



TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14, 2010

Hunger Month is observed every year. Its purpose is to attract public interest and involvement in reducing both the size and the severity of hunger and food insecurity now suffered by more than 49 million Americans.

Last year, the event was renamed National Hunger Action Month—a change that suggests a part of the solution might well be to "Talk less and do more." So this year your Food Bank responded with our own homegrown "Talk less and do more" Hunger Action Day: a 14-hour marathon workday during which time volunteers contributed a thousand work hours or more to the Food Bank's total human energy resources for Kansas HungerCare.

Our Hunger Action Day began on Friday, September 3. It started as early as 6 a.m. for some and ended as late as 8 p.m. for others among the more than 350 volunteers who joined KFB employees to start up National Hunger Action Month in Kansas. As volunteers as young as 6th grade and as old as 60-plus streamed into our KFB Cargill Cares Complex they were very quickly given their team assignments on three different projects on two-hour shift rotations.

By the time the long workday was over, the combined efforts of all volunteers had assembled more than 7,000 food packets for the KFB Food for Kids Backpack program, repacked seven tons of bulk pasta into enough family-sized containers for over 10,400 Kansas households, and had filled food into 1,200 "Pantry Packs" for both laid-off workers and members of our Senior Box program.

Our First Hunger Action Day was a good and memorable one, especially for the joyful crew of volunteers who showed, rather than told, the depth of their personal ownership in our mission. The message came across in the quiet and quick way they worked. And it demonstrated the truth of the old axiom: "Actions speak louder than words." Thanks to all.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO



The local food bank that gets the most pledges, by population percentage, wins the truckload of food.

LET'S GET GOING!

Take the Hunger Action Month pledge. It's not too late! Visit our website now (www.kansasfoodbank.org) to take this virtual pledge, no money involved. It's an excellent

way to improve your Kansas Food Bank's chances for winning a truckload of food. If KFB wins, the ultimate winners will be the clients that our partner agencies serve. What are you waiting for? Log on now, take the pledge, tell your friends about the pledge, and help us continue to help others.

PLANT-A-ROW SURPLUS WANTED If you are ready to donate some of your harvest of fruits and vegetables, bring it in to the Food Bank at 1919 E. Douglas between the hours of 7 & 4:30 on weekdays. Or if it is more convenient, take them to one of these Wichita locations: Brady Nursery, Hillside Nursery; Hillside Feed and Seed; Valley Feed & Seed or either one of Johnson's Garden Centers. Ace Home Center in Augusta is also a participating drop-off location. We will see that your special "gift for gardening" goes to those who will appreciate your efforts the most. When it comes to Plant-A-Row produce, there is never too much of a good thing. Keep it coming.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: "TOGETHERNESS" - Between now and the rest of September your Food Bank will be fully engaged in supporting Hunger Action Month in Kansas. In the spirit of togetherness we have decided to forego the regular agency Spotlight feature in this month's edition in favor of putting all of our agency partners in the same spotlight by making it a suggested action of this very special month. The idea is to honor all the HungerCare agencies in your own area with a simple thank you card or telephone call. We'll send you a list of all those agencies we serve. Or you can look them up under Food Pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, etc. And our single Agency Spotlight will be turned on again in October.

Speaking of our good and valuable Pantry Partners, they keep on expanding to fill in the uncovered areas of the KFB 85 county service area. We are happy to report that during the last fiscal year, eight communities including Colby, Goodland, Toronto, Iola, Fort Scott, Prescott, Pleasanton and Great Bend were added to the list.

Welcome aboard, one and all!

What a day!

There was a flurry of activity all day long at the Kansas Food Bank on September 3, a great way to start Hunger Action Month. From the time the doors opened at 6 a.m. until the last box was packed at 8 p.m., more than 350 volunteers joined us at the Food Bank and gave their time and energy to a wide array of projects. Here's a look at some of the action!



- Our first group, led by KFB Board Chair Don Meiergerd, started the day filling Food 4 Kids backpacks. By the time the workday was over, volunteers had packed 28 pallets of backpacks, a total of 7,168 packets in all. Amazing!

- The Honor Guard from McConnell AFB marched in and immediately started knocking out the Laid-off Worker and Senior pantry pack boxes. There was no stopping or even slowing down this determined group. They kept us all in line and on target.



- A large crew of sixth grade students from The Independent School worked for two solid hours. Their work made a huge dent in the chore of packing 1,200 pantry boxes.



- The Quivira Boy Scout Council members donned hairnets and gloves and promptly went to work repacking pasta.



- Bank of America volunteers worked all day long at all stations. They were everywhere! Way-to-go, Bank of America!



Also joining us for the day were groups from First Metropolitan Community Church, Bread of Life, Cargill, College Hill Methodist Church, Sunrise Rotary Club, ACHE, AmeriCorp, WalMart-New Market Square, Friends University, Junior League, KFDI, Mirror and Inner Faith Ministries, plus many other individual volunteers who gave of their time to make this an extremely productive day. Thanks to each of them!

We want to recognize our media partners, and their on-air talent, for promoting Hunger Action Month. To everyone at the Sunflower Broadcasting family (KWCH 12, KSCW the Crew, KDCU) and the Journal Broadcast Group (KFDI, T95, 104.5 the Fox, KFTI, KLIO) Thank you!

