# **IBAT BEST OF COMMUNITY BANKING AWARDS** COMMUNITY SERVICE CATEGORY

# LEGEND BANK Cooking Events FOR OUR CUSTOMERS & COMMUNITIES

Legend Bank has a long history of supporting our communities through involvement in local boards, organizations, chambers, non-profits and local assistance efforts. One of the ways that we elevate this level of support is through our cooking events.

We've been known for doing cooking events throughout our history and in 2001 we took it to the next level by designing and building a custom-made cooker. We have used this cooker to go on-site for customer appreciation events, events to support local non-profits and community organizations as well as those in need in our communities and our first responders.

Our specialty is ribs. We can cook up to 44 sides of ribs and feed up to 200 people. Restaurateurs and foodies have commented on how delicious the ribs are. We also serve some of the best pinto beans you've ever tasted. Lately, we have developed a recipe for steak fingers that is very delicious!

There is a lot of work involved in planning and doing a cooking event. On the day of the event, our team is up at 4 am getting the cooker and meat ready for the occasion. Our team of bankers, lenders, branch presidents and even our CEO, President and board members, assist with these cooking events so it's a great opportunity for team-building and strengthening co-worker friendships and connections.

Additionally, through these events, we are able to expand our outreach, help our communities, assist those in need, and show our dedication and commitment to our customers and their success. This is a part of our culture and it has spread from our founding location in Bowie to other locations throughout the bank, even our newest locations in Cooper and Whitewright.

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# Recent Cooking Events: 2021

We are proud of the impact we are making in our communities by doing our cooking events. COVID slowed us down a little in 2020; however, things are returning to normal and we have been able to do some new cooking events that we haven't done in the past.

Sulphur Springs Health Fair – Jerimy Bell, our Cooper Branch President, SVP, helped cook over 250 hot dogs at this health fair for ages 55 and older. Free health screenings were offered at this event and well as health, insurance and medical equipment information was available.

Honey Grove Nursing and Rehab Center Community Give Back Event -This event was a special thank you to the Honey Grove community for their support of the Nursing and Rehab Center during the winter emergency in February. Jerimy Bell and local volunteers cooked meals for 500 attendees to show our support for the community who helped out during a tremendous time of need.

Sam Rayburn ISD Teacher Appreciation Event - our Bonham bankers, including Bill Yarbro, President, SVP of our Bonham branch as well as Garrett Amlin, Commercial Lender, SVP, smoked brisket and pork for tacos for the teachers. They provided meals for 75 teachers at this event to celebrate Teacher Appreciation Week.

Local Bonham Cancer Benefit – our Bonham bankers auctioned off a cookout to help raise money for a local young lady fighting her battle with cancer. This special event provided a multitude of opportunities to give back. The cookout auction item raised a lot of money for the cancer benefit. It was purchased by an out-of-town family planning a rehearsal dinner, which was a big help to them and a special way to celebrate this important occasion. Our team made enough to take dinner to the local firefighters working nearby to show appreciation for the sacrifices they make to protect our community.

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## Recent Cooking Events: 2021 (cont.)

North Lamar Pantherettes – To show our support for the North Lamar Pantherettes Softball Team's fundraiser for their playoff run, Jerimy Bell and local volunteers cooked over 200 hamburgers for the hamburger fundraiser. The senior players were also honored at this special event. Jerimy encourages his son, Cooper, to get involved and help with these events so that he can learn, at a young age, the importance of serving his community.

Spring Lake Assisted Living & Memory Care Prom – This facility in Paris, Texas hosted a beautiful prom for their residents before Valentine's Day. They went all-out with the decorations for this amazing celebration! Their residents dressed up and got their nails done to enjoy a steak dinner, cooked by Jerimy Bell, his son Cooper and local volunteers. To make this happen, they had to brave the cold outside. They cooked 60 steaks for this memorable occasion! This has become an annual cooking event for us. In 2020, Jerimy and others cooked 80 steaks for the resident's Valentine's Day dinner. That's what we like to call "Sharing the Legend Love".





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# **Previous Cooking Events**

Red River Valley Veterans Memorial - Jerimy Bell cooked 660 burgers for the Red River Valley Veterans Memorial "Burgers, Beverages & Music" event with the help of his local volunteers. The Red River Valley Veterans Memorial is very special. There is a "Ring of Honor" made of granite walls with the names of the veterans who are from the Red River Valley Area (Lamar, Fannin, Red River, Delta Counties in Texas & Choctaw, County in Oklahoma) that gave the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country in a war zone.

Fontanelle Hybrids Annual Customer Appreciation Day – We are so grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation for our customer, Mark Hartman and his family. We always enjoy being a part of his annual Fontanelle Hybrids Customer Appreciation Day in Stratford! Our bankers, Reid Winger, Western Center Branch President, SVP, Jeff Brooks, Chief Lending Officer, EVP, Garrett Amlin and Bill Yarbro have provided and cooked ribs, homemade steak fingers and gravy, fries and Bill Yarbro's special beans at these special events in the past.

2K Pawn Customer Appreciation Event - Every year, Bret Meekins, President of the Bowie Branch, EVP and Brennan Williams, President of the Decatur Branch, SVP along with other Legend Bankers cook burgers for customer 2K Pawn at their annual customer appreciation event. This event raises money for the Wise Choices Pregnancy Resource Center.

Lamar County Meals on Wheels – Jerimy Bell, along with many volunteers have cooked and prepared Christmas Meals for Lamar County Meals on Wheels. This was such a special way to share the Christmas spirit.

Tour de Paris Bicycle Rally - Jerimy Bell and local volunteers from the Lamar County Chamber of Commerce, cooked 1,200 hamburgers for the 35th Annual Tour de Paris Bicycle Rally. That's what we call 'Banking and Burgers'!

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## Previous Cooking Events (cont.)

Feeding Fannin – In Fannin County, the local food organization, Feeding Fannin, helps residents in need of getting groceries developed Tuesday Super Supper. These Super Supper events provide a meal to those in need, in Fannin County. Our bankers were proud to cook a hot dog supper for this event.

Fannin County Farm and Ranch Roundup – Prior to COVID restrictions, Bill Yarbro and the Bonham team prepared steak fingers from scratch, gravy and french fries for all of the farmers and ranchers at the annual Fannin County Farm and Ranch Roundup for the "Cowboy Hors D' Oeuvres" during "Grazing Hour". The event is hosted by Fannin County-Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and has included an Agribusiness Showcase with over 40 vendors for attendees to visit with about agriculture, livestock, land and homeowner needs. This has always been a special night for our Bonham team and a wonderful way for us to give back to the customers we serve. The 2018 dinner is one we will never forget! During dinner while Bill was cooking, he noticed that Lisa Collinsworth, one of our former Bonham Bankers, was choking. He quickly jumped down from the trailer to help her. He did the Heimlich Maneuver to clear the blocked area and she was able to breathe again. Wow!! He's definitely 'More Than Just a Banker'.

Trident Process Systems' Annual Employee Appreciation event -Jeff Brooks and Bill Yarbro have cooked lunch for our customer, Trident Process Systems for their annual employee appreciation event.



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# Previous Cooking Events (cont.)

### Meals on Wheels with First United Methodist Church in Alvord -

Margaret Hunt, our Alvord Branch Manager, AVP, is an active volunteer and provider of meals for the Meals on Wheels families in Alvord. She works with the First United Methodist Church in Alvord to prepare and cook meals for those in need in the community. Her support involvement includes cooking meals, preparing, packaging and delivering them, in addition to special fundraising efforts as well as assistance with specific needs in the community.

Enloe State Bank Acquisition – When we acquired Enloe State Bank, we wanted to have a special event to welcome the customers to our family. We cooked and served hot dogs and hamburgers on-site at the branch during lunch, giving customers an opportunity to meet our bankers and learn more about Legend Bank.

Whitewright Welcome to the Family Cookout - When we acquired our Whitewright branch location, we welcomed the customers to the Legend Bank family with a hamburger and hot dog cookout. This special customer lunch allowed our new customers to meet our bankers and learn more about the history and mission of our bank. They could guickly see that "it's our privilege to serve" is not just something we say, it's engrained in who we are and that service to others is truly our priority. This cookout gave us a unique opportunity to show that we were honored to have the Whitewright customers bank with us.



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# Goals and Objectives

At the heart of all of our cooking events is the goal of helping others and showing our support. Specifically, the goals of our cooking events include:

- Show appreciation for customers through events where we bring the cooker and provide the meal.
- Help customers grow their business by providing food and cooking at their on-site events, like seminars hosted by our customers, for their customers.
- Sponsor local events and provide food for attendees.
- Congratulate local sports teams at schools in our communities by providing a meal cooked on-site.
- Provide a meal to those in need at our communities through local food banks.
- Display our appreciation for teachers, law enforcement and first responders by cooking for them or bringing by meals for them.

# Involvement of Bank Employees

When we have an opportunity to have a cooking event, we always have volunteers step up to get involved and help! Our bankers from the exec and board level throughout all positions at the branch volunteer to be a part of these events. Our core cooking team is usually made up of the following bankers.

- Bill Yarbro, Bonham Branch President, SVP, also known as the Iron Chef
- Jeff Brooks, Chief Lending Officer, EVP, also known as Fry Daddy
- Bret Meekins, West Regional President, EVP
- Mike Rigby, East Regional President, EVP, also known as *Fry Grandaddy*
- Jerimy Bell, Cooper Branch President, SVP
- Brandon Grooms, Whitewright Branch President, SVP
- Brennan Williams, Decatur Branch President, SVP
- Reid Winger, Western Center Branch President, SVP
- Garrett Amlin, Commercial Lender Bonham, SVP

Additional bankers, presidents and board members join as they can as well, including Mickey Faulconer, CEO and Jay Bearden, President.

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> We have been doing this for over 20 years and we truly feel it is our privilege to support our communities and customers in this way.



# Impact on the Community and Bank

The impact these cooking events have on our communities, customers and bank employees is immeasurable because so many are impacted by the time and resources invested in these events.

### EMPLOYEE IMPACT

Employees are impacted emotionally as they share their heart and talents to help those in need, in our communities or help to show appreciation for customers.

### CUSTOMER IMPACT

Our customers get the satisfaction of knowing that their bankers at Legend Bank are truly "More Than Just Bankers". We are here to help, to see them succeed and to celebrate that success every year by being a part of their special events and celebrations.

### COMMUNITY IMPACT

Our communities know they can rely on us to be there to help and provide a delicious meal when they need us.



