

SEEDS OF

HOPE

Summer 2019

kansasfoodbank.org



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YOU GIVE CHILDREN THE OPPORTUNITY TO THRIVE

Dear Friend,

As summer gets underway here in Kansas, boys and girls across our 85-county service area are enjoying a break from school. This time of year means bike rides, sunny days, trips to the pool and a welcome break from homework.

But, as you know, children who depend on meals at school are at critical risk of hunger without those school meals during June, July and August.

Having healthy food on the table could not be more important for growing children. The damaging effects of hunger include trouble concentrating, more frequent illness, developmental delays, behavior problems — and the list goes on.

With school meals on hold this summer, countless Kansas kids could spend long days at home with empty kitchen cupboards. But that is not where the story ends.

Your gifts help so much! When you give, you fill the [Kansas Food Bank's](#) mobile pantry trucks with fresh groceries, ensure our partner feeding sites can serve balanced meals and stock our network of food pantries with needed staples.

Please read through this special summer edition of *Seeds of Hope* to learn how you are bringing hope to families who cannot afford enough food. On the following page you will meet five youngsters who are all smiles, thanks to your support.

Together, we are solving summer hunger in Kansas.

You help your fellow Kansans thrive with access to healthy food. Thank you for your partnership in feeding hope!

Gratefully,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR GROWING FAMILIES

Donna's children at the Food Bank's
Mobile Hygiene Pantry in Wichita.



When you give, you do more than just fill family tables. You also connect your neighbors with toothpaste, paper products, infant care supplies and other needed household items that can be difficult to afford.

Donna*’s family has been giving thanks for the Kansas Food Bank Mobile Hygiene Pantry that shares these supplies near their

home in Wichita. She and Mark have been having trouble keeping their home stocked with five growing kids – ages one to six — to provide for.

Mark has a job in roofing. Because the work is seasonal, his income can be unpredictable. And until their younger children are old enough for school, Donna cannot afford the cost of child

care to return to work. Despite their limited income, the family does not receive any SNAP benefits.

“Thank you very much.”

Your support is especially important during the summer months, when their two school-aged children miss out on breakfast and lunch in the cafeteria. That means more money is spent on food and less is left over to cover basic hygiene supplies. It is a true relief for their parents to have access to toilet paper, laundry detergent and other essentials that are a strain on their budget right now.

“Thank you very much,” Daniella says to caring friends like you. “You help us out. It really does help.”

You bring hope to people across the communities we serve together through your support. We are so grateful for your partnership!


*Names have been changed to protect identity




KANSANS ARE GRATEFUL FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



LCFD Stamp Out Hunger

 The annual Letter Carriers Food Drive is behind us and once again, we owe many thanks to everyone who participated by filling their blue bags to help provide missing meals to neighbors in need across the state. Thousands of pounds of food filled the bags which were then brought back to the Kansas Food Bank or partner pantries in rural areas. Hampel Oil helped cover the cost of the bags which always helps us collect more food. It is amazing what a little blue bag can do! We also have a tremendous amount of gratitude for the Letter Carriers and volunteers who gave of their time to make this food drive a success and the largest one-day food drive to benefit the [Kansas Food Bank](#).

Thank You Cargill


 Members of the Cargill Cares committee joined Kansas Food Bank staff on April 12th for a presentation on how their grant dollars help not only the food bank, but our partner agencies. Cargill Cares presented a \$100,000 check as their match from the Holiday Food 4 Kids challenge. They also presented a total of \$100,000 in agency grants to partner agencies serving the Wichita area. Cargill's mission of nourishing people fits hand in hand with the mission of the [Kansas Food Bank](#) and they have supported agency grants for over a decade.

Summer Meals and More



The [Kansas Food Bank](#) is working to get summer meal sites up and running soon across the state. USDA program sites require children to eat their meal onsite. Community partners across the state open their doors for enrichment activities and meals to children. Other communities that do not qualify for the USDA program offer a variety of meal options including weekly food bags with five meals for the entire week and others offer weekend meal packages. We project a busy summer serving meals to hungry kids.

Delta Dental

 We are happy to announce a \$500,000 gift from Delta Dental Foundation to help us continue our focus on providing health food options to the clients we serve. This gift will help provide more fresh fruits and vegetables along with nutritious items such as whole grain cereals and pasta, dried beans, low sugar fruit and low sodium canned items.

Construction Update

If you have been by the warehouse lately you may have noticed that our new addition looks almost complete. We have come so far so fast and we can't wait to move into the new Sunderland Foundation Volunteer Center. Finishing touches are being done and this is perfect timing to coincide with summer feeding and the additional produce that will come in this summer. If you would like a tour or to get an inside sneak peek, give us a call. We would love to show you the progress as we are "Growing to Serve."



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

FRANK MCKEE



Frank McKee

“Kansas Food Bank cannot do what they do without volunteers.”

After Frank McKee retired from Cargill back in 2012, he and a group of fellow former employees began giving their time sorting and repackaging items here at the Food Bank.

“Anyone who is retired should give back to their community if they are

able,” Frank says. “It’s wonderful to see the impact you can have at the Food Bank.”

Frank knew about the issue of hunger here in Kansas but says he did not fully understand its scope until he began volunteering. He was shocked to learn how many of the

neighbors we serve are children.

“I have a greater awareness of how hunger affects people,” he says.

Thanks to caring friends like Frank, Kansans of all ages can access balanced meals and healthy groceries through the Food Bank’s network of food-assistance programs and partners.

“[Kansas Food Bank](#) cannot do what they do without volunteers,” Frank says of his and his group’s efforts.

In addition to championing the fight against hunger, Frank supports Ronald McDonald House Charities, is the Financial Peace University Coordinator at his church and loves spending time with his wife and of nearly 50 years and dog. He’s dedicated to helping his neighbors thrive.

We have so much gratitude for people like Frank who are committed to improving others’ lives. Thank you for your unwavering support in the fight to end hunger here in Kansas!

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

BRAD'S FAMILY IS GIVING THANKS FOR YOU!

“We’re used to stretching the dollar to make ends meet,” Brad says of his financial situation. “Every month of the year is a struggle to feed my family. We constantly worry.”

He and his wife, Faith, are recovering from many recent hardships. The difficulty began when Brad was involved in an accident on the job as a truck driver. His spine was badly fractured, and he continues to deal with nerve problems so severe that he is no longer able to work.

Faith cleans houses, but since her mother became ill, she has had to take time off to care for her.

This is a serious problem. She and Brad are raising Braden, 6, Kelsea, 9, and Kaylene, 13, in Fredonia, a rural town in southeastern Kansas. With their mounting financial problems, they have been having a tough time feeding their kids.

Affording groceries will be even more of a challenge this summer when the children lose access to free school meals. Brad and Faith will have to cover 30 additional meals for their kids every week of summer.

It was such a comfort for Brad to learn about Mercy House, a member of the [Food Bank](#)’s hunger-



“You help us live.”

Brad at Mercy House
in Fredonia

relief network near the family’s rural home.

“The food we receive from the pantry is a supplement in between disability checks,” he says.

Thanks to you, the couple has one fewer thing to worry about. They know they can fill Kaylene, Kelsea

and Braden’s plates with healthy food, and they are truly grateful you choose to give.

“Your generosity is heartwarming,” Brad says. “You help us live.”

Thank you for supporting families who face hunger!

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING CHILDREN IN NEED



Saria and her daughter, Silas,
at the Kansas Food Bank Mobile
Pantry in Council Grove.

“This is very much
appreciated.”

Your gifts mean local families can sit down to a full table together. Food can be a stabilizing force when life's circumstances are uncertain. Just ask Saria.

Saria and her daughter, Silas, recently relocated to Council Grove, a small town south of Manhattan, to be closer to family. Their budget took a hit with moving costs, and Saria has been struggling to make ends meet as she looks for work.

Saria says though she is very thankful to receive some SNAP benefits, they typically run out before the end of the month. She has been especially stressed with the end

of the school year looming. Silas is able to eat meals at school, but that vital program ends with classes.

Fortunately, Saria's sister-in-law let her know about the [Kansas Food Bank](#) mobile pantry that visits Council Grove to share nutritious groceries.

“It's a weight off my shoulders,” Saria says of being able to access healthy food through the mobile pantry. On a recent visit she and Silas were able to pick up fresh apples, one of her favorite fruits.

Saria spoke gratefully about how helpful the mobile food pantry has been for her family. As she works

to get back on solid financial footing, it is a relief to know she can count on your support.

“This is very much appreciated!” Saria says.

Your gifts make a real and lasting difference in the lives of our neighbors who experience hunger. Thank you for sharing what you have!

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