

Tuesday, January 8, 2013

It is hard to believe the New Year is already upon us. With that comes a renewed focus of providing missing meals to our neighbors in need.

Your Kansas Food Bank depends on generous donations from individuals, groups, and corporations to pursue our mission of feeding Kansas's hungry. These donations take many forms. They can be a one-time donation, a monthly commitment, or a bequest.

Organizations can give grants or organize workplace food or fund drives. There are countless ways that Kansans contribute each year to making our state a better place. And it is with this generous support that Your Kansas Food Bank is able to serve all or part of a meal to more than 32,000 Kansans each week.

Peoples' biggest misconception is that their donation won't go very far. They often think that a dollar won't make a difference, but nothing could be further from the truth. For every dollar donated, Your Kansas Food Bank can provide four meals to families in need. In 2012, we distributed over 9.6 million meals to children, families, and seniors in need of emergency food assistance.

Every dollar, every can of food, is one more step towards ending hunger in our community. We would like to offer a heartfelt Thank You to all of those whose donations make our work possible. Together, we continue to provide hope to families facing hunger.

Sincerely,
Brian Walker, President / CEO

Agency Spotlight – This month we want to acknowledge the hard work of Manna Ministry in Arkansas City, and the great work they've done to develop a community of strong supporters for the work they do. In addition to serving over 300 families each month at their pantry, one of the important tasks that they have risen to is grocery store rescue. In Arkansas City they have a Country Mart, Dillons, and Walmart and the folks at Manna Ministry have managed their relationship with these important donors very well. One of the struggles our agencies who participate in a grocery rescue program face is having enough refrigerator and freezer space to store the product they receive. Even though they had 10 dedicated freezers, they didn't have enough space to meet the need, and not nearly enough space for refrigerated perishables like produce and milk. Because of their hard work they managed this past year to buy and install a large walk-in cooler and freezer that has made a world of difference in their ability to continue to grow their program for their community. In 2012 they rescued over 88,000 lbs of food from the grocery stores in their community making them truly an agency worth our spotlight.

Holiday Food Drive Success – The giving season is a very busy time of year at Your Kansas Food Bank, and this year was no exception! Food drives during the holidays this year provided more than 667,617 meals to Kansans in need!

Hunger Study Agency Survey Complete – We are in the process of completing the 2014 Hunger in America study with Feeding America. This study, conducted every 4 years, is the largest study of its kind and produces the very best data on hunger in America and the impact it has on real families and their day-to-day lives. The study is done by all 202 food banks across the country, and this year involves over 45,000 hunger relief agencies (pantries, soup kitchens, shelters, etc.). The first phase of the study involves the completion of a very comprehensive survey by each of those agencies, gathering important information about how they operate, the services they provide in their communities, and the impact they have on families. We are proud to announce that we were in the top 8 food banks nationally who had 100% of their agencies complete this survey on-time, preparing us to move on to the next phase later this year. Phase two involves volunteers going out across the state and interviewing clients at our agencies to ask them about hunger and how it's impacted their family, and how agencies and the Food Bank are helping them to feed their family. If you are interested in being one of these volunteers, please contact us and ask to talk to Denise, our Hunger Study Coordinator.



If you want to see the results of the prior Hunger in America study, visit our website:
www.kansasfoodbank.org/hunger-statistics/

Food Bank Fun Fact – We are wrapping up processing all of the monetary donations we received in 2012, and so far we have processed 13,744 monetary donations from 7,114 of the very best Kansans who stepped up to the plate and helped out in the Fight to End Hunger!