

Summer 2014

# 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 CHILDREN!

Dear Friend,

For parents that struggle to provide enough food for their children on a limited budget, the free or reduced-price school meal program is a real blessing. It removes some of the financial stress of providing a balanced breakfast and lunch each day of the week – a relief that only a struggling parent can truly understand.

But what about when school lets out, and the cafeteria doors close? Summer vacation begins in Kansas next week – and those parents will suddenly be faced with providing 10 extra meals a week for each of their children. For some, the stress is a real challenge. I can't imagine not having enough food to feed my own sons.

Thankfully, this summer there's help for families in need – through your generosity to the [Kansas Food Bank](#).

When school cafeteria doors close, struggling parents – like Bethany – will have access to nutritious groceries at one of our partner agencies. Bethany and her husband have four school-aged children and are behind on their bills. The kids won't be eating at school this summer, but Bethany knows they won't go hungry, thanks to you. Read her story on the next page.

Long summer days shouldn't turn into long hungry nights for Kansas children – and you're helping to making sure they don't. Thank you for your support this summer, and all year round.

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# FAMILIES GET BACK ON THEIR FEET THANKS TO YOU



Bethany

Bethany stood in line for over an hour at the Westside Good Neighbor Center today. It was a long wait, but in her mind, well worth it. She knew that when she left she'd be going home with a box full of nutritious food – and the peace of mind that her family would be ok.

“Sometimes you have to swallow your pride to get what you need,” Bethany says. This is one of those times.

With four school-aged children to feed, Bethany and her husband are experiencing the insecurity

of his seasonal work. He works in construction, and even though jobs are plentiful right now, he and Bethany are still catching up on bills and expenses left over from the winter months, when work was exceptionally

slow. That makes affording all the necessities – like healthy food for their children – a struggle.

Things aren't easy for the family right now, but your gifts to the

[Kansas Food](#)

[Bank](#) give Bethany hope.

At the Westside

Good Neighbor

Center, she finds quality groceries to help her stretch her budget to last through the month. This resource will be especially important during the upcoming summer vacation, since her children all receive free

meals at school. She feels confident that, with the help of friends like you, she and her husband will be able to fill the summer meal gap – and her kids won't have to worry whether there will be enough food in the pantry.

Bethany loves the nutritious, kid-friendly options available at the Westside Good Neighbor Center, and the fact that it's client choice means she can select only the items she knows her family will eat. She says she feels good knowing that nothing goes to waste.

Your generosity is providing more than food for Bethany and her family – you're giving them

the stability they need to get through this rough patch and onto a brighter

future. She couldn't be more thankful for your help.

“You're keeping this family going right now,” Bethany says, with extreme gratitude. “For that, we thank you.”

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“You're keeping this family going.”

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# YOU'RE HELPING FIGHT SUMMER HUNGER!



Thank you for helping our hungry neighbors.



You give hope to Kansas children in need.



Seniors stay healthy, thanks to you!



You help provide food for hardworking families.



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

## 30 Years of Food Banking

Wow, it's hard to believe we turn 30 this year! We'll celebrate the milestone in September during Hunger Action Month. There have been many changes over the years, but one thing has stayed constant and that is our focus, mission and drive to provide for Kansans at risk of hunger. Thank you to everyone who has helped us along the way. We couldn't have done all we do without you!

## Summer Food

When children are not in school the meals they rely upon become

even more important. The USDA Summer Food Service program operates in several communities we serve, but not all. Across our service area, the Kansas Food Bank is working with partner agencies and community champions to ensure children have access to nutritious foods. Shelf stable meals are provided as an easy way for kids to grab a lunch making sure they have at least one full meal a day.



## Fugate Steps Up to the Plate

Our friends at Fugate Enterprises

are once again helping raise funds for our *Food 4 Kids* program. Fugate operates 47 Taco Bell and 51 Pizza Hut locations across Kansas. From July 16 – Aug. 12, restaurant guests will be asked to become a "Child Hunger Hero" by donating to the *Food 4 Kids* program in their respective community.

## Letter Carriers' Food Drive Update

We just wrapped up the annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive collecting over 300,000 pounds of food across our 85 counties. This food drive is especially important as we head into

the busy summer months. NetApp provided generous support with the blue collection bags, which helped draw attention to the cause and made it very easy for collection.

## CoBank Helps Feed Our Rural Counties!



Our friends at CoBank have been very generous to us as we provide food in rural communities. We received our second year gift of

\$50,000 to assist with mobile pantries and *Food 4 Kids* in western Kansas – and they joined us with an additional \$50,000 matching opportunity for *Bob Box!* Thanks, CoBank, for helping us fight hunger.

## Client Choice Pantry Opens in Independence

We are pleased to announce that the Community Access Center has relocated to our facility in Independence. This move allowed us to open a client choice model pantry with them. We are very excited about this new venture and we are already hearing how the

clients coming for food enjoy the opportunity to choose the items they really need.

## Harvest for Hunger



United Plains Ag and CHS just wrapped up their annual campaign in northwest Kansas for the Kansas Food Bank and partner agencies, raising a total of over \$50,000! Funds support services in Thomas, Sherman, Greeley, Wichita and Gove counties.



# MEL THOMPSON DEDICATES TIME TO HELPING THE HUNGRY



Larry Gunkel, Mel Thompson and Brian Walker

As U.S. Senator Pat Roberts' State Agricultural Public Servant, Mel Thompson has a busy schedule. But in his rare free time, he enjoys doing his part to make sure all Kansas families have access to nutritious food.

Mel has been a volunteer and avid supporter of the [Kansas Food](#)

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

[Bank](#) since 1997. He has a real passion for the *Food 4 Kids* program especially, often carving out time to transport backpacks to schools on his way to and from work. He recognizes that this is a way he can help the Food Bank save time and money that can then be dedicated to other important programs.

Married to his wife, Carol, for

the past 47 years, Mel is a family man. He's a father to three grown children and now has six grandchildren. He says this perspective has made him sensitive to families that struggle to put food on the table.

"I feel good that I can help," he says. "I like knowing that children aren't going hungry on the weekends, thanks to the Food Bank."

Mel says he's found fulfillment in volunteering with the Kansas

Food Bank, and he's grateful that friends like you invest in the cause he cares so much about.

"There is little overhead and a whole lot of benefit," he says. "The Food Bank is so efficient, and I want donors to know that their gifts are well spent."

Mel goes on to encourage all to donate their resources to help strengthen our community.

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**“There is no greater calling than serving your fellow man.”**

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"There is no greater calling than serving your fellow man, and there is no higher calling than meeting the needs of those less fortunate."

# WORKING PARENTS BENEFIT FROM YOUR HELP

Marie, a single mother, has worked at a nursing home for the past 12 years, earning a small wage. She loves her job, but it just doesn't pay very much. She often finds it's difficult to cover rent, utilities and other bills – including enough nutritious food for her 11-year-old son, Trenton.

This is the unfortunate reality for many parents in our community. Despite working long hours, they simply can't earn enough to stay on top of mounting bills as the cost of living continues to rise. And with summer vacation on the horizon, parents like Marie face the added challenge of replacing the meals her son won't receive for free in his school's cafeteria.

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“Thank you so much.”

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Your support of the [Kansas Food Bank](#) means there's help for Marie – and so many working parents like her – at a nearby Food Bank partner agency.

For Marie, she can visit her local pantry in Salina. She is able to go there for shelf-stable groceries like spaghetti, oatmeal and other pantry staples, including ingredients for pancakes – her son's favorite.

Trenton is really looking forward to an active summer. Marie describes him as a “typical 11-year-old boy,” who loves all outdoor sports. She's relieved to know that with the help of the food pantry, he'll have plenty of energy for long days of play this summer.

Marie knows it's your generosity that's helping her make ends meet, and she's so grateful you choose to



Marie

give to help mothers like her.

“Without your help, there would be a lot more hungry people,” Marie says. “Thank you so much.”

# SINGLE MOTHERS CAN MAKE ENDS MEET, THANKS TO YOU



Patricia and her son, Chris

Patricia is a hardworking mother from Wichita. She works fulltime as a cashier to support her family, and she's so proud of her four children. Her youngest, 3-year-old Chris, isn't in school yet, but he's learning from his three older sisters every day. Kayla, 8, and twins Kia and Keisha, 5, love coming home after school to teach him all the things they're learning.

But soon, the girls will be out for

summer vacation, and Patricia knows the two and a half month break from school will put a real strain on her budget. The girls all receive free meals at school, and as a single mother, it will be next to impossible for Patricia to replace all those meals without a little extra help.

Adding to her strain is the fact that summer electric bills are always higher. She keeps her thermostat set as conservatively as possible, but she says it's still hard to keep up with the added expense.

“This food is truly a blessing.”

Fortunately, your gifts to the [Kansas Food Bank](#) help mothers like Patricia during the summer, when their children are eating at home and utility bills rise.

Because you give, she knows she can visit the Bread of Life food

pantry in Wichita for a little extra help feeding her family when she needs it.

Aside from her obvious gratitude for the food she receives when she visits Bread of Life, Patricia really appreciates how she's treated at the pantry.

“We really like the people and how they genuinely care about us,” she says.

Patricia knows this resource exists because of your generosity, and she was thrilled to get the opportunity to express her gratitude.

“I really appreciate your support,” she says. “This food is truly a blessing.”

*\*Children's names have been changed*



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316.265.FOOD(3663)

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



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