



TUESDAY, AUGUST 14, 2007

OUR MISSION STATEMENT calls on us to "provide comprehensive and compassionate HungerCare whenever and wherever it is needed." And that's exactly what we expect to be doing every working day of the year as we provide HungerCare to poor working families and their children, low fixed-income senior citizens, the jobless, the urban homeless and the isolated rural poor.

It's a job that in one year alone will provide hope and help to an average of 30,000 food-insecure Kansans every week. But our responsibility does not end with only the emergency food assistance we are expected to provide.

When Mother Nature's restless and sometimes angry spirit sends a tornado or a flood our way, we must be prepared to overlay our expected work schedules with the unexpected work that must be added quickly, quietly and decisively to our ongoing daily duties.

This is, of course, a scenario of the way your Food Bank team responded to the unexpected disasters at Greensburg and soon thereafter to the flooded areas of Central and Southeast Kansas. In both of these disasters we were on the ground providing aid and assistance quickly and without fanfare wherever and whenever the needs were discovered. Then the entrepreneurial character of the Food Bank encouraged those on the team to find the best and most urgent use of our resources without question or delay.

In the meantime, other multi-tasked trained members of the team filled in for those in the field and the expected daily work continued as usual. In my judgment, your Food Bank team covered both the expected and the unexpected in these last several months with an impressive display of teamwork and a determined dedication to provide HungerCare "wherever and whenever it's needed."

I'm confident that a great amount of appreciation for their work will live on in the hearts of those who witnessed it both in Greensburg and Southeast Kansas.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

GEARING UP FOR KIDS – That is what 's going on at your Food Bank as we get ready for the fourth school year of our Food-4-Kids Backpack program.

The first big step is to have at least 10,000 packets filled with food and ready to be inserted into backpacks for the startup of the fall school term. This will provide participating schools with enough prepared backpacks to begin distribution as soon as students needing weekend food support have been identified.

Since there were 2,730 backpackers at the end of the spring school term, we can anticipate about 3,000 by the end of the fall term. By having 10,000 packets filled and on-the-ready, the program will be adequately supplied to go forward through September and well into October.

Filling each of these 10,000 packets with kid-friendly single-serve food items is no small task. But thanks to the willing hearts and helping hands of a great and growing number of volunteers of all ages, sizes and descriptions, the big job is being whittled down. Our confidence is growing that when school starts, the 10,000 packets will be ready and waiting for the program to get underway.



Cargill interns volunteer at KFB by sorting and assembling food into backpacks for the Food-4-Kids Backpack program.

All this underscores the importance of our Food Bank volunteers and the enormous contribution they make toward our mission. We simply could not do what we do by ourselves. And this need for volunteer support will continue throughout the school year.

A GOOD JOURNEY is being taken for the benefit of the Food Bank's Food-4-Kids Backpack Program by the parishioners of the Journey Church, a Christian community in Wichita. Led by Pastor Brent Thompson and his wife Patty, the congregation is engaged in an ongoing benevolence to gather approved food items for backpacks as well as cash and school supplies for additional support for Food-4-Kids programs.

The journey began at the Food Bank's spring Open House attended by the Thompsons who heard the story of the Backpack program during a tour of our facility. It so touched their hearts that they were driven to somehow participate. The rest, as they say, is history. And the good journey continues.

HARVEST TIME for the local area's Plant A Row project—an annual activity that collects fresh produce from both home gardeners and a community garden—is moving into full swing following a late start due to cooler, wetter weather in June and July. Your Food Bank supplies this food to hunger-relief agencies and they pass it along to food-insecure families throughout the greater Wichita area.

Last year, Plant A Row participants contributed more than 10 tons of garden produce to the Food Bank's store of perishable food. At this report, the KFB has received 8,204 pounds, and hope is still alive to at least match last year's record contribution.

Kevin Enz, Food Bank coordinator of the program, encourages all home gardeners to bring in the pride of their harvest. He guarantees it will be greatly appreciated.



AUGUST 14 2007, EDITION #25

If you're new, we welcome you!

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