



TUESDAY, JANUARY 9, 2007

It is now only a few weeks past the time when your Food Bank's team trooped into its unbelievably cool new workplace. We've already learned to appreciate the greater ease and efficiency it has added to our on-the-job energy. Gone are the long, difficult days of moving food about to clear passageways to find workspace for a constantly shifting inventory.

The doubled up capacity of our new KFB Cargill Cares Complex has literally put our food operations on a clear track, with enough well-ordered space to allow unencumbered access to any HungerCare food stored there, no matter where, as well as straight-in and straight-out handling of it.

For all of this, the biggest bonus in our move is that the people who gave us the generous and uncompromising support that allowed us to make it happen came with the deal. We couldn't have done it without them. When we left our old facility to come to our grand new one, they all came along with us in our hearts and our minds and our plans for the future.

In broad strokes, those were the financial donors who support our operations, the hunger-relief agency-partners who distribute our HungerCare food, our fellow members and colleagues in America's Second Harvest, the Nation's Food Bank Network, who provide access to most of the food we bank, the news media and our friends in business and government who have helped us in countless, unclassifiable ways.

If we could, we would personally extend our everlasting gratitude to you and to each and every one on that list, as well as any that we might have missed. Since that is not possible, please remember that the officers and directors and the employee team of the Food Bank know full well how indispensable your help is. And how much we will need you with us for its unfolding future. Please plan now to share it with us.

Happy New Year!

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

AN EXTRA BIT OF CARING. We love to get food packages ready for delivery. Then they become dedicated HungerCare on the way to making life better for a food-insecure family or a child at risk of going hungry or an economically strapped senior missing meals to pay for prescriptions. Nothing could be more important to them or to us than to get the food where it will do the most good—and as quickly as possible.

That's why your Food Bank team will long and warmly remember the Kansas Gas Service employees and their family members who volunteered to take a busy day out of their own pressing holiday schedules and give those days to us to use freely any way we might choose.

Their assignment was to fill Christmas food boxes and to load food into backpacks used in our Food-4-Kids program. They quickly improvised an assembly line, got into rhythm and smiling all the way, filled 1,400 Christmas boxes and 2,800 back packs before the day was done, each and every one packed with an extra dollop of love and caring. A great job from some very special friends of the Food Bank.

LINKING UP – We continue to be amazed by the creativity employed by school kids in their zeal to help the poor and needy. One recent example is the "Charity Chain" project of Earhart Environmental Magnet Elementary School students: A competition between three divisions of the student body to raise funds for charity, one quarter at a time.

The rules were simple: Each student in each division was responsible on his or her own to bring in quarters; each of which was recognized by a paper link in the charitable chain. At the end of the contest, there were 2,190 links, totaling \$547.50, a handsome and heartfelt contribution to the Kansas Food Bank for which we could not be more touched or more grateful.

SPECIAL FRIENDS – Service projects are a tradition in Quaker schools where children learn the importance of giving back to the community. This tradition is alive and well in Wichita Friends School, which recently chose the Food Bank to be the beneficiary of one of its community-sharing projects.

The project was a food-raising contest between all classes—prekindergarten to sixth grade—to determine which could collect the most. The combined amount at the end of the contest was 388 pounds delivered to us by a happy band of kids celebrating the joy of giving with some unforgettable smiles. It was a grand and glorious win—a win for all involved!



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If you're new, we welcome you!

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