

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2009

Warren Ford, a familiar face and longtime friend of the Food Bank, died on the weekend following Thanksgiving Day. His passing during the Winter Holiday season serves as a reminder that friendships are God-given gifts for the heart and soul.

Our relationship with Warren demonstrates how easily and naturally friendships can catch on and stick around forever and how much more interesting life becomes when there are friends to share it with. We can learn from Warren's life that friend-making is open to everyone. Mostly, it's a matter of truly being yourself—and Warren was certainly that.

According to Butch Bruenger, the head man at M. Bruenger & Co. where Warren worked for the better part of 40 years, Warren's work was his life.

Once an over-the-road truck driver himself, Warren was a perfect fit for his role as Bruenger's yard man—the person responsible for delivering freight directly on to its final destination after arrival in the Wichita area.

The trailer loads Warren delivered to us typically weighed in at 40,000+ pounds. There is no accounting for the millions of pounds he must have delivered during his career. But one thing is certain: With that huge mountain of freight he also brought along a full cargo of good feelings toward those of us on the other end of it.

In our experience, Warren was always friendly, always looking for ways to be helpful. He was genuinely interested in the Food Bank and the work we do. We will miss Warren. But we will remember how his efforts helped further the mission of the Food Bank. Our best wishes for a happy holiday for all of our other friends who mean so much to the Food Bank.

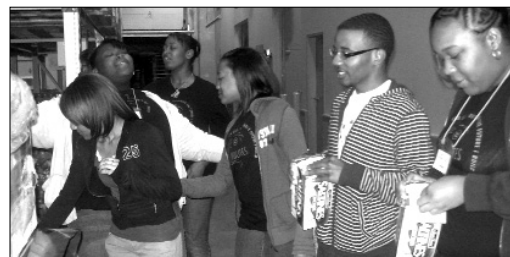
—Brian Walker, President/CEO

CRUZIN' FOR FOOD...and that's what 97 hotrods, muscle cars and antiques and their owners did to raise food and funds for us on Nov. 14. The event, put together by Ron Wagoner gathered at Plaza West Shopping center. At noon they "cruzed" across town to the Food Bank where contributions of a ton-and-a-half of nonperishable food and more than \$400 in cash was offloaded.

The idea of "Cruzin' for Food" came to Ron after hearing that the Food Bank needed all the help it can get (true). Then, following a flurry of e-mails and hand-bills and face-to-face contacts, "Cruzin" was up and running. Ron, who holds weekly shows at the Plaza West Shopping center during warm weather months, says he and other participants of this year's event are planning an even bigger event next year. Thanks to all. Keep on cruzin!"

NULITES LIGHTEN OUR WORK LOAD. NULITES is the acronym for National Urban League Incentive To Excel and Succeed. Recently, 23 NULITES from North and Southeast High Schools volunteered to work at the Food Bank on a shift from 9 a.m. until noon. All in all, they contributed 69 hours of lively and very productive labor.

Their heavy lifting lightened our workload by adding the equivalent of one full-time employee for one week and a half to our regular warehouse crew. Among the brightest and best in their high schools, these young men and women carried out the NULITES community service mission with exceptional energy and dedication.

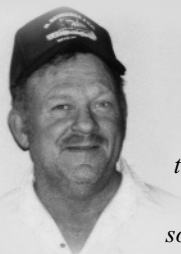


NULITES volunteering at the Food Bank.

They are a great asset to this community and a great friend of the Food Bank.

A VERY SPECIAL DAY deserves a very special way to be celebrated. And the bright and creative minds of newlyweds Jim and Brandi Beckstein came up with an interesting alternative to the gifts traditionally given to the bride and groom at their wedding reception. The invitation to their reception asked for donations of food and cash to the Food Bank in lieu of gifts for themselves. What a wonderful way to share their own happiness with those in need.

A postscript on their message to the Food Bank was a quotation from Mother Teresa: "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving." Nice thought from a lovely new couple.



Requiem for an over-the-roader:

Warren Ford would like to be remembered, we think, sitting in the familiar seat of a truck on his way to deliver something for someone waiting for it. He always wanted to be helpful And he was.



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If you're new, we welcome you!

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KWCH12^{HD}
*Harvest
of Hope*

**2009 HARVEST OF HOPE
GOLDEN
CANNERS**

When the numbers were all in and tabulated for this year's Harvest of Hope Golden Can Competition, the winners were—considering the difficult state of the economy—everyone who participated. For the record, however, here are the actual winning totals and those who achieved them:

Spirit Aerosystems
550,809 lbs or 55 lbs per employee

Boeing
(Golden Can Winner) 420,037 lbs
or 155 lbs per employee

Cessna Aircraft
665,735 lbs or 110 lbs per employee

Coleman Machine Shop
(Golden Can Winner) 12,274 lbs
or 722 lbs per employee

*Congratulations to
one and all from their
Food Bank Friends!*



Steve Fessenden
Coleman Machine
Shop

**Kathy Reed,
Rod Nelson, Arien
Masher Co-chairs of
the Boeing Food Drive**

**24 AND A HALF
TONS OF FOOD
FROM DILLONS.**

The final total of the 2009 Harvest of hope drive by the Kroger/Dillons Distribution center brought in a total of 45,220 pounds of food, almost equally divided between green beans and corn. Expressed in greater detail, the overall gift was 19 pallets or 1,615 cases or 38,760 cans. Any way we look at it, we see a great gift from a longtime friend.

