



Hays County Food Bank
220 Herndon St.
San Marcos, TX 78666
(512) 392-8300
www.haysfoodbank.org

NEWS RELEASE

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

A SECOND CHANCE LEADS TO A FIRST HARVEST

Hays County, TX – May 24, 2017

The Management & Training Corporation (MTC) at Kyle Correctional Center (KCC) believes that everyone should have a second chance at being a productive member of society. During their final six months at KCC, offenders learn how to give instead of a take, which can be vital to their overall happiness and success.



Top row: Pete Gilliland, Norman Holley Jr., Zane Diggles

Middle row: Rudolph Rendon, Scott Denney, Kevin Matthews, Steven Schuyler

Bottom row: John Webb, Billy Young, Shayne Inglis

Each year, KCC comes up with a new way to positively impact their facility through MTC's Impact Innovation Program. Warden Deanna Branham and Principal Robert Deckard recently proposed a community garden. It will allow offenders to learn transferrable skills while cultivating produce and donating it to Hays County Food Bank. The new garden also helps reduce waste from meal times, since leftover foods can be used for compost. The garden broke ground on February 3rd of this year. Kyle Rotary Club helped with start-up by providing

many of the seeds. The KCC set a lofty goal of donating 10,000 pounds of produce by December 30th. Principal Deckard says "whether we meet our goal is pretty academic at this point. The men are already seeing the parallel between working to improve the land and working to improve themselves."



Serving hungry people in Hays County since 1984.

Scott Denney is one offender who is completing his community service by caring for the new community garden. He was working on becoming a Horticulture Technician before his life went in a different direction. He has enjoyed being able to take on a guiding role in the garden. When asked about his experience, he says he likes getting “back to nature and harvesting a productive resource to feed others.”

The KCC’s first harvest was donated in April, and since then, they have donated 661 pounds of produce. Hays County Food Bank and its clients are looking forward to all of the onions, potatoes, squash, sweet potatoes, watermelon, cucumber, and pole beans that are to come! Partnerships like these help ensure that low income Hays County residents have access to the nutritious, whole foods necessary for a well-balanced diet.

In 2016, Hays County Food Bank and its 20+ partner agencies distributed 679,456 pounds of food to an average of 8,500 food insecure residents each month. These residents were senior citizens, children, and many others facing economic challenges. "Food insecurity" refers to the availability of food and one's access to it. Hays County Food Bank is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit haysfoodbank.org or visit us on Facebook or Twitter at @HaysFoodBank.

Press Contact:

Mallory Raschke | Communications Coordinator | Hays County Food Bank

P: [512 392-8300, x 226](tel:5123928300) | E: mrashcke@haysfoodbank.org | www.haysfoodbank.org

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