

Holiday 2012

seeds

of  
hope



**You're  
Helping  
Prevent  
Hunger  
this  
Holiday  
Season!**

**KANSAS**  
**food bank**  
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984

A Member of **FEEDING AMERICA**



**Brian Walker**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

## HUNGRY KANSANS CAN HAVE A MEMORABLE HOLIDAY MEAL, THANKS TO YOU!

Dear Friend,

The holidays are here again, and it's my favorite time of year. I look forward to the good food and spending time with my family.

And this isn't just a special time of the year at home. It's also the season of giving at the [Kansas Food Bank](#). I am always amazed at the compassion Kansans show for our struggling neighbors this time of year.

Whether it's through company food drives, school fundraisers or individual donations, the commitment Kansans have to ensuring that none of our neighbors go hungry during the holidays is nothing short of inspiring.

The need for your generosity is as great as ever. Last year, the Kansas Food Bank distributed 9.3 million meals to hungry families, seniors and individuals across Kansas. We are working hard in the fight against hunger, but we still have far to go.

As you celebrate with your family this holiday season, I hope you will keep those who are in need in your mind – those whose lives you've improved with your compassion throughout the year. In this issue of Seeds of Hope, you'll read stories of those whose lives are made better, thanks to your generosity.

On behalf of Kansans at risk of hunger, I salute your giving spirit during the holidays and all throughout the year. I look forward to continuing our work together in the New Year to fight hunger in Kansas.

Happy holidays!

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### CHAIRMAN

Doug Jenkins, *Professional Software, Inc.*

#### FIRST VICE CHAIR

John Keating, *Cargill Meat Solutions*

#### SECOND VICE CHAIR

Don Meiergerd, *Excel Food Distribution – Retired*

#### 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*

Helen Galloway, *The First Place*

Cindy Halsey, *Cessna Aircraft Co.*

Doug Jenkins, *Professional Software, Inc.*

Michael Johnston, *Kansas Turnpike Authority*

Roger Kepley, *Rose Hill State Bank*

Dana Knott, *Dillon Stores*

Patric Rowley, *Patric Rowley & Partners*

James (Mike) Rush, *The Boeing Company*

Jim Shelden, *Retired Raytheon/CEI*

Virginia and Paul Treadwell

Jim Urso, *Spirit Aerosystems*

### KANSAS FOOD BANK – EASTERN REGION

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 GIVING HOPE TO STRUGGLING FAMILIES



Christy lights up when she talks about her children. Like most good parents, it's clear within just a few minutes with her that she and her husband would do anything to ensure their children's success in life.

But when Christy's husband lost his steady job at an air conditioning company in Wichita due to an injured back, the family's budget was seriously strained. The growing family suddenly had to rely solely on Christy's income as an ice cream truck driver. With a baby on the way, Christy and her husband were worried.

After months of struggling to pay the bills on Christy's meager income, the family was finally evicted

---

**“Without this food, we would go without. Thank you!”**

---

from their home. With no money or other options, they moved in

with Christy's mother-in-law.

Times are so tough that soon-to-be mother Christy doesn't expect to be able to take much time off when she has her baby in a few months. The family simply can't afford more than a few days of lost wages.

Until the family is financially stable again, they are so grateful to be able to turn to their local food pantry, Bread of Life, in Wichita. At this [Kansas Food Bank](#) hunger-relief partner, Christy can pick up healthy groceries to make tasty meals for her family. She so appreciates the food pantry, and the generous donors who make it all possible –



Christy's son, Scott

especially during this special season.

“Without this food, we would go without. Thank you!” Christy says.

Because of you, Christy's family, and so many others, will have food on the table to share with those they love this holiday season.

# YOU'RE PROVIDING NUTRITIOUS FOOD FOR NEIGHBORS IN NEED!



You provide meals for growing children.



Struggling Kansans are grateful for your help.



Thank you for helping our hungry neighbors.



Hungry children have enough to eat, thanks to you!



Seniors thank you for your generosity.

## Bob Box: A Hand Up!

This fall, the [Kansas Food Bank](#) is rolling out an exciting new program, sponsored in part and endorsed by Senator Robert J. Dole. Simply titled Bob Box, this program provides a safety net for seniors who experience food insecurity.

Older adults often struggle with asking for help when the pantry is empty, and many choose to go without food instead. Seniors in rural Kansas have especially limited

access to hunger relief resources, which means that those living in extreme poverty have absolutely no means to stock their kitchen shelves.

"Growing up in a small town, I was instilled with values where one doesn't think twice about rallying around a neighbor in need," Senator Dole explains.

"The Bob Box is designed specifically to rally around our senior neighbors in need."



Brian Walker with Senator Bob Dole.

Bob Box has been designed specifically with the needs of seniors in mind, and incorporates a new model delivery system that increases access while also respecting their character and dignity.

The new program was rolled out in twenty-four northwest Kansas Counties this November. Distribution partners include local Health Departments and Senior Centers.

Bob Boxes will ultimately be distributed across the entire Kansas Food Bank service area in five years.



Senator Dole has graciously committed a quarter of a million dollars over five years to ensure our seniors who suffer from food

insecurity have meals to put on their table.

"Please consider this a gift – a hand up, not a hand out," Senator Dole says to senior citizens of Kansas.

Thank you to Senator Dole, and to American Association of Retired Persons – Kansas for assisting us with the promotion of Bob Boxes in Northwest Kansas through TV, radio and print media, ensuring the success of this fantastic program!

# STATE SENATOR BOB MARSHALL HELPS OUT HUNGRY KANSANS



Senator Marshall

Bob Marshall is a popular name around Fort Scott. Known to almost all for his volunteerism and dedication to the community, State Senator Marshall is well respected by the folks in this part of Kansas.

He is also a popular figure here at the [Kansas Food Bank](https://www.kansasfoodbank.org),

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

where he has been a volunteer for the past 10 years. Currently, he sits on the Advisory Board for our Independence Warehouse, which serves southeast Kansas.

Bob helps raise awareness of and support for the *Food 4 Kids* program in and around Bourbon

County. Thanks to this initiative, over 100 children who are at risk for hunger receive a backpack full of nutritious food for the weekend, when they can't rely on the meals they would otherwise get for free or at a reduced-price from their school's cafeteria.

Bob has dedicated his life to serving his neighbors. A retired commercial airline pilot, Bob was

also a U.S. Marine. After retiring from the military, he spent time as a volunteer coach for a local community college. He and his wife have been married for 54 years, and together they have three children and six grandchildren.

Bob's passion for the Food Bank

---

**“Volunteering  
makes me  
feel good.”**

---

is evident to everyone around him. He loves seeing the direct benefits of providing food to his struggling neighbors.

“We provide options for families when their resources are gone,” says Bob.

We're so grateful to Bob for his many years of dedication to the Kansas Food Bank, and we look forward to many years of partnership to come.



# YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS EASE THE WORRY OF STRUGGLING FAMILIES



Colette

When Colette and Craig moved to Hutchinson, Kansas to be closer to Colette's sisters, it was difficult to leave behind their two adult children and six precious grandchildren, but they looked forward to new opportunities.

Unfortunately, the last few months have been harder than expected on the couple. Colette is disabled, and the manufacturing job Craig anticipated starting after the move wasn't immediately available. Opportunities in Hutchinson are limited, and although he's had odd jobs

every now and then, nothing has proven to be a significant or reliable source of income.

The couple struggles to get by on Colette's meager disability check. After rent and bills are paid, there is often little money left over for food and other basic necessities.

In their time of need, Colette

and Craig are so grateful that they can turn to the [Food Bank](#) of Reno County in Hutchinson. Colette says here, she finds nutritious staples that help her stretch their monthly budget. Coming here for help not only satisfies the couple's physical needs, but it strengthens them emotionally as well.

"It takes the stress and worry off your mind. You don't have to wonder where your next meal is coming from," Colette says.

Craig has experience organizing food drives through a previous job,

so he knows how much work goes into providing access to food for those who need it most. He is so appreciative to the people who are taking care of him and Colette in their difficult time.

"Thank you!

Things would be a lot harder without places like this," Craig says.

---

**“It takes the stress and worry off your mind. You don't have to wonder where your next meal is coming from.”**

---



# YOU'RE HELPING FAMILIES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET



Alicia and her sons, Jovany, 3, and Jose, 7.

When Alicia's husband Abalos lost his construction job, she knew it was up to her to provide for their two precious sons, 3-year-old Jovany and 7-year-old Jose. The young mother has a steady job at a corporate cleaning business, but work is slow this season.

While Alicia and Abalos work out how to pay bills and manage

they have enough food to last them through the holiday season.

Fortunately, Alicia has learned about the Old Time Gospel Neighborhood Center in Wichita, where she can come to get healthy groceries to feed her growing family. She loves the hearty staples she finds here, like bread, pasta, meat

expenses with their current income, they worry how they will manage after Abalos's unemployment benefits run out in a few weeks. As more and more money goes to bills, the hardworking parents don't know what they'll do to ensure

and dairy products. It's food she feels good about giving her growing children.

Alicia knows that even though she and Abalos may not be able to afford everything her sons may wish for this season, at the very least they will be able to sit down to a family meal, thanks to their neighborhood food pantry, a hunger-relief partner of the [Kansas Food Bank](#).

Your gracious giving in support of the Food Bank ensures that families like Alicia's have access to food during the holiday season and all year long.

"Thank you so much for your support," Alicia says emphatically.

**“Thank you so  
much for your  
support.”**



1919 E. Douglas  
Wichita, KS 67211

316.265.4421

[www.kansasfoodbank.org](http://www.kansasfoodbank.org)



Be our fan on [Facebook!](#)  
You can also follow us on Twitter!  
[twitter.com/KansasFoodBank](https://twitter.com/KansasFoodBank)