



TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011

During 2010 your food bank purchased about 20% of the year's inventory of more than nine million pounds of food for hunger relief, an amount that also included a 72% increase in produce purchases. The cost was over \$1,380,000, more than one million dollars than was spent just five years ago in 2005.

Clearly, our large and growing food purchase program is here to stay. And with very good reason. It has become a strong and indispensable link to sources of highly nutritional food to help fulfill the need of food insecure Kansans. We work with vendors from California to Minnesota, to the Carolinas and everywhere inbetween. Working to get the right food at the right price to provide the right balance in volume, diversity and nutritional value to fill the Food Bank's agency partners needs, the search for food from KFB-linked sources steadily moves on through contacts with other Food Banks, Feeding America and a wide assortment of vendors, offering an equally wide choice of food items.

The purchased food that rolls in from these sources profoundly improves the way we conduct operations. We work hard to have enough of everything needed which makes purchased food a high priority strategy for supplementing donated food contributions, for increasing pantry food offerings and for extending the meals of pantry patrons with more healthy choices. In every good way, purchased food is filling in to help everyone.

Thanks to all of you who make it possible for us to purchase this food to fill the gap for our hungry neighbors.

Sincerely, —Brian Walker, President/CEO

THE SOUND OF MUSIC, II On Monday, March 28, the KFB warehouse came alive with the sound of 50 members of Liberty Christian School chorale singing while they worked, filling Food 4 Kids backpacks. While this bright and talented group joyfully worked and sang their way through their Food Bank chores, another 20 members of Liberty Christian School's chorale were at work at the Lord's Diner. Altogether, 70 members from LCS, a private school in Argyle, Texas, participated in concerts, clinics and service projects at Friends University, their host on the Wichita tour stop.

LCS summer tours began four years ago and have taken chorale members to several faraway places, including Washington, D.C., New York City and Ireland. And while they performed in such iconic sites as Washington's National Cathedral and New York City's Madison Square Garden (where they sang the national anthem to start a New York Knick's NBA game), they also managed time to fulfill their mission to help the poor and the most needful by serving in homeless shelters, in nursing homes and kitchens along the way.

We were blessed to have their help and inspirational presence during their recent tour stop, and we wish them a safe and happy journey on all their future tours.

GOIN' ON A MILLION!

By the time the current Kansas school term winds down, the number of elementary and middle school students participating in our Food 4 Kids Backpack program is expected to reach almost 6,000.

In very real terms, this means putting food back into the hands of 6,000-plus children who may have otherwise gone without sufficient food. For all these children in 96 school districts and 350 schools, it provides a level opportunity to arrive at school on Monday mornings ready to learn like the rest of their classmates, and to add to the strength and productivity of many Kansas communities.



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT April is Volunteer Appreciation Month. It is especially fitting for us to spotlight the many volunteers who staff the agencies we serve. A recent survey of these agencies indicated that each of them depends on volunteers. And many report that they are totally volunteer driven. If it were not for the volunteers, many would simply not exist. Let's all tip our hats to these wonderful volunteers who serve our hunger-relief partners so well and so faithfully. And if an opportunity presents itself to thank them in person, emphasize how important their dedication and commitment is for providing service to those in urgent need.

—Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager

ON THE ROAD AGAIN DELIVERY? YOU BET!

THAT'S SOMETHING WE DO VERY WELL
AT THE KANSAS FOOD BANK.

Each month we are on the road getting hunger-care food out of the warehouse in Wichita and into the hands of our rural hunger-relief partners.

Whether we have been provided with a specific drop point, or we deliver directly to the agency's door, rural delivery accounts for a large percentage of all the food we distribute, and that distribution continues to grow as we work to meet the need within our 85 county service area.

A recent study conducted by Feeding America showed that agencies located ten miles away from the Food Bank take 50 percent less food supplies than agencies located closer in proximity to us. It is absolutely as important for our delivery trucks to reach out with food for the far corners of our service area in Elkhart, St. Francis and Baxter Springs as it is to serve agencies located in Wichita. Because, after all, we ARE the KANSAS Food Bank!

—Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager

