

Dear Mr. husband,

I hope this message finds you well. I understand the critical role that our city's resources play in fostering the well-being of our community, and the difficulty in deciding how those resources are allocated. Today, I write to you on behalf of the Community Enrichment Center (CEC), a cornerstone of support for North Richland Hills, to request your assistance in securing authorization for two 40-foot shipping containers for much-needed storage.

### **The Impact of Additional Storage**

Each shipping container would provide space for approximately 20 pallets of essential products—40 pallets if we can double stack. This expansion of storage capacity would free up 20 to 40 pallets of potential space within our food pantry and main building, significantly enhancing our ability to serve the community.

Here's how these containers would directly benefit North Richland Hills:

1. **Year-Round Toy Storage:** Every year, we gather toys that bring joy to children in poverty within our city. In 2023 alone, we served over 800 children, and this December, we aim to reach 1,000 children. The additional storage would allow us to maintain a year-round collection of toys, ensuring that every child in need receives a gift.
2. **Support for REFRESH BISD Back-to-School Event:** Our REFRESH BISD event is a major initiative that provided school supplies to over 2,000 children last year and over 2,500 this year. The containers would allow us to hold resource drives with increased capacity, ensuring that even more children are prepared for the school year.
3. **Cost Efficiency and Maximized Food Storage:** Currently, we incur recurring monthly storage fees to external vendors for resources that benefit the city and surrounding community. By securing these containers, we could eliminate those costs and reinvest the savings into our programs. The freed space within our building could then be used to store more food, allowing us to serve more local families in crisis.

### **Addressing Food Insecurity Amidst Rising Costs**

With inflation and food costs at unprecedented levels, our mission to support food-insecure families is more critical than ever. Research indicates that 25% of all Texans are food insecure. Birdville ISD reports they now have over 14,000 children on free and reduced lunch, with many having no food over the weekend. In 2023, the CEC provided 2,146,518 pounds of food to the community, translating to approximately \$3,649,081 in economic relief for 29,653 struggling households.

This year, we are on track to break every record in our organization's history for food service. As of July, we have served 20,759 households with 1,681,645 pounds of food. At the current salvage value of food, that equates to an economic impact of \$3,228,758 for our community—and we estimate this number will double by the end of the year.

### **A Call for City Support**

To continue meeting the growing demand and effectively serve our community, we need the city's support in providing adequate storage. The addition of these two shipping containers would not only help us meet immediate needs but also position us for future growth as we strive to serve even more families and children in North Richland Hills.

In that respect, we have a grant with will pay for both containers. But we only have until December of 2024 to make this purchase before the grant terms expire. We would like to move on this incredible opportunity to increase how we serve families in need here in North Richland Hills.

We humbly request that the city consider our request for these containers as a vital contribution to the well-being of our community. Your support will empower us to continue our mission of providing relief, hope, and resources to those who need it most.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to your positive response and to the continued partnership between the CEC and the city of North Richland Hills.

Warm regards,

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