



News and views from your Kansas Food Bank



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One of the truly great joys of working at the Kansas Food Bank is the wonderful people we get to meet. These are the special people who dedicate time, treasure and team spirit to allow us to go far beyond what we can accomplish on our own. The strength they bring to complement our own is rich in both experience and diversity. No "one-size-fits-all" can describe them. They come from every background, work in countless kinds of occupations, represent ages from kids to senior citizens and include men and women with dozens of differences in their ethnicity, education, social position and cultural identity.

To us, though, they are kind and generous people who simply want to help other people in urgent need of food. In my judgment, readers of *Second Helpings* perfectly fit that profile, which makes them, and you, fully qualified partners in the work and the mission of the Kansas Food Bank.

As you probably know from reports in this monthly publication, and from other sources as well, the size and scope of our Food Bank's mission has more than doubled over the last six years. We have hundreds of "pantry partners" in our 85 Kansas county service area. Our Food 4 Kids Backpack program is positioned to send weekend food home with more than 5,700 Kansas elementary and middle school kids every Friday of the school year. We're now on the path of distributing ten million pounds of food for HungerCare in a single year.

It is no secret that KFB partners, like you, have been along with us on our extended journey to stop hunger in Kansas every step of the way. Your Food Bank is stronger and more resourceful today than during any other time of its history. Credit for a huge share of what we have accomplished belongs to our partners. Thanks to one and all.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

HELPING HEARTS & HANDS...

A dozen students from Wichita State University School of Nursing recently worked at record speed to assemble food packets for our Backpack program. As nurses do, they put both hearts and hands into their work.

During their shift that lasted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., they completed 17 pallets loaded with 4,352 individual food packets; a super lion's share of the total packets needed for one week's distribution in the 366 elementary and middle schools of the 91 Kansas school districts now participating in the KFB Backpack program. In addition to their one-day total of finished packets, they left behind an unforgettable memory of a group of wonderful nurses-to-be who gave 100 percent of their helping hearts and hands to make life better for Kansas kids.



WOW! WHAT NICE KIDS! The children who participated in the WOW (Worship on Wednesday) program of El Dorado Christian Fellowship collected \$63.13 to donate to the Kansas Food Bank, a gift that was quickly put to good use. But the beautiful and generous spirit of those WOW kids will be remembered for a very long time.

GOING THE DISTANCE - We often talk about going the distance to serve our rural communities. Here is a case in point: Our furthest most spot, six hours away, has been added as a new Pantry Partner. The Cheyenne County Food Pantry in St. Francis has come on board with us. Their first delivery will be this month. Most recently, it was only an emergency pantry serving only those people who call for help.

This new relationship with KFB will allow them to expand their services to offer monthly support to those in need. Their goal is to raise awareness of this resource in their community and to increase volunteerism. —Debi Kreutzman

HOW WE FILL A FLAT



In last month's issue of *Second Helpings* we covered information about what happens at the time an agency calls in their order for supplies. Here is what happens after an actual order is printed out.

It all starts with a pallet on which the heaviest and non-food items are placed on the bottom. Then lighter items are layered on top. When filled, each loaded flat (pallet) is covered in a plastic wrap to hold the contents in place while being moved. After all of this, the completed order is nearly ready to travel to its final destination.

First, however, the flats are lined up on a first in, first out sequence as determined by order numbers which are in two groups: one for Rural Delivery and the other for pick up on the KFB loading dock at our Cargill Cares Complex.

Local area pick-up orders for frozen products are always the last to be filled so they will be out of the freezer for the least possible amount of time between pick up and destination.

On the other hand, frozen product orders for Rural Delivery must be packed 24 hours before scheduled to leave the warehouse. These pallets remain in the freezer until they are actually loaded in the trucks. The objective of the two veteran Food Bank operations team members responsible for filling orders around and about the several counties surrounding Wichita, as well as our Rural Delivery Program that covers a 2,000 mile drop off distribution route, is to get all orders filled quickly, accurately and fairly to the satisfaction of each and every one of their customers.

It's the last link in the chain that brings hunger-relief to those Kansans in most urgent need of it. It's the right thing to do.

—Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager

IN, OUT & ON TIME!

The two KFB Team members shown here, Tracey Bethely on the left and Robert Crump on the right, are the main order fillers at your Food Bank. They work simultaneously pulling orders for hunger-relief supplies from KFB Pantry Partners all across our 85 Kansas county service territory. Tracey, a 13-year veteran of KFB service, handles the challenging system-wide Rural Delivery Program, while Robert uses his 16-year KFB experience to get the pick-up parade for orders in the Greater Wichita area on their way.

In, out and on time is the way they measure their success on the job.

