

# second helpings

News and views from  
your Kansas Food Bank

Tuesday, May 11, 2010

When you read this, the Federal Summer Meals program will be about two weeks away from start-up by Wichita's Unified School District 259. This program will extend school-furnished meals for two months beyond the end of the spring semester. For all of June and July, children who would have otherwise gone hungry can continue to eat free at sites in or as close as possible to their own neighborhood.

We see this as an urgently needed program that will put a patch over a two-month hole in the summertime nutrition needs of at-risk kids, and we are pleased to be a part of the overall effort. The task of the Food Bank is to maximize the number of kids reached and rescued from hunger. According to Polly Basore who directs our community services, that means getting the word out to hungry kids in all underserved areas of the city. As the point-person in our work with the Summer Meals Program, Polly mined all the data needed to map areas for use as a campaign tool to acquire more "kids-eat-free" sites.

Thanks to Polly's hard work, skill and persistence, there are now 47 sites signed up for this summer's program in Wichita schools, churches and city park facilities. This about doubles the number of sites in place over last year. It is also expected to reach an estimated 4,000 hungry kids, twice as many as in 2009.

During the 46 weekdays in June and July, a projected daily average of 6,000 food servings will bring a total for this year's Federal Summer Meals Program to a quarter-million meals—all prepared and delivered by USD 259 Nutrition Services and served by onsite community volunteers. Helping stop kid-hunger 250,000 times in one single summer is a great feeling, mostly because all the good things that come out of it keep rolling right along for a very long time. Thanks to all.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

**GIRL SCOUTS SCORE SUPER SWEET SUCCESS!** On April 21 your Food Bank accepted a contribution of 150 cases containing a total of more than 10,000 Girl Scout cookies. In very short order they were added as a sweet bonus to outgoing boxes of food to be delivered to food-insecure families by our Pantry Partners.

The cookies were gifts from supporters of the Annual Girl Scout Drive who bought them and then designated that they be given to their choice from four community service organizations of which we were one. The option they exercised is called "Cookie Shares." (One box equals one cookie share) and its growing popularity is boosting annual G.S. cookie sales to new heights. And as "Cookie Shares" thrive, so does all else in the Girl Scouts iconic Cookie Sale and Cookie Share event.

Here at the Food Bank, we celebrate the sweet smell of success of the young ladies who so beautifully represent the Girl Scouts of America Heart Land—as we celebrate all the times they were told, "Give mine to the Food Bank."



## **Agency Spotlight: Abundant Harvest Food Kitchen**

The name says it all. Every Monday through Thursday, a hot meal is served at this soup kitchen in Emporia. Located in an old school building, the Emporia Rescue Mission serves a hot meal at 5:30 p.m. to an average of 135 people, which includes many take-out dinners delivered to elderly and other shut-ins. On Thursday night, dinner guests go home with a sack full of canned goods to help tide them over for the weekend.

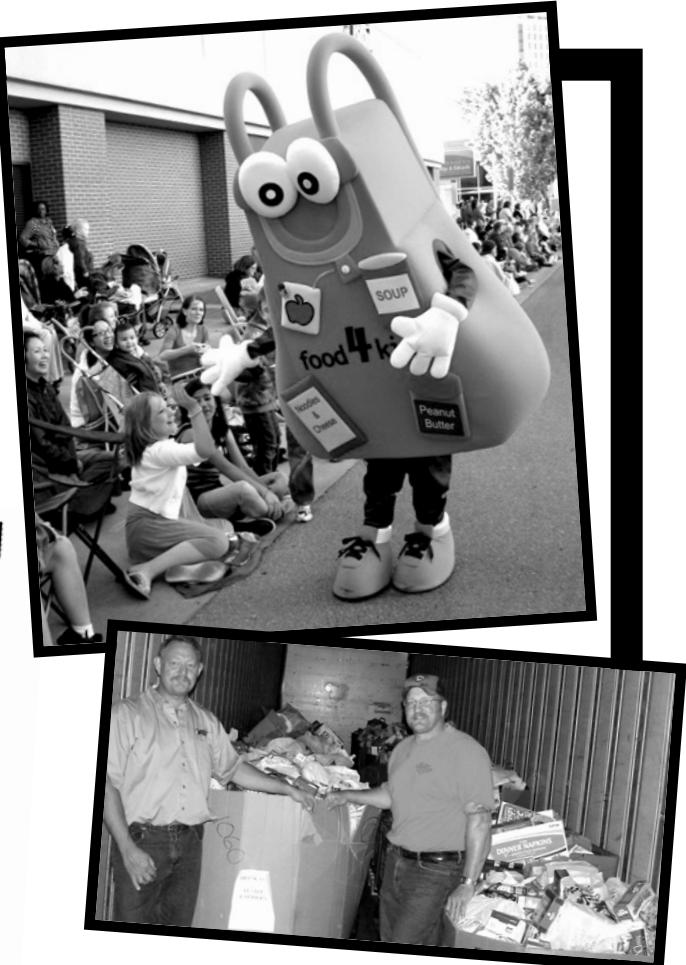
In addition to meals, a clothing boutique in the old gym is available. It also provides fellowship, kinship and hope for human beings needing some extra support. The kitchen has served the Emporia area for the past 10 years and has abundantly filled the lives of many people. It is very clear to see that food equals love at the Abundant Harvest Food Kitchen. —Debi Kreutzman, Agency Relations



**A very cool contribution:** A recent Boeing-Wichita grant of \$25,000 to purchase freezer equipment is making 35 of our soup kitchen and pantry pals very happy! Each of the fortunate 35 are recipients of enough cash to purchase a freezer with a capacity of 20 to 25 cu. ft. at a price under \$1,000. Those receiving their share of the grant fund were chosen on the basis of what the new equipment would do to increase demand for services, increase the amount of food and the number of people served. A good and sensible gift that will keep on giving for years to come!

This year, letter carriers of NALC Local #201 picked up 176,228 pounds of food... helping to push the grand total of all NALC food drives, since their beginning, to **MORE THAN A BILLION POUNDS!**

We congratulate all the letter carriers on a job well done.



#### **Our thanks to all the volunteers:**

- Cathy Lamb, Chairperson, NALC local 201
- Mario Cervantes, United Way, recruited volunteers for the drive.
- Dan Batliner, LandAir Express, coordinated trucks & volunteer drivers to pick up food at six US Post Office stations and deliver to the Food Bank.
- Volunteer drivers were: Dan Batliner, Jerry Pelz, David Goodsell, Randy Pulley, Randel Bigelow, David Hamilton and Rick Schrapp (helper).
- Trucks were furnished by LandAir Express, UPS Freight, Dugan Truck Line, Viatran, Old Dominion.

