

Pantex NEWS

MAINTAINING THE SAFETY, SECURITY AND RELIABILITY OF AMERICA'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS STOCKPILE

Contact: Laura Bailey
(806) 477-3794

July 22, 2010

Pantex Employees Bust Food Drive Goal

Friendly Competition with Sister Site Benefits High Plains Food Bank

Pantex employees donated more than \$10,000 and 1,000 pounds of pounds of food to help stock the shelves of the High Plains Food Bank during an on-site food drive held July 1-16 in honor of the nationwide Feds Feed Families program. The Food Bank can convert the monetary donations into approximately 50,000 pounds of food. Pantex's original goal was 15,000 pounds.

The drive began as a friendly competition between the National Nuclear Security Administration's Pantex Plant in Amarillo, Texas, and the Y-12 complex in Oak Ridge, Tenn. It was designed to bring in as many donations as quickly as possible to help local food banks during the summer months. Pantex will continue to accept donations throughout the entire Feds Feed Families campaign, which ends September 7.

"The result of the food drive is just phenomenal," said Steve Erhart, Pantex Site Office Manager. "Pantexans are known for their generosity and have proven many times over that they are willing to help whenever possible. We organized the drive very quickly, sent out the request; and the employees began giving immediately. We still have donations coming in."

Erhart added, "Feds Feed Families is an opportunity for all federal employees to give back to their communities and to provide help where it is needed most. The national campaign ends September 7, so there is still time for federal employees in the Texas Panhandle to participate. "

John Woolery, B&W Pantex General Manager, said, "We were more than willing to accept Y-12's challenge. It provided a fun incentive for our employees, but the real winners are the High Plains Food Bank and the families it supports. This was our first year to conduct a drive, but I believe we will make this an annual event."

Pantex worked closely with the High Plains Food Bank to ensure a successful drive. Employees were able to give grocery items or make a monetary donation by cash or payroll deduction. The food bank, which can turn a \$1 donation into \$12 of food, said that every \$1 donated equals five pounds. All monetary donations were converted into pounds for the competition. Y-12 is still collecting donations.

You can learn more about the Feds Feed Families campaign at <http://www.fedsfeedfamilies.gov/>.

B&W Pantex manages and operates the Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas, for the U.S. Department of Energy's National Nuclear Security Administration. B&W Pantex is a proud recipient of the DOE's Voluntary Protection Program STAR status for safety excellence. The company was also named one of America's safest companies by Occupational Hazards magazine and has received numerous awards from the National Safety Council.

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