

TUESDAY, JUNE 8, 2010

Larry Gunkel, who manages our Food 4 Kids program, has shared with me a stack of cards and letters from early elementary grade students expressing their positive feelings about the backpack food given to them throughout the last school year.

The responses are written in an uncomplicated style that comes naturally to very young kids, like the one from Nicole, an elementary school student. "The weekend food," she writes, "puts more food in my house, helps my health, puts a smile on my face, makes me stronger and puts healthy and good food in my stomach." I don't believe that even the most celebrated adult writer could have expressed it as warmly and as directly to the heart of the matter.

Although it was addressed only to Larry, the simple sincerity and optimistic spirit of Nicole's note struck me as something to be shared more widely, especially to those like the readers of this newsletter who have supported and encouraged the Backpack program since it came to Kansas in 2004.

Since then it has sent a total of two and a half million pounds of backpack food home with thousands of students every Friday of the school year.

From my perspective, the Food 4 Kids Backpack program deserves to be here to stay. It has proven to be the most practical, cost-effective and reliable way to rescue children from chronic weekend hunger and to put them on a level path to success in school and in life. Teachers and school professionals embrace it. Parents approve of it. Children depend on it. Society profits from it. It is an enduring part of our KFB brand, and although we are always pleased to hear Back Pack program praises, we are even happier to pass it along to all of you who make it happen. And Nicole's commentary reminds us all that, for many kids, happiness comes in a backpack.

—Brian Walker, President/CEO

MINI-CHEFS STRUT THEIR STUFF! On May 22, a crowd of kids gathered at Towne East Square to participate in the 2010 Kidgets mini chef event. And the Food Bank was there manning one of six tables at which food was centrally involved in various craft exercises.

The creative juices were flowing freely as children mostly at ages K thru 4 took turns making things out of food. At the Food Bank table, children were given construction paper Elmer's glue and uncooked macaroni pieces and told to use these materials to create something out of their own imagination.

Our own John McCarthy, who supervised the Food Bank table, estimated that about 120 kids took turns, seven at a time, during the two-hour event. John, the father of four and grandfather of five, said making art out of macaroni and Elmer's Glue was somewhat unusual but he stuck to the task and everyone went home happy, including kids, parents and a lot of new friends for the Food Bank.

WILL TRUMPET FOR FOOD! When the Ringling Bros. & Barnum & Bailey Circus set up at Intrust Bank arena they invited the general public, the news media and the Food Bank for an ELEPHANT BRUNCH. The invitation also suggested that those attending the June 2nd luncheon might bring along cans of food for donation to the KFB.

As the photo here suggests, it was an interesting event during which the largest participants trumpeted their thanks to all. (And where is Tarzan when you really need him?)



Elephants eagerly await nutritious snacks of fresh fruit.

AGENCY SPOTLIGHT: Wesley House Wesley House in Pittsburg clearly brings hunger relief to a different level. This multi service agency not only provides a supplemental food pantry to over 1,500 people a month in Crawford County, they also serve a meal to approximately 225 people every Thursday evening. But the third facet in this jewel is their children's summer food program. Five years ago when the local school district had to limit their summer feeding program, Wesley House created their pantry for kids. This summer they expect to distribute 7000 bags of kid friendly food. One bag of food per child is distributed each and every week to families in need. Each bag contains at least 5 lunch-type items. Kid's Pantry starts the first week school is out and runs until the week before school starts in mid August.

—Debi Kreutzman, Agency Relations

May 14, 2010

Dear Food 4 Kids deliverers,

On behalf of our administration, staff and especially our students, I want to thank you for providing us with the Food 4 Kids snack packs this year.

The smiles on the kids' faces and their reminders that it is "Food Day," indicated to us that the kids were in need of extra nutritional support.

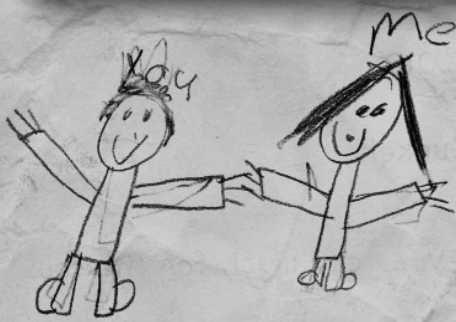
I have included some notes and some pictures that the students have made for you. It is their way of thanking you for the work that you have done, and continue to do, to help kids.

Again, thanks so much.

Sincerely,

Trish Denham

Trish Denham
K-8 School Counselor
Girard, Kansas



Puts more food in my house.

helps my health.

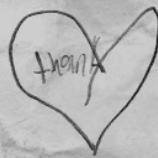
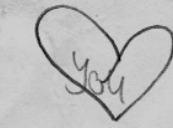
puts a smile on my face.

makes me stronger.

puts healthy and good food in my stomach.

I'm not hungry during weekends

puts a smile on my face.



My favorite thing

Makes me
Have a good time
cause i'm not
hungry.

because is
help a lot.

I have more food to eat during the
weekends so I don't get hungry.
I'm not hungry as usual as I
am.
It makes me happy to see that
I have something to eat after school.
Makes me have a good time
and growing.

It makes me strong

I like
the
Food
Packs