventory Software

Web Portal / Online Ordering

72 Desktops

8 Servers

8 Mobile Tablets

Wide Area Network (WAN)

“As a technology partner I would describe 501technet as reliable, innovative, and customer centered.”

Eileen Bradshaw
Executive Director

AN AGING IT INFRASTRUCTURE

As the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma began growing and expanding services the search for a new technology partner to refresh the technical environment became a more pressing concern.

“We had a very aging network,” says Ryan Walker, COO of Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma. “99% of our desktops were seven years old. We struggled with equipment that was constantly breaking down.”

The technology environment was wrought with inefficiency and headaches. “When I was on vacation I would get up at 6:00am to remotely reboot the servers,” continues Walker, “This was just the daily routine, whether I was in the office or not.”

SEARCH FOR A NEW PARTNER

Like many small to midsized nonprofits Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma was using a small local technology company to help manage technology services. “They had done great for us for several years,” says Walker. “We kind of outgrew the company. They had a limited staff and we just outgrew their capabilities.”

The search for a partner that could grow with the expanding technological infrastructure was a short one. Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma was already familiar with 501technet through its work with other Tulsa nonprofits. The final decision to partner with 501technet was ultimately one driven by mission and finances.

“We’re very mission driven,” Walker emphasizes as he discusses the partner search criteria. “Anytime we start looking at money going out to a program we ask ourselves, ‘Can we justify this with our mission?’ If that’s a yes, then let’s proceed. Being mission driven ties directly back to why Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma was founded, what we do, and how we do it.”

“As soon as I talked to 501technet for the first time I knew that I wanted to become a client - just for the cost savings to the food bank with all the different programs that they offer. I knew that was the route that we needed to go. It made the most business sense for the food bank.”

MISSION ORIENTED RESULTS

After engaging with 501technet as a managed services provider, the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma kept true to its promise to stay mission focused. The leadership team has even calculated the return on investment in terms of additional meals distributed.

“We’ve been able to save the funds equal to about 250,000 meals.” Walker explains, “That’s money we have been able to re-purpose into programming.”

In addition, critical staff who were spending valuable time and knowledge supporting IT infrastructure were also re-focused onto the core mission.

“We had a full-time person that was dedicated to facility and IT support. This staff member has over 30 years of knowledge on the food bank and how it operates, and we were able to re-purpose that staff person into running our programs.”

The fulfillment of Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma’s mission is the ultimate application of the 501technet mission to *“provide nonprofit organizations in Oklahoma with the technology and expertise needed to extend their social impact.”*



Ryan Walker,
Chief Operating Officer



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