



TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 2010

AMERICANS ARE THE MOST GIVING people on the planet. Giving seems to be in their DNA. And they actually like to give. Each year they give freely and abundantly to a countless number of good causes. And then they do it all over again, next year. Good giving in America never ends, and never do the good reasons for doing it.

Right now the main cause to give, and to give even more generously, is the hunger and food-insecurity that plagues almost 50 million men, women and children in America.

As a result, your Kansas Food Bank—and quite logically most, if not all, of the nation's 200 other Food Bank members of Feeding America—are like us, experiencing fairly frequent double-digit increases in daily demands on their own food supply and resources and at the same time dreading the hard-to-take losses in funding coming from those no longer able to give at the same level, or not at all.

Our response is to push back with our best efforts to make the most of October, November and December, the best giving season of the year.

As most of us are planning our holiday season, please remember those who are struggling to put food on their table and planning where their next meal is coming from. *Our thanks to all who help us make life a little better.*

—Brian Walker, President/CEO



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: TRINITY WORSHIP CENTER in Baxter Springs deep in the southeast corner of Kansas is a relatively small agency with a big-time talent for running a truly unique food pantry/kitchen operation. Whether distributing pantry food or preparing and serving a hot evening meal for those in need, Steve, the provider, and his crew work diligently to make sure no one walks away hungry. They begin work early in the afternoon so a hot meal can be ready for the six o'clock dinner hour.

Guests are welcome to come in and stay to eat their meal, or if they prefer to take out their food. The Agency also delivers to those for whom the dining room is too much of a challenge to go for their meals. We are extremely proud of this bigger-than-life “little agency” and its warm, welcoming style that goes above and beyond to feed both the body and the soul.

LISA'S SAINTLY WORK - The Society of St. Andrew is a faith-based organization that serves to seek and find fresh food products that are free and available to support their mission. What they get is given to another nonprofit food organization and made available to shelters, soup kitchens, pantries and other charitable feeding sites, who put it directly into the hands of food-insecure and hungry men, women and children.

Since the food in transit is perishable, all this must be accomplished quickly and decisively. In the Society's Kansas City office, that is the responsibility of Lisa Ousley, who keeps in touch with a wide variety of “food people,” such as farmers, growers, merchants, truckers—and more. And what she finds, she finds a home for. That's how a shipment of more than 43,000 pounds of summer squash found its way to your Food Bank and became available for immediate distribution to our pantry partners.



We are glad she found us. That was not the first found food that Lisa has sent to us. Nor hopefully, the last. We are grateful and appreciative of Lisa's works and the mission it serves.

HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR - KFB Programs Manager Larry Gunkel is back home now after spending several momentous and unforgettable days in Washington, D.C. While he and his wife Denise spent some time seeing the sights, the main focus of the trip was to attend the annual meeting of the National Association of Letter Carriers as an honored guest and to receive the NALC 2010 Humanitarian of the Year award, the highest honor the Association bestows.

While the award citation simply reads, “For outstanding humanitarian endeavors,” there is much more to the story of Larry's special feeling for serving people in need of help. His friends and colleagues at the Food Bank know how deeply he cares about Backpack kids and the work he does to help them. For him, it's a labor of love. And that's the best reason for naming him “Humanitarian of the Year.”

*Have you ever wondered what
20+ tons of summer squash
looks like?*



Well, here's the answer—in a variety of shapes, sizes and colors. As it appeared when it was delivered to the receiving dock of our KFB Cargill Cares Complex.