



TUESDAY, AUGUST 10, 2011

Standing still has never been an option for your Food Bank. And neither has a resistance to changes that can further improve our mission. One of the most significant of these has been an ongoing effort to provide increased nutritional strength and balance in the foods we provide to our hunger-relief partners for distribution to the most needful Kansas families. And that's going on now.

On any given weekday your Food Bank's hunger-relief agency partners regularly pick up supplies ordered from a shopping list that is updated every two weeks. Those in close proximity pick up orders directly from our Cargill Cares Complex in Wichita. Those located too far away pick up orders at designated drop-off sites along the extensive statewide route followed by our Rural Delivery program.

No matter how or where they get them, both urban and rural agencies benefit greatly from the freedom to choose from an ever-changing list that allows their clients to put more healthful food on their tables and to enjoy better and more productive lives. A recent list, for instance, offered 100 items, including fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as meats, bakery and dairy products and other perishable food selections.

We are now making concerted efforts to further increase the quantity and diversity of fresh produce available to our agency partners. These additions will allow them to provide significantly greater numbers of healthful food choices for their clients. Efforts include delving deeper and more broadly into expanding our food sourcing opportunities. It also provides aggressive pursuit of new connections with new food-source prospects, as well as to reconnect with dormant ones.

All of these activities, combined with our other new and established fresh produce programs, promise an expanded selection of healthy HungerCare choices. And that's a good thing for everyone. Thanks to all.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

From the garden to the table - Who says food pantries only serve cans of green beans and tuna and packages of macaroni and cheese! Our agencies are willing to try new things. That's what helps them truly serve the hungry in their communities.

In an effort to increase the variety in both selections and amounts of nutritious healthy food this summer, your Food Bank made a concerted effort to offer fresh produce to our agencies. Our pantries are highly pleased to be able to offer their clients an abundance of fruits and vegetables. In fact, due in large part to the generosity of local gardeners this season, our Plant a Row program has already reaped an astonishing 12,906 pounds of homegrown vegetables.



Volunteers bag produce, getting it ready to distribute.

There is more good news for this very good program. Agencies are thinking outside their pantry walls and offer regular distributions by opening up "Produce Day" to anyone in need of food assistance. Twelve Baskets Agency in El Dorado also offered drive-thru distribution where guests could remain in their car, pop open their trunks and receive a bounty of cucumbers, apples, squash and corn on the cob.

Agencies in Marion, McPherson, Kingman, Pratt and Reno Counties also opened up with produce distribution day and are ready to do it again. From the garden to the table, things are perking up all over!

On the road again! - After the success of our Mobile Pantry's maiden voyage to Marion County in June, the pantry is ready to roll again. On Friday, August 26, the truck will distribute food in Chautauqua and Elk Counties. On Wednesday, August 31, we head to Neosho County and then it's on to Rawlins, Decatur and Norton Counties where we are on deck for September.

Filling the gap - Since the first of August your Food Bank along with Partners for Wichita have been providing free meals for children in need of them during the time gap created between the end of the school Summer Feeding Program and the date schools begin again. Our gap-filling efforts were available at five locations nearest to the areas of greatest need.

At this report, 500 children are receiving a daily sack lunch to help tide them over until school lunches are again available. We are happy to help fill this time gap and play a part to help make this very hot summer hunger-free for some kids who deserve all the help they can get.

Our thanks to all those who made it possible for KFB to make this intervention to assure a better future for these children.

—Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Director

NEVER TOO YOUNG TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE



Molly, shown in this photo, is a bright and lovely child who did her part to help make the recent produce distribution in El Dorado by our agency partner Twelve Baskets a solid success. It is heartwarming to watch children as young as Molly do volunteer work and have fun doing it, without even knowing how many lives she is affecting by her simple contributions to a good cause. Our thanks to Molly and to all the volunteers who do their part.