

SEEDS OF HOPE

YOUR GIFTS ARE
MAKING IT A
HUNGER-FREE
SUMMER!



KANSAS
food bank
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984

MEMBER OF
FEEDING AMERICA

DEAR FRIEND,

With summer already upon us, I couldn't be more grateful for committed friends like you. Because of your generosity, many of our neighbors – including countless boys and girls at risk of hunger – are able to receive the nourishing meals their bodies need.

At the end of each school year, thousands of students look forward to lazy summer days full of fun and excitement. But for children from struggling families, the story is much different.

Because their parents or guardians are unable to afford the cost of replacing the free or reduced-priced meals their kids normally receive at school, many children could easily go hungry. This summer, thanks to your support, we'll be able to connect communities across Kansas with nourishing meals and groceries, ensuring that more Kansans have enough food.

Although we often call summer the hungriest time of the year, you've proven time and again that it doesn't have to be. As you can see from the many success stories — like Malinda's on page 8 — your gifts have a transformative effect on our communities' children and families.

Now that the last school bell has rung this school year, I hope that hungry boys and girls can count on your help — just like they have in the past. Thank you!

Sincerely,



Brian Walker
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Board of Directors

CHAIRMAN

Doug Jenkins
Professional Software, Inc.

FIRST VICE CHAIR

John Keating
Cargill Meat Solutions

SECOND VICE CHAIR

Don Meiergerd
Retired Excel Food Distribution

SECRETARY

Jim Shelden
Retired Ratheon/CEI

TREASURER

Sam Seward
M&L CPAs Chartered

PRESIDENT & CEO

Brian Walker

DIRECTORS

Brent Doonan, Doonan Truck & Equipment
Dan Eilert, Intrust Bank
Clark Goetzinger, Westar Energy
Michael Johnston
Roger Kepley, Rose Hill Bank
Dana Knott, Dillon Stores
Brenda Lichman
Rebecca Rather
Jim Urso
Tim Zynda, Concrete Materials Company

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
Kenny Doonan, Doonan Truck & Equipment

A HARDWORKING MOTHER IS GRATEFUL TO YOU



Donna at Labette County
Emergency Assistance
Center in Parsons

It's an exciting time in Donna's life. Last fall she married her husband, Bryan, and this summer, they're expecting a baby. But none of this is to say that Donna hasn't experienced any hardships — she most certainly has.

Donna was recently laid off from her job at a cellular phone store. And while she's quick to add that Bryan is still employed at a local grill, Donna knows providing for their two older children, Kirstin and Chandler, is now more difficult than ever.

While Donna is trying to find work before the baby comes, so far she hasn't had any luck. This has left her feeling restless because she

wants to help provide for her family.

"I've always worked, so it has been hard being jobless and pregnant," said Donna, expressing her frustration.

**"It is peace of mind that
we can come here for
help without question."**

To add to Donna's worries, the breakfast and lunch that Kirstin and Chandler rely on at school are now unavailable. Over the next couple of months, families like Donna's will

have to find a way to replace these meals on an already tight budget.

Donna made the decision to visit the Labette County Emergency Assistance Center in Parsons for help. Thanks to your gifts to the [Kansas Food Bank](#), this hunger-relief partner agency was prepared to serve Donna's family.

Today, Donna has the security that comes with knowing that if her family's financial situation doesn't improve before summer, her kids won't go hungry.

"You are so kind to help us," said Donna. "It is peace of mind that we can come here for help without question."

YOUR GENEROUS GIFTS ARE LIFE CHANGING!



Summer Food Program

With school out for the summer, the [Kansas Food Bank](#) is working with several Kansas communities to bring summer meal programs to the kids. The summer meal program has one goal of feeding children when school meals are not available. Last summer over 45,000 meals were served via our involvement with summer food programs across the state.

The food bank will serve as a sponsor for the USDA Summer Food Program again this year in 22 communities across our service area. At these sites, kids ages 1 — 18 enjoy a balanced nutritional lunch

in a congregate meal setting. Participating communities include: Ashland, Bazine, Bucklin, Burlington, Bushton, Dighton, Ellsworth, Ford, Ft Scott, Girard, Gridley, Haviland, Holyrood, Hutchinson, Junction City, LaCrosse, LeRoy, Lorraine, Ness City, Oberlin, Sharon Springs and Ulysses.

We also help other communities with summer meals for kids in a non-congregate setting. At these locations kids get their meals to go either daily or weekly. Participating communities are: Andover, Belleville, Beloit, Ellis, Larned, Mankato, Osborne, Smith Center and Tribune.

And new this year, we are assisting two communities with shelf stable summer meals for their programs: Kids Need 2 Eat in El Dorado is launching their new meal bus and The City of Wichita is serving meals in partnership with Urban Prep Academy.

Finally, we will wrap up summer meals with Filling the Gap. Working with Partners for Wichita, we help provide meals for kids in Wichita when the USDA SFSP ends in the three weeks before school begins. Seventeen sites across town will serve as host locations where children can get a meal. Fresh fruit and

snacks are also provided for the kids to take home.

Saturday Produce Days

Fresh produce has been something the Kansas Food Bank has been focused on for several years now. We know that fresh produce is one of the most requested items at our food pantry partners. Last year we distributed over 2.4 million pounds of produce alone. Households we serve report that fresh produce is one of the first things they pass up when purchasing food because they simply cannot afford the cost in their budgets.

Sourcing produce is something we strategically do. We also rescue produce from local retailers. Recently changes to our food rescue program have meant an increase in the amount of produce we are receiving — a big increase. So much so, that four of our partner agencies: Bread of Life, His Helping Hands, Iglesia La Resurreccion and Catholic Charities Our Daily Bread are all extending their operation hours and holding Saturday Produce Days for pantry guests. In the just the few weeks since beginning these new distributions, on average over 6 to 8 pallets of fresh produce weighing over 4,000 pounds are distributed every Saturday. Pantry

guests are thrilled with this opportunity to receive fresh, healthy items!

LETTER CARRIERS FOOD DRIVE

The 25th annual Letter Carriers Food Drive to Stamp Out Hunger was held May 13th. This is the largest one day food drive to benefit the [Kansas Food Bank](#). Letter carriers across the state helped collect food and deliver it to their local food bank or food pantry. NetApp once again helped provide specially marked blue collection bags which always help increase donations. Thank you to all the postal workers, volunteers and donors who made this a success.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: LOCAL COUPLE DEDICATED TO SERVE THEIR COMMUNITY

Miles Thompson first learned of [Kansas Food Bank](#)'s mission while working for Boeing (now Spirit Aerosystems). As team-building exercises, Miles and his coworkers would volunteer filling *Food 4 Kids* backpack bags for distribution to local schools. Since 2012, he and his wife, Cindy, have been regular weekly volunteers with Kansas Food Bank.

“We are glad that we can touch the lives of many that need our support,”

“When we volunteer, there is never a dull moment — we always stay busy,” Cindy says. “There is always something for you to do.”

Cindy mainly works on the clerical side filing, processing partner agency food orders, scanning donations and entering gifts. She's seen the number of agencies the Food Bank partners with grow over the years she's been volunteering. Cindy says she's happy to see all the community support for Kansans facing hunger, and she shares their dedication to providing relief.

“We are glad that we can touch the lives of many that need our support,” she says.

For the past two summers, Miles



has joined the Americorps VISTA program to help connect our neighbors — specifically those with school-age children who've lost access to school meals — with the nutritious food they need to thrive. Miles also serves hot meals at The Lord's Diner, one of our partners at the Catholic Diocese of Wichita.

When they're not giving time to support their neighbors in need, Miles and Cindy love to ride bikes together and are active in the

Mennonite Church. Miles retired in 2013, but Cindy still works in musical theater, as a freelance musician and teaching and tutoring in music.

It's so encouraging to see people like Miles and Cindy take up the cause of hunger relief. We couldn't be more appreciative of their support. On behalf of the many families and individuals we serve together, thank you for all you do!

If you'd like to volunteer at the Kansas Food Bank, contact us at volunteer@kansasfoodbank.org.

YOUR GENEROSITY PROVIDES MUCH-NEEDED RELIEF

Dee Dee and her husband, Darren, live in McPherson with their 12-year-old son, Slade. A few years ago, they were a double-income family, but when Dee Dee had to have major surgery, their financial situation changed dramatically.

As a certified nurse's assistant, Dee Dee's day to day work was quite physically demanding. Due to being injured, she was heartbroken to learn her career was over.

"This is a godsend and blessing that you are willing to help others."

Today, the family is drowning in medical bills. To make matters worse, Dee Dee still has trouble keeping her balance. But with no insurance or money to cover a doctor's visit or additional surgeries, she tries to ignore her symptoms and focus on other priorities — like helping feed her family.

Although it took her a while to admit she needed help, Dee Dee decided to reach out to the McPherson County Food Pantry, one of the [Kansas Food Bank's](#) many hunger-relief partners. When we last spoke with her, she was very excited about the food that she was receiving. She told us that the items she was given would last



her a week, maybe more. Either way, it would be enough until her husband's next paycheck was scheduled to arrive.

Because families like Dee Dee's don't often receive any other outside support, friends like you are absolutely critical. Thanks

to your generosity, Dee Dee and countless other neighbors will have a place in their community to receive the food they need, but can't afford.

"This is a godsend and blessing that you are willing to help others," said Dee Dee.

YOU'RE ENSURING CHILDREN HAVE HEALTHY FOOD

Malinda with her children, Kase, ShyAnn and Damien, at the Oberlin Mobile Food Pantry



The couple's financial situation will improve when Malinda graduates. But until then, it's likely the family will continue struggling to put food on the table.

After learning about it from a friend, Malinda visited the Kansas Food Bank Mobile Pantry that stopped in Oberlin. She was able to pick up nutritious food which helped the family make it through the end of the month when money is especially tight.

Malinda says ShyAnn, Kase and Damien have really enjoyed the fresh fruits and vegetables made available through your gifts to the Food Bank. Healthy items like fresh produce are among the most expensive at the store, but are vital to her kids' development.

Malinda and Andrew are giving thanks for friends like you, who've helped ensure their children have access to balanced nutrition.

By giving to the [Kansas Food Bank](#), you're helping families and individuals from all walks of life. In some cases — like for Malinda's family — you're helping people realize their dreams.

Malinda is studying nursing while her husband, Andrew, works in agriculture. They're raising three children — ShyAnn, 2,

Kase, 3, and Damien, 8 — and do their best to provide for them. But right now, they're having a difficult time financially.

Because she's taking a full course load, Malinda relies on childcare for the couple's younger children. With that cost, plus tuition, books and other bills, Andrew's income often doesn't stretch to afford a trip to the grocery store.



1919 E. Douglas
Wichita, KS 67211
316.265.FOOD(3663)
kansasfoodbank.org



[twitter.com/
KansasFoodBank](https://twitter.com/KansasFoodBank)



[facebook.com/
KansasFoodBank](https://facebook.com/KansasFoodBank)

