



TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011

Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa are KFB kinds of holidays. They are all about giving and receiving in thoughtful, respectful ways. And so it is with their Kansas Food Bank.

We care as deeply for the hungry for whom we provide Hunger Care food as we care for those from whom we received it. In our hearts and minds, giving and receiving are both equally blessed from above and each is necessary to make the true magic of giving and receiving happen.

At the Foodbank, giving and receiving is our job every working day of the year. Over our last fiscal year, your Foodbank received donated food and cash to buy food equal to more than 10 million pounds of HungerCare. And during that same period, it was given over to hundreds of hunger-relief agencies, including pantries, shelters, kitchens and special KFB programs for distribution to countless thousands of Kansans suffering the sad possibility of chronic hunger and its debilitating outcomes.

Over time, the 10 million pounds becomes multi-millions of meals to replace the far too frequently missing ones from the tables of economically distressed Kansas families. Without established and reliable help, they have no way of knowing where their next meal might be coming from. Or if it will come at all.

Other giving activities include the 6,000 Kansas elementary and middle school children who receive a five-pound packet of kid-friendly food to take home in a backpack every Friday over a 30-week school year.

While the receivers of KFB food are varied and numerous, so are the givers. And it all adds up to a heartwarming example of sharing and caring between those who give and those who receive with your Food Bank facilitating both from the middle.

Merry Christmas to all. —Brian Walker, President/CEO

WHAT A GREAT START!

The first week in December was barely over when the gifts of food and cash for food for the month had risen to almost three tons! All of it came from the compassionate spirits of those employees and members who volunteered to participate in food collection events of these eight Wichita area organizations: Andover YMCA, Westco Aircraft, Ascension Lutheran Church, Learjet, Off road Motorsports, Circle Greenwich School, Omni Aerospace and Quality Solutions.

Thanks to all from the Food Bank as well as the unspoken gratitude from those to whom it was passed along. The total of such donations for the year to date now stands at 374,000 pounds...with more to come.

QUOTES, NOTES & COMMENTARIES concerning our Food 4 Kids Backpack program contributed by participating school site coordinators when they send us their monthly program reports are revealing and worthy of passing along. Here are a few samples:

“One parent told me that without this food they would not have had a very pleasant Thanksgiving.” —Hadley Middle School, Wichita.

“The children are always smiling and grateful for the special bag of food.” —Georgia Matthews Elementary, Garden City

“When children report that they do not have food over the weekend and you are able to provide food through the Food 4 Kids program, it not only puts a smile on their faces, but also on ours.” —IXI Elementary, Arkansas City

“One of my students shared with me that the only thing that they had to eat over the weekend was the food from their F4K packets.” —RV Haderlein School, Girard

“The children that this food helps each month continue to be grateful and excited when they pick up their food each Friday.” —Garfield Elementary, Garfield

The Kansas Food Bank SNAP Outreach Team came to Comanche County to help those eligible to sign up to receive benefits from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (formerly called Food Stamps). As the team wrapped up the day, we helped an elderly lady who said, with tears in her eyes, that a simple box of food was all she really wanted. She then told us that she simply did not have enough money to make ends meet and that her wish for Christmas was to receive a gift of food. She felt blessed that we were there to help her. We were deeply touched that a simple box of food could ignite such raw emotion in a nice old lady.



This lady, and all the thousands like her, is the reason why we do what we do each and every working day of the year.

—Debi Kreutzman



**Merry
Christmas**
to all friends of the
Food Bank

From the
KFB
Team

In Wichita:

Brian Walker, Kevin Enz, Lynette Ritterling,
Alan Borovetz, Larry Gunkel, Debi Kreutzman,
Patrick Hutchison, Joan Church, Tracey Bethely,
Robert Crump, Brandon Bolain, Eric Grochowsky,
Andrew Loucks, Jamie Korf, John McCarthy,
Jim Kilgore, Don Florence and Bo Keys.

In Independence:

Richard Bockover, Henry King
and Robert Barker.