

Summer 2013

# seeds *of hope*



Thank  
You for  
Fighting  
Summer  
Hunger!

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



**Brian Walker**  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

## THANK YOU FOR FEEDING KANSAS KIDS

Dear Friend,

Summer vacation is here! My boys reminded me daily with their countdown to the last day of school. For many kids, it's the best time of year. Some of my fondest memories of growing up were during the summer.

But for those kids enrolled in their school's free or reduced-price meal program, summer is also the hungriest time of year. That's because without regular access to the balanced breakfasts and lunches their cafeteria provides, they're facing a summer meal gap of ten meals a week.

Your gifts to the [Kansas Food Bank](#) are working to fill this gap. When you give, you're ensuring that our Summer Feeding Sites and Kids Cafes have healthy meals to provide for the children who need them most, and food pantries across the region are stocked for parents whose children will soon be out of school.

In this issue of *Seeds of Hope*, you'll find a few stories of some children and parents who have already benefitted greatly from your compassion. These stories of hope, like Lisa's family on the next page, remind me of the real lives that we're impacting together. Thousands of children and their parents will have food this summer that they might not have, if it weren't for you.

For all that you do for our community, thank you. Your gifts make all the difference.

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# FAMILIES ARE SURVIVING THANKS TO YOU



Lisa

Tears of gratitude pool in Lisa's eyes as her arms overflow with the fresh vegetables she just received from one of the [Kansas Food Bank's](#) partner agencies here in Wichita.

"I don't know what I would do without a place like this," she admits. She and her husband, Donald, have two teenagers, Robert and Marissa. The healthy food Lisa

picks up here keeps them from going hungry in their time of need.

Lisa and Donald haven't always had to ask for help. But Donald recently suffered a debilitating back injury that forced him to stop working, and not long after that, Lisa lost her job when the small business she worked for downsized its employees.

Now, with no steady income to rely on, the family never has any money left over for extras – and sometimes, they don't

have enough to cover their most basic necessities.

"Summers and holidays are hard," Lisa says. "We really enjoy the fresh produce we receive – it helps brighten our spirits in this time of darkness."

The healthy food that's available at local pantries to families like Lisa's help fuel their children's success – Robert and Marissa plan to enroll in college after they graduate from high school in a couple of years. They will be the first in their family to go to college – Lisa and Donald couldn't be more proud.

By ensuring that families like Lisa's don't go hungry in their time of need, you're helping the next generation of Kansans grow into the leaders and decision-makers of tomorrow. Lisa is sincerely grateful for the help you provide her family.

"This is very much appreciated," she says. "Thank you for your support."

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“[This food] helps brighten our spirits in this time of darkness.””

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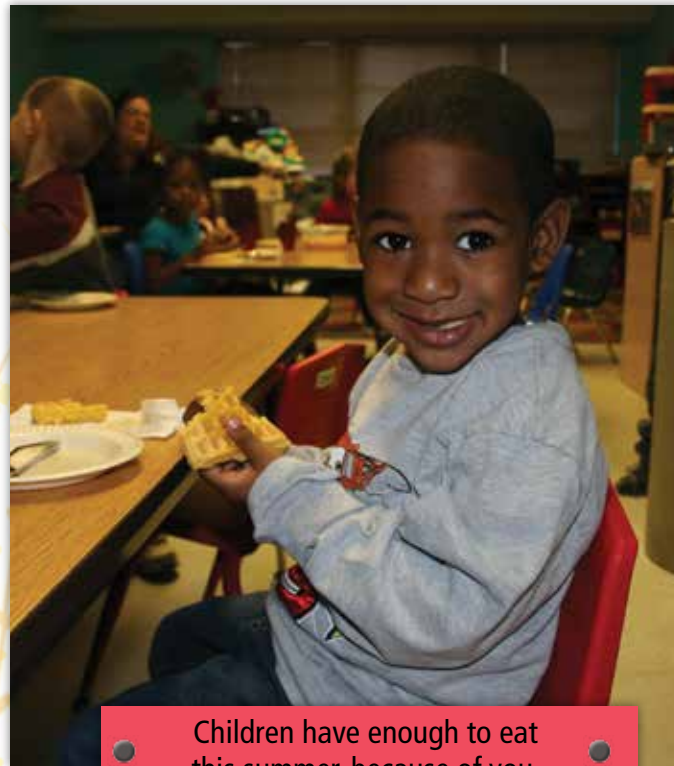
# YOU'RE HELPING FIGHT SUMMER HUNGER!



You provide meals for growing children.



You give hope to Kansans in need.



Children have enough to eat this summer, because of you.



Struggling families are grateful for your help.



Seniors are nourished, thanks to your gifts.

## Harvest for Hunger

For the third year, CHS presented

**CHS Harvest for Hunger**

its Harvest for Hunger to benefit the Kansas Food Bank and partner agencies. Money raised supports the operations of pantries, *Food 4 Kids*, Bob Box and summer feeding programs in Greeley, Sherman, Thomas and Gove counties. Over \$30,000, a record total was raised this year!

## Stamp out Hunger

The Letter Carrier Food Drive once again proved a success, collecting over 250,000 meals in this one-day drive. NetApp generously provided bags to 19 communities to help collect food. Thanks to all the letter carriers, postal workers, drivers, volunteers and those who left food by their mailboxes to support this event.



## Thank you, CoBank

In 2012, CoBank committed to a generous three-year donation of \$50,000 each year to the Kansas Food Bank. This year, they committed an additional \$100,000 over the next two years to assist us with our rural programs serving drought stricken counties. Thank you, CoBank, for supporting our mission and work.

## Hunger Action Month

September is Hunger Action Month. The Kansas Food Bank will once again host an open house



and call to action on September 19. Various volunteer opportunities will be available, as well as tours of our facility. Make plans to join us and show your support of Hunger Action Month.

## The Hunger Study Underway

The Kansas Food Bank and food banks across the United States

are currently participating in the largest comprehensive study of hunger in America. All of our partner agencies have completed their surveys, and we're now visiting with clients to collect crucial data. The Hunger Study takes place every four years, and this year we're visiting more of our partner agencies than ever before. National and local results will be released in the spring.

## Fighting Hunger Together

The Kansas Food Bank has received \$45,000 from Walmart as part of its *Fighting Hunger Together* Campaign to support our *Food 4 Kids* program. Facebook users were asked to vote for their favorite organization, and the top 40 food banks each received funding.



# A FAMILY HELPS OUT



The Roth Family

When Derek and Kris Roth decided to dedicate a day of service to the [Kansas Food Bank](#) alongside Derek's fellow Cargill coworkers, they knew it would be a rewarding experience. They didn't know they were embarking on a journey of volunteerism

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

that would eventually involve the whole family.

Two years have passed since Derek and Kris first filled *Food 4 Kids* bags on that day of service, and they've been coming back with three of their boys ever since. Now, Kris sets aside time for the whole family to volunteer together.

"We find volunteering with the Food Bank very fun," says Derek. "It never feels like work to us – and it's so easy for youth to get involved."

In fact, 11-year-old Ben, 9-year-old Lucas and 5-year-old Elijah love volunteering so much that they encourage their cousins, friends and neighbors to get involved, too.

It's no wonder they are so passionate about volunteering –

the children realize the impact of their hard work when they see the packs they helped fill with nutritious foods get delivered to their own school.

"That's when they actually get to see the fruits of their labor," Derek explains.

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**“It never feels like work to us.”**

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Derek encourages anyone who is interested in helping out at the Food Bank to give it a try – especially families with children. They have even brought, and will again bring, their fifth- and sixth-grade Mission Possible Wednesday night church group to help out.

"This is a perfect way to get your family introduced to philanthropy," says Derek. "Volunteering with children at the Food Bank is transformative."

# FAMILIES HAVE HOPE BECAUSE OF YOUR GENEROSITY

Cindy and her husband, Steve\*, were devastated when Steve lost his good job a couple of months ago – he'd been with the company for 43 years.

"My husband worked so hard. Now everything is crumbling around us," she says in tears.

To make matters more difficult, their 28-year-old son, Derrick, just had to move back home. He also suffered a recent job loss, and without a steady income, he was unable to meet his rent payments. He's been working odd jobs since he was laid off, but hasn't found anything steady yet.

**"This [food] is  
a wonderful  
help to me  
and my family."**

Cindy, Steve and their son were doing fine before the painful layoffs. But now, they've had to give up almost everything in their

\* Name has been changed



Derrick and Cindy

struggle to stay on their feet. Derrick was heartbroken when he had to surrender his loyal dog because he simply couldn't afford to take care of him.

Things are so hard for the family right now that they've been having trouble making room in the budget for their most basic needs – like food.

But thanks to your generosity, Cindy, Steve and Derrick don't have to go hungry while they work to get back on their feet. Your gifts allow them to visit the Westside

Good Neighbor Center, a partner of the [Kansas Food Bank](#), to pick up healthy groceries to keep them going strong.

The family expects to be back on their feet soon, and your gifts are fueling their recovery. They're so thankful that they don't have to experience hunger in their time of need.

"Thank you," Cindy says to you, for making this resource available. "This [food] is a wonderful help to me and my family."

# YOU'RE PROVIDING HEALTHY MEALS FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN



When children enrolled in their school's free or reduced-price meal program are out for summer, they are at risk of missing out on up to ten breakfasts and lunches each week. Your gifts to the Food Bank help provide lunches to children until they're able to benefit from the free meal program when school begins again.

Your generosity fills the summer meal gap at Summer Feeding

Sites like the one at Atwater Neighborhood City Hall, which serves healthy meals and provides stimulating activities to nourish the brains and bodies of area children.

"We want to encourage growth and health," explains Sally Fahrenthold, the site director. This

summer will be the program's fifth.

A typical lunch for children at a Food Bank Feeding Site includes a protein, dairy and fruit. They also receive a healthy

**"I'm so thankful that there are places like this."**

snack before they return home.

Each Feeding Site gives the children the opportunity to sign a poster that's displayed for volunteers and donors to see how much their gifts and time are appreciated – the kids love filling the posters with happy faces and big thank yous.

Sally sees the children who benefit from this food daily, and she knows that their progress during the summer wouldn't be possible without the nourishing food that your gifts to the Food Bank provide.

"Thank you for what you're able to do to support this worthwhile cause," Sally says. "Your gifts are maximized in order to feed as many children in need as possible."



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



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