



TUESDAY, JULY 10, 2007

Even though the term Food Insecurity has been around for some time, not everyone "gets it." And that's OK. The truth of the matter is that it offers a better, more comprehensive way of describing the many faces of hunger that have emerged in Kansas and all across America.

Food security, as defined by common use is the consistent access to the food needed for an active, healthy life. By extension, food insecurity is the opposite of that definition; measured by degrees of severity down to serious levels of malnutrition.

In the broadest sense, food insecurity describes all who actually miss meals because of a lack of resources, as well as those who worry about missing them.

According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, going hungry and worrying about eminent prospects of going without the food they need now afflicts about 35 million Americans, 13 million of whom are children. On average, your Food Bank provides food assistance to 32,000 food-insecure Kansans every week.

We can only guess at the cost of food insecurity in terms of the loss of human energy and productivity. But any way you slice it, we all lose from what might have been.

Another example of the new language of hunger is emergency food assistance. This covers each and every one of the more than one and a half million times your Kansas Food Bank will intervene to stop hunger before it happens to the food insecure in Kansas in this one year alone. And it underscores the fact that calls for emergency food assistance are an ongoing responsibility of your Food Bank all year long, year after year.

Your help and encouragement empowers us to bring HungerCare to those who need it to enhance their food security and their health and well being. We continue to be grateful for that opportunity.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

WE SCRAMBLE WELL when we are called on to respond to an unpredictable disaster. When Greensburg was blown away, we were as shocked and appalled as everyone else. But we moved quickly and quietly into position to join other emergency relief organizations on the ground to do what needed to be done to ease the pain and suffering and losses of families still in a state of disbelief. At the same time, we continued doing everything that needed to be done to support our HungerCare mission here at home base.

Since we began our work in Greensburg, we have made 25 truck trips in and out of the disaster area, delivering an estimated 200,000 pounds of food and other relief supplies. And our willing help continues in Greensburg.

GREEN ACRES YOU DON'T HAVE TO HAVE to participate in the ongoing Plant-A-Row for the Hungry project. In fact, no acres at all are required. A plot, a pot or a post and trellis for climbers can produce surprisingly large harvests of tomatoes and other garden plantings, according to Kevin Enz who represents the Food Bank on the Plant-A-Row annual project in the Wichita area.

The harvest of fresh produce from both Plant-A-Row gardens and the yield of the Community Garden in Colwich sponsored by Community Lawn Care are expected to begin rolling in to pick-up stations and on to the Food Bank by mid-July. Last year's total yield brought in 10 tons of garden-fresh contributions to add to our inventory. With new and established Plant-A-Row people pitching in, it could be another trophy harvest. Refer to our website for drop-off locations in Wichita, Augusta and Colwich.

BRINGING HOPE TO THE TABLE, a special promotion to raise needed funds and food for hunger-relief, will be launched on July 15 by the Dillon Stores and carried on through July 28. The promotion will ask Dillon Store visitors to shop items marked with pink tags and to pay special attention to in-store advertising concerning the need to support hunger relief. Proceeds from the Dillon special promotions will help the Food Bank provide HungerCare to poor Kansas families. "Think Pink" July 15-28 and help a worthy cause!

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE and not a drop to drink. That was the situation following extraordinarily heavy rainfall that persisted over parts of Kansas in June. The unusual volume of rainfall caused widespread flooding across Central and Southeast sections of the state, knocking out some local water systems and driving inhabitants to higher ground. Your Food Bank answered the call by trucking in bottled water, a rare commodity in places virtually under water—without a drop to drink.

THERE'S NO PLACE LIKE OUR WORK PLACE At the midpoint in the first year of operations in our new Cargill Cares Complex, we find it to be everything we had hoped it would be.

Because it is a dedicated-by-design Food Bank facility, it anticipates our food-handling and storage needs in a way that builds in efficiency and safe working conditions. At this report, more than 2.6 million pounds of food have already been handled in our new HungerCare Headquarters!



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If you're new, we welcome you!

1919 E. Douglas, Wichita, KS 67211 Tel: 316-265-4421
Fax: 316-265-9747 E-mail: foodbankinfo@kansasfoodbank.org
Website: kansasfoodbank.org