



**2020**

**CACTUS CARES**  
**ANNUAL**  
**REPORT**

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# CACTUS

## CARES

**In 2020, more than 54 million people may experience food insecurity, including potentially 18 million children in the United States.**



According to Feeding America, every community in the United States has families who struggle with food insecurity. In 2020, 18 million children do not know where their next meal is coming from. This means that 1 in every 4 kids in the country is impacted by food insecurity.

Cactus Cares has stepped in to try to help fill the gap in communities where our family, friends, and neighbors live and work.

# Who is Cactus Cares?

Cactus Cares is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, thoughtfully founded, underwritten and supported by 100% employee-owned Cactus Feeders

## Mission

Cactus Cares is a 501(c)(3) non-profit committed to feeding a hungry world, starting with family, friends, and neighbors in our own communities across the United States. We collaborate with local-level foundations and institutions to ensure a more sus-

tainable source of food for the long-term. Whether it's providing ongoing support for local food pantries, direct donations of beef and pork, setting up and facilitating grants and scholarships for college- or tech-bound youth, or even mentoring others to be better leaders in their own communities, tangibly improving the well-being of those we serve is at the core of our care.



## Values

Within our local communities, Cactus Cares focuses on four pillars of support: Hunger Relief, Scholarships & Education, Leadership, and Renewal.

## Impact



90,000 lbs. donated



360,000 servings donated



21,000 families reached

# ● Executive Director's Letter

**Dear Stakeholders,**

*We are just getting started and I am excited to see what the future holds!*



**2020 was a significant year for Cactus Cares by donating over 90,000 pounds of beef and pork to our local communities.**

This is a testament to our employee-owners and partnership organizations. Their hard work has equipped Cactus Cares to address food insecurity in our communities. Over the past few months, I have had the privilege of traveling to each of our locations to tell the story about what Cactus Cares is and how you can get involved.

2020 was an unprecedented year in many ways and for Cactus Cares that was no exception. This year, we were able to set new milestones in our food donations in large part thanks to our university partners. Also, we were able to award over \$55,000 in scholarships to 30 of our employees or their families for the 2020-2021 school year.

The question is...what comes next? This year we have been hard at work creating

our 2021 strategic plan and we feel that we have a great road map for expanding on our success in 2020 and setting the course for the future. We will work to continue to expand feeding programs especially in Iowa, South Carolina, and Georgia; to enhance our employee-owners involvement through increased volunteer opportunities, employee-owner led committees, and supporting our employee-owners in telling the Cactus Cares story.

We are just getting started and I am excited to see what the future holds for Cactus Cares!

Sincerely,

Wayne Craig  
Executive Director

# ● COVID-19 Response



**82,000 lbs.**



**16,400 families**

According to the High Plains Food Bank, requests for food assistance have increased nearly 20-fold throughout the Panhandle network since mid-March. In response to this increase, Cactus Cares is proud to have partnered with the local agriculture community and Hillside Christian Church to host multiple Pop-Up Food Pantries to help get high quality food into the homes of individuals who need it. The first pop-up pantry was hosted in Amarillo, Texas on May 8th. We are proud that thanks to our partnership with Caviness Beef Packers, all 2,000 recipients received five pounds of ground beef. In addition, each recipient received a dozen eggs, a pound of cheese, two gallons of milk, and five pounds of potatoes all donated by the local agriculture community. On May 30th, we hosted our second pop-up pantry in Levelland, Texas. Here, 500 families received packs of food including five pounds of ground beef supplied by Cactus Cares and our partner, Red Raider Meats. The third pop-up pantry occurred on Saturday, June 13th, where 2,000 families in Lubbock, Texas received food packs including five pounds of ground beef. “When the agriculture community recognizes a need, they find a way to respond,” said Wayne Craig, Executive Director of Cactus Cares. “Each of our industries has a commitment to serve our community, and this is just one way we can reach out and help our neighbors.” Since these three pop-up pantries, Cactus Cares has partnered with Raider Red Meats and Hillside Christian Church to pass out food packs, including five pounds of ground beef, in local pop-up pantries every week since May. In total, Cactus Cares has donated 82,000 pounds of ground beef to help feed 16,400 families in our local communities.





# World Food Prize

**Each year, 200 exceptional high school students from around the world are selected to participate in the Global Youth Institute hosted by the World Food Prize Foundation. This year, Cactus Cares was honored to be a sponsor and speaker for the event.**

Typically the Global Youth Institute is a three-day conference hosted in Des Moines, Iowa. However, this year the event was converted to a virtual platform. On Friday, October 9th, Wayne Craig and Shelby Padgett had the opportunity to present during the live event kick-off. This presentation included a video module on food insecurity. The module discussed the issue of hunger in schools in the United States, how weekend backpack programs and the role that Cactus Cares has played in helping to combat weekend hunger in our local communities. In addition, the module



challenged each of the students to create recipes using only items found in a weekend backpack program and to identify additional food items that should be offered in a weekend backpack program. The module included a workbook for the students to complete created by Cactus Cares. All resources including the module and workbook were posted for the participants to review throughout the entire conference.

Cactus Cares was also the sponsor of the Conference in a Box. With the conference transitioning to virtual, the World Food Prize decided to create a box of all the materials that the students would need to complete the conference. The boxes were then mailed to each participant and featured the conference and Cactus Cares logo.





# Partnerships

*Cactus Cares collaborates with local-level foundations and institutions to ensure a more sustainable source of food for the long-term.*

**In 2020, Cactus Cares had the opportunity to partner with numerous world-class operations focused on tangibly improving the communities where our family, friends, and neighbors are located. This annual report highlights some of these partnerships.**



## Eastridge Mission Center

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Eastridge Mission Center (EMC) is an organization focused on bettering the Eastridge Community. This community is found in Northeast Amarillo. We began our partnership with Eastridge Mission Center as a supplier of protein for their “Kids Café”- a feeding opportunity where kids can come afterschool to receive nourishment. Our partnership expanded during the coronavirus pandemic when EMC began to put together food boxes for people in their local community. The food boxes were delivered to local residents during the heart of the pandemic from March – May. During this time, Cactus Cares provided 1,200 lbs. of ground beef for inclusion in these food boxes.

## Sharing Hope

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Sharing Hope is an organization in Amarillo, TX that serves women who have just been released from prison. At Sharing Hope, women are taught life lessons such as how to grocery shop and cook for their family. Cactus Cares has worked with Sharing Hope to make sure that their food pantry is stocked with protein options.





## Eagle Market

Eagle Market is a student run high school Snack Shack program in Hugoton, Kansas. These high school students pack weekend food bags for their fellow classmates. Cactus Cares is proud to have helped provide leadership in the creation of this program and our continued support includes supplying beef sticks for the bags.



## Emi's Color Shoot

Emi's Color Shoot is a sporting clays event in Amarillo, Texas to provide support and awareness to the Texas Scottish Rite Hospital for Children. This shoot is led by multiple Cactus employees and Cactus Cares is honored to support the shoot each year in a variety of ways.



## Amarillo Police Department

In July, we were excited to be a participant in the Amarillo Police Department Appreciation Day. As officers came off of their shift, they all received a package of steaks from Cactus thanking them for their hard work in our community. These steaks were sourced from WTAMU.



## Hamilton County Pork Producers

Cactus Cares was proud to sponsor the banner for the Hamilton County Fair Reserve Grand Champion Lightweight Commercial Gilt.



## Heal the City

Heal the City is a program in Amarillo focused on providing for the medical needs of the uninsured while connecting them to existing community resources. This includes access to nutritious foods. Cactus Cares has worked with HTC to provide high quality protein for their food pantry for senior citizens.



## VFW 1474

During the VFW 1474's food drive, Cactus Cares donated 300 pounds of ground beef to their cause. The ground beef was sourced through West Texas A&M as part of the Cactus Cares University Meat Lab Program.



## Snack Pak 4 Kids

Snack Pak 4 Kids (SP4K) was one of the first organizations that Cactus partnered with in the fight against weekend hunger. Today, we still partner with SP4K as well as their Senior Shack program. We have helped seed SP4K programs in the following communities: Abernathy, Hereford, Hale Center, Fritch, Plainview, Spearman, River Road, Dumas, Stratford, and Kress.



## Pass the Pork

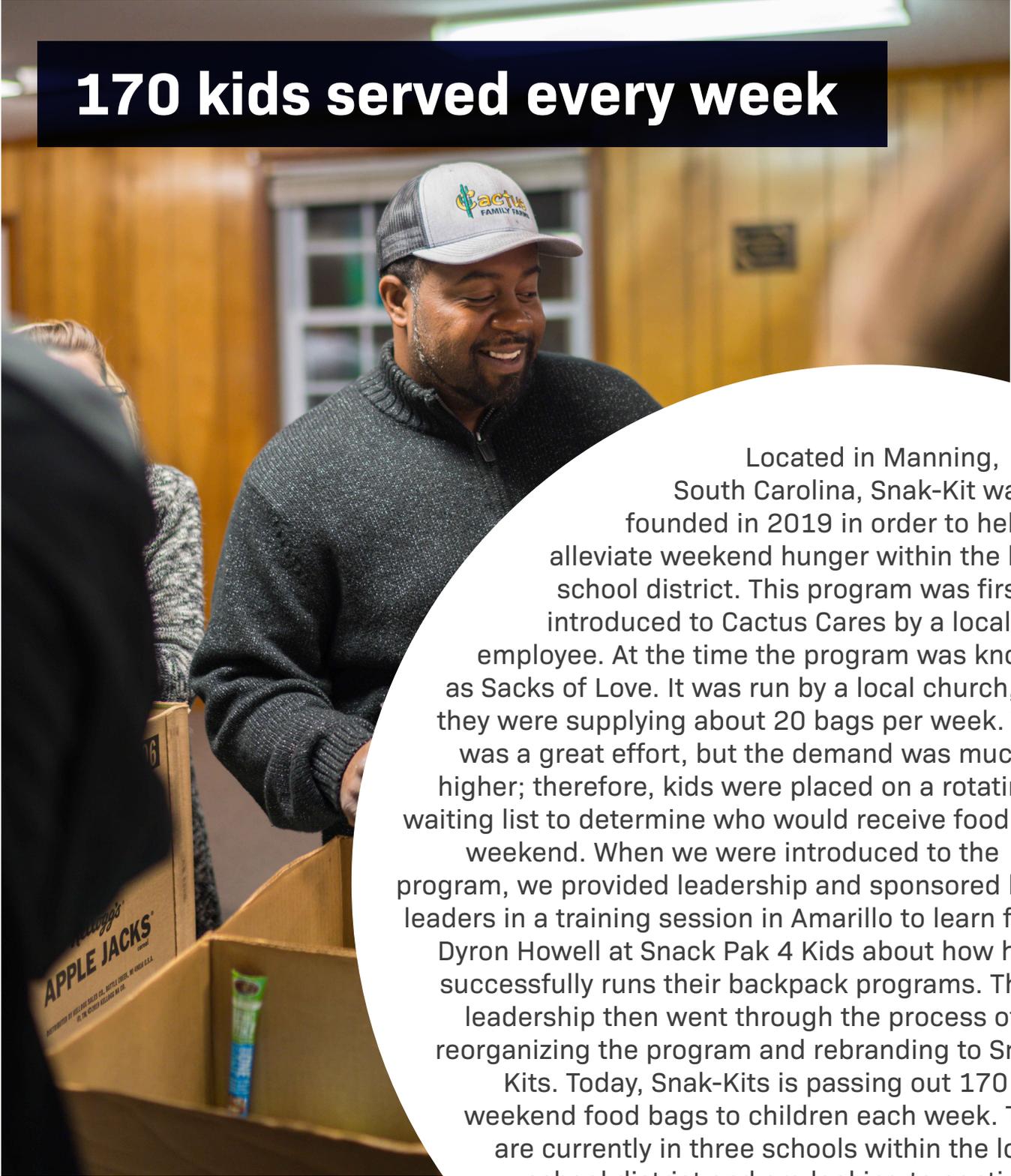
Pass the Pork was an initiative by the Iowa Pork Producers Association and the Iowa Food Bank to help Iowa pig farmers donate pigs to Iowa Food Bank feeding programs. Cactus Cares was proud to participate in this local program.



# SNAK-KITS

Snak-Kit is a local organization committed to providing weekend food items to help decrease hunger, so school-age children can focus on their learning.

**170 kids served every week**



Located in Manning, South Carolina, Snak-Kit was founded in 2019 in order to help alleviate weekend hunger within the local school district. This program was first introduced to Cactus Cares by a local employee. At the time the program was known as Sacks of Love. It was run by a local church, and they were supplying about 20 bags per week. This was a great effort, but the demand was much higher; therefore, kids were placed on a rotating waiting list to determine who would receive food that weekend. When we were introduced to the program, we provided leadership and sponsored local leaders in a training session in Amarillo to learn from Dyron Howell at Snack Pak 4 Kids about how he successfully runs their backpack programs. The leadership then went through the process of reorganizing the program and rebranding to Snak-Kits. Today, Snak-Kits is passing out 170 weekend food bags to children each week. They are currently in three schools within the local school district and are looking to continue expanding in the 2020-2021 school year.



# University Meat Lab Programs

## What is the program?

The Cactus Cares University Meat Lab Program was started in March 2020 when we began sourcing ground beef from the West Texas A&M Meat Lab-Doc's Prime Cuts. In this program, we purchase ground beef and ground pork from the University Meat Laboratory and donate the product to local food pantries and other organizations.

**Over 80,000 lbs. sourced in 2020**



**\$175,000 to support Ag. Education**

## Multiplication Effect

This creates a multiplication effect- we are able to support both agricultural education and food pantries using the same dollar. The program started with WTAMU and has since expanded to also include Texas Tech University, Texas A&M University, and Iowa State University.

✓ **Over 240,000 servings have been donated**

✓ **Supplies around 15 local organizations with meat**

✓ **Continuing to expand in 2021**

**Over 17,000 families reached**

# Doc's Prime Cuts

**4,200**

**pounds purchased for local  
feeding initiatives since March  
2020**

## West Texas A&M University

West Texas A&M University was the first meat laboratory we partnered with, and it has remained one of our strongest partners. This year, we sourced 4,200 pounds of meat from Doc's Prime Cuts. This meat was used to serve 11 different organizations in the Texas Panhandle area.



These organizations include Eastridge Mission Center, Heal The City, VFW 1474, Amarillo Police Department, Sharing Hope, Acts Community Center, and Project Hope in Hugoton, Kansas. Through Doc's Prime Cuts, we are also able to make sure the on campus food pantry has access to high quality protein.



**73,000**  
 pounds purchased for local  
 feeding initiatives since June  
 2020

### Texas Tech University

Texas Tech University was the second university that joined our University Meat Lab program. Texas Tech joined us during our Pop-Up Pantries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Texas Tech worked with Cactus Cares to supply 73,000 pounds of ground beef to close to 14,500 families. The first Cactus Cares- Texas Tech pop-up pantry occurred in Levelland, Texas in May.

Since then, a local church has stepped in to continue doing pop-up pantries every week and will continue through the end of the year. We have worked with Texas Tech to ensure that each recipient of the pop-up pantry has received approximately 5 pounds of ground beef for their family.



**TEXAS TECH**  
 UNIVERSITY.



**3,000**  
pounds purchased for local  
feeding initiatives since August  
2020

## Iowa State University

In July, we were excited to have the opportunity to expand our University Meat Lab program into Iowa through a partnership with Iowa State University. Since August, we have sourced 3,000 pounds of ground beef and ground pork for local food pantries. In August, a large derecho wind storm tore through Iowa and caused extensive damage.



Thanks to our partnership with Iowa State, we were able to source 1,700 pounds of ground beef and ground pork and was delivered to Linn County, one of the hardest hit counties by this once in a century storm. We are also honored that Cactus Operations experts have had the opportunity to speak directly to Iowa State University students through Block & Bridle club meetings.



**300**

**pounds purchased for local  
feeding initiatives since  
October 2020**

## **Texas A&M University**

The final university to join our University Meat Lab program in 2020 was Texas A&M University. Just since October, Texas A&M has worked with Cactus Cares to supply 300 pounds to the local, on-campus food pantry called the 12th Can. This is a student-run food pantry for fellow students and staff. Prior to partnering with the 12th Can, the only protein options offered to these students and staff were canned or shelf-stable proteins.



To amplify this partnership we have joined forces with the Texas A&M Meat Science and Technology club. We are enthusiastic that this has provided Cactus Operations experts the opportunity to speak directly to Texas A&M University students through their club meetings.

# Scholarship Winners

For the 2020-2021 school year, Cactus Cares awarded over \$55,000 to 30 students attending technical or post-secondary school, 100% of all scholarship winners are Cactus employees or their family members.



**Alondra Meixueiro**

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Canyon, TX  
Tarleton State University  
M.S. in Human Resource  
Management



**Ashley Wille**

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Algona, IA  
University of Northern Iowa  
Theater Design & Production  
and Art Minor



**Bradley Ungles**

---

Satanta, KS  
Kansas State University  
Master of Divinity



**Brandalyn Ellis**

---

Clarendon, TX  
Texas A&M University  
Nutrition



**Bryson Hervol**

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Waverly, IA  
Iowa State University  
Agriculture Engineering



**Cody Jones**

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Traer, IA  
Hawkeye Community College  
Agriculture Power Technology

# Scholarship Winners

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**Dylan McAlexander**

---

Ellston, IA  
Southwestern Community  
College  
Secondary Education- History



**Isaac Patterson**

---

Stratford, IA  
Iowa State University  
Accounting/Finance



**Jackson Leman**

---

Webster City, IA  
Iowa State University  
Industrial Engineering



**Jenna Mayer**

---

Bushland, TX  
West Texas A&M University  
Animal Science



**Jessica Frasher**

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Anamosa, IA  
Kirkwood Community College  
Dental Hygiene



**Jordan McAlexander**

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Ellston, IA  
Simpson College  
Graphic Design

# Scholarship Winners

For the 2020-2021 school year, Cactus Cares awarded over \$55,000 to 30 students attending technical or post-secondary school, 100% of all scholarship winners are Cactus employees or their family members.



**Kala Turner**

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Amarillo, TX  
Texas Tech University  
Biology with Chemistry &  
Spanish minors



**Kate Ahler**

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Fort Dodge, IA  
Iowa State University  
Dietetics



**Kattiana Wille**

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Algona, IA  
Minnesota State University,  
Mankato  
Dental Hygiene with Dance  
minor



**Koy Shields**

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Canyon, TX  
West Texas A&M University  
Agriculture Business



**Lauren Mayer**

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Bushland, TX  
West Texas A&M University  
Masters in Animal Science



**Macy Heine**

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Rosanky, TX  
Texas A&M University  
Masters Animal Science-  
Ruminant Nutrition

# Scholarship Winners

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**Makenzie Mendez**

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Amarillo, TX  
Eastern New Mexico State  
Physical Education-  
Recreational Sports



**Marelyn Martinez-Nateras**

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Macomb, IL  
Spoon River College  
Communication



**Maria Eizmendi**

---

Urbandale, IA  
Iowa State University  
Animal Science-  
Pre-Veterinary Medicine



**Matalée Fangman**

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Lubbock, TX  
Texas Tech University  
Public Relations



**Matthew Chancia**

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Amarillo, TX  
Drury University  
Architecture



**Michael Chancia**

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Canyon, TX  
West Texas A&M University  
Social Work

# Scholarship Winners

For the 2020-2021 school year, Cactus Cares awarded over \$55,000 to 30 students attending technical or post-secondary school, 100% of all scholarship winners are Cactus employees or their family members.



**Rachel Cook**

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Canyon, TX  
Tarleton State University  
M.S. in Human Resource  
Management



**Rebecca Cook**

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Amarillo, TX  
West Texas A&M University  
Accounting



**Ryan Smith**

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Canyon, TX  
Texas A&M University  
Interdisciplinary Engineering



**Shay Hess**

---

Canyon, TX  
Oklahoma State University  
Agriculture Business



**Shaylee Audrain**

---

Stratford, TX  
Oklahoma Panhandle  
State University  
Nursing



**Stephanie Hernandez**

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Plainview, TX  
West Texas A&M University  
Health Sciences-  
Pre-Pharmacy

# ● Scholarship Winners

*Cactus Cares has also partnered with universities to support the following scholarships:*



## **TAMU Cactus Feeders Scholarship**

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This year the inaugural Cactus Feeders Scholarship & Internship was created at Texas A&M University. This year's recipient was Genevieve D'Souza.

"Receiving the Cactus Feeders Scholarship is a great honor and an outstanding opportunity for me. The internship will supplement my education and training from Dr. Tedeschi by exposing me to nutritional management of a large cattle and swine operation," said D'Souza. "I aspire to become a feedlot nutritionist and this internship will allow me to take another step closer to my goal. I am beyond grateful to be selected as the inaugural recipient of the Cactus Feeders Scholarship!"

## **WTAMU Department of Agriculture Travel Scholarship**

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This year Cactus Cares was also proud to help sponsor the WTAMU Department of Agriculture Travel scholarship by participating in their fundraiser. This fundraiser helps students have the opportunity to learn more about international agriculture by experiencing it first hand and positively impact the lives of students who take advantage of this once in a lifetime opportunity.



# Future Plans

## Increase Communication

Over the next year we would like to increase communication to the employee-owners. The first step to this was completing the introductory employee rollouts to all locations. Moving forward we would like to increase communication through newsletters and periodic updates to all owners.

## Expand Programs

In 2021, we would like to increase the presence of our feeding programs in Iowa and the Southeast regions. This includes working to increase the number of food pantries that have access to protein in our local communities.

## Form Advisory Committee

In 2021, we are excited to kick off our Advisory Committee. This will be a committee made up entirely of employee-owners. This committee will be given a budget and will get to dictate how Cactus Cares uses those dollars in support of our mission. If you are interested in serving on this committee, please contact our staff.

## Meat Lab Programs

We are also looking to expand our University Meat Lab program to encompass more universities across the country. We are excited to continue to pursue this project due to the multiplication effect. In this program, one dollar is able to support both food pantries and Agriculture Education programs.

**Thank you to our generous donors that make this great work possible!**





**A**

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