

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2012

As we travel around the state we have a lot of time to think about different ways to reach people. Recently, while we were on the road thinking about Kansas Seniors, a group that we struggle to reach, we thought, who do Kansan Seniors trust? The obvious answer is Senator Bob Dole. And so was born the idea of "Bob Box," and we set out on our journey to bring this program to life.

We wondered: would Bob Dole like the idea? Would he be willing to let us use his name? Would he think the same thing we do? The answer was a resounding "Yes"!

I had the opportunity to meet with Senator Dole a few weeks ago and visit with him about the Bob Box program. He was so gracious and welcoming, and very understanding of the struggles our Kansas Seniors face. He has personally committed funding for the program for five years to make sure we have a solid footing as we roll it out across our 85 county service area.

So, it is with great honor that I am announcing this new program for the Kansas Food Bank which will bring much needed help to food insecure seniors across our state, using a new and innovative delivery system that acknowledges the need by providing a hand up, not a hand out, taking into account their unique dietary needs. Please, feel free to join us for a press conference this Friday at 10:00 a.m., as we officially kick-off this great new program!

Sincerely,
Brian Walker, President / CEO

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – This month is Hunger Action Month, and we would like to take this time to remember all 500+ of our Hunger Relief Partners across our 85 county coverage area! Every week they bring much needed food to over 32,000 of our fellow Kansans in need and we couldn't do the great work that we do without their tireless support!



Special Announcement from Senator Bob Dole

Hunger issues have always been something I have fought for and worked hard to support. From affordable school lunches for low income students, food stamp reform, establishment of the WIC program and the Global Food for Education Initiative, I have dedicated myself to anti-hunger issues locally and abroad. Helping the Kansas Food Bank with the Bob Box project is a natural fit for me.



Throughout my life in politics and public service, I have been committed to giving back to the state that helped to support me during one of the most difficult times in my life. As a proud veteran returning from the war, I was faced with many challenges. Had it not been for my home state, and so many generous people, I probably would not have made it. Thank you Kansans for giving to me. Allow me to return the favor to you with this initiative.



Please consider this a gift - a hand up, not a hand out. As Brian Walker, President & CEO of the Kansas Food Bank says, "no Kansan should go hungry" and I agree. With this in mind, please accept a "Bob Box" from me to you. I wholly endorse this program and proudly lend my name and support to such a worthy initiative.

~ Senator Robert J. Dole

AARP Joins the Fight – In support of the new Bob Box program, AARP Kansas has committed \$18,000 to help promote the program at kick-off, with brochures and advertising to help raise awareness of the program in the 24 counties we will be targeting this fall!

FOOD BANK FUN FACT – We will start assembling our first run of boxes for our new Bob Box program at our Open House this Friday with the work of many kind volunteers. This first run accounts for 1,600 completed Bob Boxes, including 24,144 cans of veggies, fruit, soup, tuna, pasta sauce, etc., and 16,072 boxes of cereal, pasta, and other dry goods. That's a lot of delicious and wholesome food fit for Kansas Seniors, totaling more than 43,000 pounds!