



News and views from your Kansas Food Bank



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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11, 2011

A simple schematic of all the counties in Kansas resembles a giant checkerboard with 105 spaces. Our job is to make emergency hunger relief available and accessible in 85 of these Kansas counties. When you say it fast, it may not seem like so much, but it actually covers 73,000 square miles, which includes the state's most populous urban area and its least populated areas out west. KFB has one of the most diverse and challenging service area among our fellow food banks associated with Feeding America. It has, in fact, been a work in progress since the startup of KFB operations in 1984.

Today, the numbers indicate that we may have it very close to being just right. During last year, for example, we were able to move more than nine million pounds of food for HungerCare smoothly and cost-effectively into the hands of about 500 pantries, soup kitchens, shelters and schools participating in our Backpack program—to be taken the rest of the way to help alleviate suffering from food insecurity and actual hunger.

This record-breaking nine million pounds of food was double the amount of six years ago. More good news is that we now have more pantry partners and more on the way.

The great and indispensable force behind all this help is you along with all the countless other volunteers who provide the extra energy, strength, enthusiasm and resources to make it possible for the Kansas Food Bank to live up to its name. We simply could not continue to do what we do without our incredible team. Thanks to everyone.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO



GOOD GOING, GOVERNOR!

Both Governor elect Sam Brownback and Dr. Jeff Colyer, Lt. Governor elect, came to the Food Bank on Friday, January 8, to volunteer work time and encourage their fellow Kansans to do likewise in the nonprofits of their own choice. They worked hard and were successful in making their case at the same time. (Story and more photos continue on back of page.)

BACK PACK PROGRAM ZOOMS! At the mid-term Christmas break, all the numbers show significant growth and expansion among all key indicators. There are now 5,698 Backpack kids in 336 Kansas elementary and middle schools in 91 school districts. The upward trend has been a natural result stemming from discussions between participating school personnel and their colleagues in schools that don't have it.

The acceptance of the program in schools was illustrated when one transfer student asked, "Where do I pick up my Backpack food?" His new school had never heard about it. And when they did, they signed on. How's that for a really happy ending?

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT - Picking up pantry partners is the current best theme of the day. We are delighted to announce 17 new partners. Seven counties in the process of becoming a partner with us include Cheyenne, Decatur, Norton, Trego, Rice, Comanche and Chase.

Our 17 new partners include: Project Home - Hugoton • Isaiah's House - Ashland • Kiowa County Food Bank - Greensburg • Medicine Lodge Food Bank - Medicine Lodge • Stafford ministerial Alliance - Stafford • Helping Hands Ministry - Larned • Community Food Bank of Barton County - Great Bend • Mt Hope Sanctuary - McPherson • McPherson County Food Bank - McPherson • Genesis Thomas County - Colby • Bible Baptist Church - Goodland • Genesis Sherman County - Goodland • Lighthouse Baptist Church - Bloom • Attica Food Bank - Attica • Safe Haven - Parsons • Lebo Community Food Pantry - Lebo • McCune Church of the Nazarene - McCune

A renewal of partnership with Christian Food of Pratt became the icing on the cake. We warmly welcome them back. Our assistance has already gotten them help from the food-rescue programs of both Dillons and WalMart.

—Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager

BROWNBACK BOOSTS BACK-PACK PROGRAM AND "HEART OF KANSAS" PROJECT

Those who worked on the Food 4 Kids Backpack food assembly line last Friday got a close-up look at our Governor-elect hitting the road running.

Even before his inaugural, he was giving Kansans a sample of what to expect from one of the state's long established leaders. Back home now after a dozen years away in Washington, D.C. as a U.S. Senator, he was present at the Food Bank as part of the Heart of Kansas project, an activity designed to get greater numbers of Kansans even more involved in helping community service organizations.

The Food Bank was honored to be one of three such organizations selected to be part of the Governor's Heart of Kansas tour. His individual efforts packed food items into 1,536 bags.

Our thanks to Governor Brownback and Lt. Governor Colyer and all the other volunteers who participated in this very special activity.



(Top) Lt. Gov Jeff Colyer, Brian Walker, KFB CEO, and Governor Sam Brownback.



(Below) Candid shots of busy volunteers doing good work for a good cause.

