



TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 2011

On the fourth Thursday of this month our nation will observe Thanksgiving Day, a tradition that began 390 years ago when the good harvest of 1691 was celebrated. On that day our Pilgrim forefathers and their Native American guests shared a meal prepared with food saved and put away in a storehouse on the order of what we do today.

The short and simply told story of how Thanksgiving in America came to be is a lesson in generosity for generations of school children. The fact is that America is far and away the most generous nation in the world. The spirit of giving is a part of our DNA. And we can all be thankful for that. There are no dates on the calendar or places in the world where food for the hungry from the USA cannot be found.

In the USA food for HungerCare is available from more than 200 food banks that supply thousands of emergency food agencies serving millions of desperately hungry men, women and children.

During its last fiscal year, your Kansas Food Bank supplied more than 500 hunger-relief agencies (including Backpack program schools) with more than 10 million pounds of food for HungerCare—enough to provide more than 8 million meals that would have otherwise gone missing in the lives of tens of thousands of our state's most vulnerable men, women and children.

The restoration of these millions of meals has already begun to increase the level of energy, strength and motivation among those in the workforce handicapped by chronic hunger. And the same positive force will also provide new opportunities for area economic development.

There are 10 million reasons to wish our great support team a HAPPY THANKSGIVING DAY! Thanks to all for caring so much.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

KIDS GET IT DONE

Food Bank folks are pleasantly amazed at the many ways that Kansas kids step up to the plate to provide meals to children who would otherwise miss them. Here are a few heartwarming examples of what our leaders of tomorrow are doing. Proof that kids can really get it done. The next chance you get, smile at a teenager. You'll both enjoy the experience.

—Debi Kreutzman, KFB Community Relations



A REALLY 'BAG' DEAL — Some time ago, KFB was contacted by a local Girl Scout troop about the possibility of creating a Birthday-in-a-Bag event for their service project. The proposed event was to honor the birthday of GS founder Juliette Low, as well as to celebrate the Centennial of Girl Scouting. The simple event that started at a troop level service project has now gone viral and thanks to social networking 450 Girl Scout troops representing all 50 states will join in the celebration.

Each Birthday in a Bag is a self-contained package with all the ingredients needed for a happy birthday party, including cake mix, frosting, plates, napkins—and more. This mobile birthday kit will fill in for birthday parties that otherwise might have been missed.

Birthday-in-a-Bag packages will be distributed by our KFB Food 4 Kids program. Site coordinators in selected Food 4 Kids schools will deliver the bags to children with birthdays in the current month. And that is truly a “bag” deal. Thanks to the work of Girl Scouts across Wichita and the nation. Hip-hip-hurray for all!

(Similar stories continued on back page)



BOY SCOUT DRIVE UPDATE — BSA's Quivera Council did their part again this year in their Good Turn for America deed. They collected more than 50,000 pounds of food in October for the KFB's Hunger Care partners. Scouts all across our service area participated in the food drive by delivering food directly to pantries of the Kansas Food Bank. A really great good turn by some really good Scouts.

THESPIANS DO IT AGAIN — The Wichita area Thespians have a tradition of bringing in food to the Kansas Food Bank. About 10 years ago, this group started "Trick or Treat so Kids Can Eat." Since then it has become a national program in which teams compete for the coveted Cornucopia Award. This year the Wichita Area Thespians from Derby, Andover and six Wichita High Schools collected a whopping 9,708 pounds of food.

MOBILE PANTRY & STUDENT COUNCIL JOIN UP — The Student Council in Sedan set out early on Mobile Pantry Day to assist residents in their town carry food boxes to their cars when the Kansas Food Bank held its mobile distribution in Chautauqua County. The students were ready to assist, and as soon as someone stepped up to the food line, they politely made our mobile pantry guests feel welcome.

FOOD 4 KIDS: COVERING KANSAS —

Since the 2004/2005 school year, during which our Backpack program served weekend food for 632 students in 30 schools in 10 school districts, these numbers for 2010/2011 have increased to 5,921 students in 351 schools in 97 districts. Over the entire period covered from the first to last of these school years, a total of 24,349 elementary and middle school students received more than a million pounds of food for the weekend. Each of those backpacks the students took home for the weekend every Friday contained an average of four to five pounds of ready-to-eat food.

In broad geographic terms, our KFB Food 4 Kids Backpack program now spreads to the north, south, east and west. It reaches all four Kansas borders and ranks in eighth place among the largest backpack programs provided through our nation's schools. Our congratulations to all involved in the success of the program—and please keep up the good work to keep a good thing going.



Volunteer family members fill food packets.



*Happy Thanksgiving
to all our friends everywhere*