

holiday 2010



seeds *of hope*



KANSAS
food bank
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984
A Member of FEEDING AMERICA

Child Care
Deployment

You're Giving Hope to Hungry Kansans this Holiday Season



Brian Walker
PRESIDENT AND CEO

HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dear Friend,

Thanksgiving is almost here, and excitement is building as we await the arrival of family and friends for a reunion centered around one of the best meals of the year.

As the year draws to a close, I'm reminded of how grateful I am for friends like you who have so faithfully supported the [Kansas Food Bank](#). When I think about how your partnership directly impacts hard-working parents, hungry children, the homeless and seniors living on fixed incomes, I am truly overwhelmed. It's your compassion that enables us to serve those in need, and I am so thankful for your support.

You also helped us make Hunger Action Month in September an unprecedented success! More than 350 volunteers came to our warehouse on September 3rd to pack bags of food for the Food 4 Kids backpack program, assemble boxes of food for senior citizens and the Laid-Off Workers program and sort food to be distributed to our partner agencies. I'm so encouraged by how many people across our state have joined in this effort to help those in need.

But as you know, our work is never finished. Recent Census Bureau findings report that 1 in 7 Americans are living in poverty. That's more than 14 percent of our country's population – and more than a third of them are children. When people are struggling to pay for rent and bills, food becomes a luxury they just can't afford. We simply cannot sit by and watch as our neighbors go hungry.

As you and your loved ones prepare to enjoy the holidays together, I hope you'll remember our neighbors in need who would be hungry and without hope if not for your support of the [Kansas Food Bank](#). Thank you for your compassion at this special time of year!

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

CHAIRMAN

Don Meiergerd, *Excel Food Distribution – Retired*

FIRST VICE CHAIR

John Keating, *Cargill Meat Solutions*

SECOND VICE CHAIR

Jim Shelden, *Retired Raytheon/CEI*

SECRETARY

Virginia Ablah, *Ablah Enterprises, Inc.*

TREASURER

Sam Seward, *M&L CPAs Chartered*

PRESIDENT & CEO

Brian Walker

DIRECTORS

Lionel Alford, Jr., *Engineering Consultant*

Joan Barrett, *KWCH TV – Channel 12*

Dale G. Diggs, Jr., *Diggs Construction, LLC*

Kenny Doonan, *Doonan Truck & Equipment of Wichita, Inc.*

Pastor Junius Dotson, *Saint Mark United Methodist Church*

Paul Dugan Sr., *Dugan & Dugan Attorneys*

Helen Galloway, *The First Place*

Dave Haden, *Dillon Stores*

Cindy Halsey, *Cessna Aircraft Co.*

Doug Jenkins, *Professional Software, Inc.*

Michael Johnston, *Kansas Turnpike Authority*

Roger Kepley, *Intrust Bank, NA*

Gregg LeMaster, *The Boeing Company*

Patric Rowley, *Patric Rowley & Partners*

Virginia and Paul Treadwell

Jim Urso, *Spirit Aerosystems*

KANSAS FOOD BANK – EASTERN REGION

Don Hill, *Retired, Westar Energy*

Cora Stokes, *SRS*

EMERITUS BOARD

Tom Kitch, *Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch*

J.V. Lentell, *Intrust Bank, N.A.*

John E. Moore, *Lt. Governor – Retired*

Dr. Charles Wood, *Estate Planning Consultant*

YOU'RE FEEDING THE FUTURE OF KANSAS

"I cannot see a child go hungry," says Nettie Colvin.

For more than 25 years, Nettie has served as the director of Wichita's Downtown Day Care Center, a childcare center that serves some of Wichita's most underprivileged families. Though almost all the children in Nettie's care have parents who work or go to school, their incomes simply aren't enough to provide for their kids' most basic need – food.

receive a healthy breakfast, a filling lunch and a snack. And in the summer, more than 100 kids up to age 12 come to Downtown Day Care for healthy meals. All of this nutritious food is provided by the Food Bank, thanks to the gifts of friends like you.



“I cannot see a child go hungry.”

"[Many children we serve] have a snack and then go to bed. And that's it. Some of them don't even have milk at home," Nettie says.

Fortunately, Downtown Day Care is able to provide the children in its care with nutritious meals and snacks through a special partnership with the [Kansas Food Bank](#). Each weekday during the school year, nearly 70 children ages 12 months to 5 years

Nettie says the food the children receive at Downtown Day Care makes a huge difference in their energy levels, demeanor and overall well-being.

"It really helps in their development," she says. "Nutrition is very important!"

She shares the story of two siblings in her care whose mom is disabled and unable to work. Because the family can't afford a car, they must take the city bus to get to Downtown Day Care. Taking the bus

often makes them late to daycare, causing the kids to miss breakfast. But Nettie knows these children, like most of the others in her care, likely haven't eaten since the last time a meal was served at day care. So whenever they're late, she sneaks them into the kitchen for a snack to tide them over.

It's the gifts of friends like you that enable the [Kansas Food Bank](#) to provide agencies like Downtown Day Care Center with nutritious food for hungry children. You are feeding the future of our community!

YOU'RE FEEDING HUNGRY KANSANS FOR THE HOLIDAYS!



Hungry children have enough to eat, thanks to your gifts.



Thank you for caring for our hungry neighbors!



You provide nutritious groceries for seniors in need.



Kansas kids can grow strong and healthy, thanks to the food your gifts provide.



Your compassion feeds children in need.

THANK YOU! Kansas Car Enthusiasts

The [Kansas Food Bank](#) would like to extend a big thank-you to all the local car enthusiasts who have given to help feed those in need this fall! From the Cessna Service Center Car, Truck & Bike Show, to the Sienna Plaza Car Show to Cruisin' for Food and the South Central Kansas Mustang Club, car enthusiasts have blessed us with monetary and food donations. We appreciate all of our friends who take the time to remember those in need as they rev up their engines and drive food donations our way!

Quivira Council Boy Scouts

The Quivira Council Boy Scouts celebrated the 100th anniversary of "Good Turn for America" by scouting for food for the Food Bank. Scouts gathered at Dillon's on National Scout Surge Day, September 11th to greet shoppers with a list of non-perishable food items for the [Kansas Food Bank](#). Shoppers left their donations with the Scouts, who then delivered them to the Food



Bank's warehouse. This "Good Turn" project brought in 15,000 pounds of food for those in need! Thank you, Quivira Council Boy Scouts!

"Plant a Row"

In its 11th season "Plant a Row" brought in a record 58,000 pounds of garden-fresh produce for the [Kansas Food Bank](#)! Each year, gardeners are encouraged to plant a row for the hungry and bring the resulting bounty to the Food Bank. This year we saw an abundance of cucumbers, cantaloupe and turnips. One of our pantry partners sums it up best: "Our clients love the

option of having fresh vegetables! They tell us it is so nice to be able to make something fresh rather than [something] from a can. Because of this program, we are able to supply more nutritious, fresh items." Thank you to everyone who participated!

SAVE THE DATE!

Holiday Food Drives

Each year during November and December, the [Kansas Food Bank](#) relies on our friends in the community to help us stock the shelves for our hunger relief agencies. A food drive is a simple

and easy way to get everyone involved. We have collection boxes and signs to help make your food drive a success. You can even hold a virtual food drive - no boxes, no signs, just a few clicks and you're done! For more information on how you can help, visit www.kansasfoodbank.org and click on "Donate Food."

Congratulations!

We are thrilled to announce that one of our very own [Kansas Food Bank](#) staff members, Larry Gunkel, has been named the National Association of Letter Carriers 2010



Humanitarian of the Year for his continuous work of making it his personal mission to stamp out hunger

throughout the State of Kansas! Larry has been with the Food Bank for six years, serving as our Food 4 Kids Coordinator. He was presented with the award at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Congratulations, Larry!

"HOMES GIVING HOPE" HELPS FIGHT HUNGER



[Kansas Food Bank](#) President & CEO Brian Walker
with Homes Giving Hope Founder Brad Minear.

"At some point in our lives, many of us will ask ourselves if the path we're on or if the work we're doing is really what we're supposed to be doing," says Brad Minear. "Late in 2008, I was asking these very questions. Of course, the answer was right in front of me."

Brad had been working as a real estate agent with J.P. Weigand & Sons in Wichita for several years when he started questioning his purpose. Though he was successful and loved his job, he realized something was missing - he needed

to find a way to give back to the community and help those in need.

"At that point in time, I decided I needed to stop worrying about my career and income and put more emphasis on meeting the needs of others," says Brad. "One way of doing this was to create Homes Giving Hope."

Homes Giving Hope is a program Brad designed in early 2009 to raise money and awareness for charitable organizations in Wichita and surrounding communities. Brad donates 5 percent of his earnings from each transaction at J.P. Weigand & Sons to one of 11 local organizations, including the [Kansas Food Bank](#). As of July 31, a total of

\$13,910 has been donated to these beneficiary organizations, with \$2,130 going to the Food Bank!

Brad says that choosing the Food Bank as a beneficiary of Homes Giving Hope was an easy decision.

"The Food Bank provides a needed service," he says. "The compassion is real and it benefits both the recipient and the giver. It meets the needs of people in all walks of life - children, elderly people, families who are financially struggling."

Brad says he's both humbled and honored that his program is helping to raise awareness and funds for the [Kansas Food Bank](#) so that more of our hungry neighbors can have access to the food they need.

"I hope that this program not only gives additional exposure to the Food Bank, but I hope it encourages others to support organizations and efforts like it," he says.

We are so grateful to Brad for his innovative efforts to help raise awareness about the issue of hunger here in our community. We simply couldn't do the work of feeding hungry people here in Kansas without the steadfast support of our many committed volunteers and community leaders!

If you'd like to volunteer at the [Kansas Food Bank](#), contact Larry Gunkel at lgunkel@kansasfoodbank.org.

YOU GIVE KANSANS IN NEED A REASON TO SMILE

There's never a good time to get bad news. But Tami received hers at one of the worst times imaginable.

She was three months pregnant with her third child and had gone to the doctor for a routine check-up. Though she'd been through this process twice already, she still felt nervous with excitement. But the excitement melted into pure shock when her doctor gave her the impossible news: her baby was healthy, but Tami was HIV-positive. She had contracted the virus through her husband who, unbeknownst to Tami, had been supporting a drug habit for quite some time.

“This means the world to me!”

Eighteen years later, all three of her children are now grown and, fortunately, completely healthy. But life has been far from easy. Being a single mother is hard enough on full strength, but energy is something Tami can't seem to summon these days. Despite a daily regimen of medications, she constantly feels sick – so sick, in fact, that she was forced

to leave her job as a physical therapist 10 years ago.

Since then, her only source of income has been the disability assistance she receives, which is a mere half of her former salary. Tami says it was nearly impossible to provide for her children on half of her normal income – not to mention paying for her expensive medications. And now, even though her kids are grown, she's still struggling to get by.

“You've got to make a choice – bills, rent or food,” she says.

Fortunately, Tami has found hope and help at Positive Directions, a hunger relief partner of the [Kansas Food Bank](#). Positive Directions is a comprehensive resource center for people living with HIV/AIDS, offering case management, community support, educational resources and



free, nutritious groceries from the [Kansas Food Bank](#).

Tami is so grateful for the food she receives – and she knows it's the compassion and generosity of friends like you that help make it all possible.

“This means the world to me,” she says. “I never thought I'd need the Food Bank. I really, really appreciate it!”

YOU RESTORE HOPE TO FAMILIES IN NEED



Kaycia and her husband Tom never thought they'd experience the helplessness of being unable to feed their children. But lately, life has handed the family one challenge after another.

**“Thank you!
You have helped
us a lot!”**

Tom is a metal-worker for a local airplane manufacturer, and his hours have been cut dramatically within the last year. Kaycia wishes she could get a job to help supplement her

husband's income, but they just can't afford childcare for 2-year-old Zavira and 1-year-old Zayden.

“I would love to get a job – there are many times that my husband's

income falls short,” she says. “But childcare costs so much, it wouldn't make sense.”

The family has applied for food stamps, but they recently found out that they don't qualify for assistance. Kaycia says she was devastated when she found out. With such a limited income, the couple has been really worried about how they're going to feed their children – especially now that the holidays are here.

Fortunately, friends like you are helping families like Kaycia and Tom's every day. Thanks to your gifts

to the [Kansas Food Bank](#), they can take home free, nutritious groceries from the Wellington Food Bank in their hometown of Wellington. This [Kansas Food Bank](#) hunger-relief partner provides important staples like bread, fresh produce, canned goods and other nonperishable foods to hundreds of Kansas families and individuals each month. Kaycia can also take home diapers for little Zayden, which is a huge help.

Kaycia and Tom are so grateful for the food and assistance their family receives – and they know it's your generosity that helps make this all possible. Thanks to you, their children will have enough to eat this holiday season and all year long.

“Thank you! You have helped us a lot,” says Kaycia. “I know so many people right now really need it.”



1919 E. Douglas
Wichita, KS 67211

316.265.4421

www.kansasfoodbank.org

Be our fan on [Facebook!](#)

You can also follow us on Twitter!
twitter.com/KansasFoodBank