

second helpings

News and views from your Kansas Food Bank

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Today your Food Bank headquarters is a finely-tuned state-wide distribution center.

However, having this super facility is only part of the story. Those who make it all it can and should be for the best interests of HungerCare in Kansas are members of the KFB Operations Team. They are the engine that drives the work of maintaining a healthy level of inventory in the warehouse, even while moving out nine million pounds of food last year. This ever ongoing balancing act was performed by our finely tuned multitasking group of KFB team members who, all together, bring 211 years of food industry experience to the job of identifying food sources, negotiating arrangements, storing, repacking, loading out orders for our pantry partners and attending to the drop off and pick up operations of a rural delivery system covering thousands of miles of our 85 county service territory. The majority of the present KFB staff members have been together for 12 years.

KFB Operations Manager Kevin Enz is responsible for overseeing and mentoring the 14 members of our Operations Team. Beyond the physical job of handling food that rolls in from Feeding America, local food drives, personal and group donations and our low-cost food purchases, Kevin coaches individual team efforts to keep the cost of operations to a minimum few pennies on the dollar. Thus far, the team is keeping it down to the lowest near-zero levels possible.

The quality and loyalty of the team clearly comes from the fact that they work together like a family—an extremely valuable asset of your Kansas Food Bank. And something worthy of the continuing confidence and encouragement of us all.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

FOOD BANK ORDERS OF THE DAY... begin at 8 a.m. and are received until 4 p.m. allowing time for the last ones to be processed and completed before the close of the facility. Order forms listing the inventory of items available for order are sent out to KFB Partner-Relief Agencies at the beginning of each month. In the case of new offerings available during the month, special bulletins are mailed. In each case, mailings are designed to be used as a return order form.

While order day is nearly always a very busy time at the Food Bank, certain days are busier than most others. There was one day in January, for instance, when the activity to get all the orders in and out rose to a fever pitch. Our order team began taking calls at 8 a.m. and did not stop until after 3 p.m. Even though some calls were backlogged for more than two hours, callers from the agencies were patient and waited their turn to be called back. There were some great items available on the shopping list and our HungerCare partners were eager to secure them.

The first order out was for 17,000 pounds. There were more than 100 calls for orders on that one day. It was a day that makes a big difference in what our partner agencies can do for the clients they serve. At the Food Bank, getting our pantry partners what they need is the natural order of the day we follow every working day of the year. —Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager

KFB "GOOD GUY" PASSES ON...

Robert "Bob" Gleeson, was a member of our Kansas Food Bank team from 2000 through 2009. He passed away on January 22, 2011, at the age of 55. Bob was known by one and all as a "really good guy" who cheerfully carried on his KFB warehouse duties for almost a decade, always showing a genuine passion for his part in helping the hungry. He will be warmly remembered for the friendly and helpful way he served his many hunger-relief agency friends.

Although small in stature, Bob consistently showed his big heart to those he served. He is survived by a daughter, Amber, four grandchildren and many brothers and sisters. Bob's many friends at the Food Bank will miss him. His life proves that good guys can really finish first.



Robert "Bob" Gleeson

SPEAKING OUT... KFB's Brian Walker and Debi Kreutzman served as keynote speakers at the Annual Meeting of the Central Prairie Resource and Development Organization on January 13 in Great Bend. Those attending were leaders from food pantries, community gardens and other related projects from eight Kansas counties. The subject, "How KFB Helps Kansas Communities," was received with great interest. That's called "putting your best foot forward." And we are ready for the next opportunity.