

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2012

November is a time when we stop and give thanks for all our blessings. Our lives here at the Kansas Food Bank are filled with many blessings each and every day. From the endless volunteers that help us in the warehouse, to our HungerCare partners out in the field, to the food and monetary donations that come in the door, blessings abound. Yet, while we celebrate this season of abundance, we know that there are families that may not feel the joy of the season. These are families who are struggling to put food on their table each and every day.

- The single mother who is trying to make ends meet and has to choose between paying her utility bills to keep the heat on and food.
- The senior citizen who has to choose between paying for their medications and buying food.
- The family that lives in rural Kansas that has no access to a food pantry when their cupboards are bare.

This year your Kansas Food Bank set out to ensure all 85 counties we serve are covered and have access to our services. We stopped at nothing to reach underserved areas in rural Kansas. We implemented new programs to provide a safety net of food for children, the working poor and seniors. All of this was done with the blessings we receive from our supporters like you. Thank you for helping us to continue our mission. May your holiday season be filled with blessings!

Sincerely,
Brian Walker, President / CEO

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT – The Christian Food Bank of Pratt is our spotlight agency this month as they deserve our thanks for stepping up and making arrangements for our recent agency meeting in Pratt, finding us a great location, and even making sure we had fresh hot coffee to keep us going. Many thanks to them, and to all our agencies who go the extra mile!

BACKPACK PROGRAM WINS X's TWO! – Through Walmart's Fighting Hunger Together fall initiative, Walmart store #5990 in Wichita won a "Golden Spark" award and chose the Kansas Food Bank to receive a \$50,000 grant to help expand the backpack program. And just recently we were also awarded the Employees Choice Award of \$50,000 to support the backpack program. Many thanks go out to our friends at Walmart who always have our back, and now our backpacks!



IT JUST TAKES ONE! – Scholfield Buick, GMC, Hyundai East and West pulled out all the stops to fight hunger during September and it all started with one employee. Heather had spent some time volunteering with us and asked her employer to consider doing something more. And more is exactly what they did! Not only did a group of employees come help pack backpacks, all three dealerships held a promotion for Hunger Action Month in which they raised \$6,550 for the Kansas Food Bank. It all started with one volunteer. Our many thanks to Heather and Scholfield!



WELCOME OUR NEW TEAM MEMBER – Joining the Kansas Food Bank team is Rhonda Thomas who rounds out our staff as our new Executive Assistant. Rhonda has an extensive accounting background and also serves as an adjunct accounting instructor at Butler CCC in Andover (*Go Grizzlies!*). She is a current member of the Junior League where she has learned a lot about philanthropy in Wichita. Rhonda was even already familiar with the Food Bank as a volunteer packing Food 4 Kids backpacks. Rhonda's motto is to "leave things better than they currently are" and we think she will do just that for us!



GOBBLE GOBBLE – Turkey talk starts at the Kansas Food Bank well before November even arrives. As agencies plan for their holiday distribution, the question always comes up – will there be turkeys for Thanksgiving? The answer of course is we don't know. However this year we have a little surprise up our sleeves! Thanks to a generous donation from Cargill we will have turkeys for Thanksgiving! Of course we will not have near enough to meet the demand, but nonetheless, we will be able to assist over 2,000 food insecure families with the traditional holiday bird. Thanks Cargill for this gift!



FOOD BANK FUN FACT – We received a donation, just in time for the holidays, of stuffing mix in September. 1,968 cases, 12 family-sized bags each, for a total of 31,488 lbs of seasons yummy for thousands of families in need! We couldn't be more thankful to our donors!