



SEEDS OF

HOPE

Holiday 2018

kansasfoodbank.org



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DEAR FRIEND,

The holidays are a joyful time — one filled with love, fellowship and gratitude. Although we all have much to be thankful for, it would be hard for Kansans who struggle with hunger to celebrate without your generous support.

This special season can be more of a burden than a blessing when parents are facing financial uncertainty. Every day that children are out of school and without access to school meals means additional strain on family budgets. Add that to the cost of increased winter heating bills, and it is clear many are having a hard time right now.

Your partnership makes a real difference. Because you choose to support the Kansas Food Bank, your neighbors can find relief this holiday season through mobile food distributions, food pantries, meal sites and other programs.

Every bag of healthy groceries and balanced meals you help provide solves hunger for children, families and seniors — and gives them the hope of knowing they will have enough to eat.

I hope you will take a few minutes to meet some of these grateful neighbors in this holiday edition of Seeds of Hope. On the following page you'll meet Brittany, a hardworking caregiver in Junction City. Read her story to learn how you're making the holiday season a happy one for her family.

The Kansas Food Bank truly could not fulfill our mission to alleviate hunger without you. I greatly value your partnership and look forward to serving alongside you in the new year.

Gratefully,

B. Walker
Brian Walker
PRESIDENT AND CEO

YOU ARE A LIFELINE TO FAMILIES LIKE BRITTANY'S

Brittany is a dedicated wife and mother. Although you are not likely to hear her complain, she has quite a bit of stress on her shoulders.

Brittany's husband, Jeff, is a former Army medic and truck driver who returned from the service with debilitating

injuries. His income is now limited disability payments, and because he and the couple's youngest son, Jett, 4, require constant care, Brittany is not able to work outside the home right now.

Brittany looks forward to at least finding a part-time job when Jett

is old enough for school. She has two other children in school at the moment, which helps provide nourishment throughout the day. However, when school lets out, the need for food increases for her family.

Fortunately, a friend from church told her about Geary County Food Pantry, a Food Bank partner agency in nearby Junction City. We had the chance to talk with Brittany at the pantry, and she told us how excited she was to be able to pick up fresh produce and meat for her family.

Your support brings hope to so many neighbors in Brittany's situation. During the upcoming holiday season, countless struggling families will be able to sit down to a special meal together — all because you choose to give.

We asked Brittany if she had a message for the people who help keep the pantry stocked, and she cracked a wide smile.

"My family really, really appreciates it," she says on behalf of Jeff and the kids. "We're really thankful."



*Brittany at Geary
County Food Pantry in
Junction City*

“My family really,
really appreciates it.”

VOLUNTEER CENTER GROUNDBREAKING

GROWING TO SERVE

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

GROWING TO SERVE

working together against hunger



Kansas Food Bank Staff

“For the many individuals and families who struggle to put food on the table, fresh fruits and vegetables are simply not in the food budget. The nutritional benefit of fresh produce for those we serve is well documented. Receiving this fresh produce has been a huge blessing at St. Patrick Lord’s Pantry. It allows our patrons to have more options when preparing meals and an opportunity for a healthier diet. We are so grateful!”

— Kim Decker, Pantry Director

On Tuesday, September 12, the Kansas Food Bank announced the completion of our *Growing to Serve* capital campaign with the groundbreaking for our new volunteer center! It will be named the Sunderland Foundation Volunteer Center to recognize the generosity of the Sunderland Foundation.

Kent Sunderland, President of the Sunderland Foundation, shared in a written statement, “When

we were asked to consider making a donation to the campaign, we were impressed with the Food Bank’s plan and vision to distribute 16 million pounds of food per year, with an increased focus on providing more fresh produce to hungry Kansans living in our state’s most rural areas.”

The 21,000 square-foot addition to the Food Bank’s current warehouse will include the volunteer center,

more warehouse space and a larger cooler area to provide more fresh fruits and vegetables across the Food Bank’s service area. As a result of these improvements, we’ll be able to provide dedicated work space for twice as many volunteers and increase fresh produce distribution by 100 percent!

Thanks to the generous support of 42 individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations, the

Kansas Food Bank surpassed our \$5 million capital campaign goal! Conco Construction has been selected as the general contractor for the project. Construction will begin in the fall and is expected to be completed early in the Summer of 2019.

Our sincere thanks go out to everyone in our community who made *Growing to Serve* a success!

VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

ROGER STIVERSON



Roger Stiverson

“It’s fulfilling.”

When he retired from Spirit Aerosystems in 2014, Roger Stiverson was excited to spend his retirement playing golf, improving his home and spending time with family. But he quickly found himself wanting to give back to his community.

Roger volunteered in hunger relief through his church and soon began

looking for more opportunities. By chance, in the winter of 2016, he heard a radio ad from the Food Bank seeking volunteers for our *Food 4 Kids* program.

“That one message got me started... I’m glad I did!” Roger says.

He comes to give his time filling *Food 4 Kids* backpacks and

helping out in our warehouse a few times each week. Roger says the number of backpacks he’s filled has helped him understand the scope the childhood hunger here in Kansas.

A doting great grandfather to Landon and Brody, Roger cares deeply about the well-being of growing kids and their families. He says he remembers that each *Food 4 Kids* bag he packs represents an actual child, and he’s glad to do his part helping ensure students are fed.

“It’s fulfilling,” Roger says of volunteering. “I found something that I can attach to.”

We’re so very grateful for Roger and his dedicated volunteer efforts. Because of his commitment, countless children across our state have the security of a food-filled backpack each weekend. Thank you, Roger, for all you make possible!

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

YOUR GIFTS MEAN CASEY CAN ACCESS HEALTHY FOOD

Casey, 11, is a smart, happy little girl. You would never know from her wide smile and bright spirit how difficult things have been for her at home.

Casey and her older sister live with their mom, Isela, in Wichita. When we chatted with Isela, she told us they had really been struggling.

Her income is inconsistent — Isela does odd jobs caring for children. Her older daughter has an hourly job, and their family budget is pretty much just what they can scrape together. They often find they cannot buy groceries on their own.

This is a big problem. Casey needs consistent nutritious meals to learn and grow properly. But with so little money, Isela typically fills her family table with not so healthy foods because they are all she can afford.

With your partnership, the Food Bank is able to share quality groceries with countless children in need. When they do not have the means to buy food, Isela visits Our Daily Bread, a member of our hunger-relief network near their home, to pick up a variety of fresh food.

Can you imagine the struggle of not being able to provide healthy



Casey at Our Daily Bread in Wichita.

“We are grateful for this food.”

food for your child? Your gifts bring great relief to caregivers in this desperate situation.

“We are grateful for this food,” Isela says to friends like you.

Your support is providing a food safety net for kids like Casey. By ensuring Kansas children have enough healthy food to eat today, you are paving the way for a brighter tomorrow. Thank you!

OUR NEIGHBORS ARE GIVING

THANKS FOR YOU!

Isaiah is excited for the food that he received at Dear Neighbor Ministry in Wichita



“Thank you.”

Your gifts help all kinds of families. Some are recovering from an illness or job loss and need a hand up to get back on solid footing; others live on fixed incomes and consistently struggle to cover their needs. Then there are neighbors like Eliwi, who just need a little help every now and then.

Eliwi is anxious to get back to work. She does not often fret about

filling her kitchen cabinets, but there are times when her husband's income cannot quite stretch to cover all their family's expenses.

Her husband, Boychuck, works at a local utility company while Eliwi cares for little Isaiah, 3, during the day. The couple's older two children — Jasmine, 10, and Justin, 13 — are able to eat meals in the school cafeteria.

They find their food budget is most constricted when the kids are on vacation from school.

If Eliwi finds she does not have enough money to visit the supermarket, she's relieved to know she can take a quick walk down the street to her local Kansas Food Bank partner agency: Dear Neighbor Ministry in Wichita.

Being able to take home healthy groceries from Dear Neighbor is a comfort for Eliwi and Boychuck. Justin, Jasmine and Isaiah are active, growing kids with big appetites. Your support means they have the fuel they need to thrive no matter what their family's financial situation might look like.

“Thank you,” Eliwi says with enthusiasm. “[The pantry] helps out a lot.”

Friends like you help ensure families like this one can celebrate the holidays together. Thank you for joining us in this special season of sharing!

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