

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2012

It's hard to believe the holidays are just around the corner. We are starting to see the hustle and bustle of activity with many different food and fund drives kicking off. Everywhere you look in the warehouse there is something going on. I am always amazed when I stop and think about the commitment our team has in making a difference for so many families. Each and every one of our staff members believes in and supports our mission. I see this in action every day.

From the drivers that start their routes before the sun is up, to the warehouse crew who will cut their lunch short just to make sure an agency is taken care of, the office staff that push numbers and paper guaranteeing food gets where it needs to go, and a management team that pulls it all together, your Kansas Food Bank Warehouse of 20 staffers go above and beyond making sure that the families we set out to help are helped.

We just keep moving forward in the fight against hunger. The level of activity that happens here is steady and keeps growing. Food is being sorted, orders are being packed. Trucks come in, trucks go out. All of us together strive for one common goal, to ensure our friends and neighbors do not go hungry.

In closing, I must send out a heartfelt thanks to the team here at your Kansas Food Bank, and ask that you do too.

Sincerely,
Brian Walker, President / CEO

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – We have double spotlight this month, on two great agencies in Emporia. Main Street Baptist Church is a new pantry with a big heart. Things got off to a crowded start for them in a small storage room, but they responded to great need from families in their community by teaming up with another of our agencies, the Emporia Rescue Mission, to share space and pool resources to increase their ability to respond to the need!

A VOLUNTEER ON A MISSION – Volunteers come to us every day. Everyone has a different reason for volunteering and everyone has a story. Recently, we had a lady in by the name of Mary who popped into the food bank and told us she wanted to help for a couple hours. She was passing through town and had a friend who grew up in Kansas, so what better place to stop than the Kansas Food Bank and pack some Food 4 Kids backpacks! Mary is from Blacksburg, VA and is recently retired as an elementary school librarian. Mary set out on her journey to see a friend in Bozeman, MT. Along the way she decided to see where this adventure would take her. She had already made up her mind she wanted this trip to be spiritual and about helping others. And she has done just that. Her travels have taken her to a Mormon church in Portland, MI where she weeded a community garden, to the Fine Arts Festival where she volunteered in Bismarck, ND. After leaving Wichita, Mary was headed to the Heifer Village Project in Little Rock, AR to spend time there. Mary's travel and story was an inspiration to all of us here at the Kansas Food Bank. We were honored she shared her time with us.



SCOUTING FOR FOOD – The Boy Scouts are once again collecting food for the Kansas Food Bank through their Good Turn project this October. Scouts will be placing door hangers at homes across Wichita and will return on specified dates to pick up food which they will bring to the Kansas Food Bank where it will get packed and sent off to our HungerCare partners.



LIVE DRIVE – It's time once again for our Live Drive with KWCH Channel 12. Be sure and tune in on November 10th to see your Kansas Food Bank staff from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. along with the news staff as we share stories about the good work that is being done here and the families we are helping.



FOOD BANK FUN FACT – We get to meet lots of great volunteers like Mary throughout the year as they come in to help us in the warehouse. Last year, we had more than 26,000 hours of volunteer time, and we couldn't do what we do without it! If you are among the many who gave your time, we THANK YOU!