

SEEDS OF HOPE

Fall 2019

kansasfoodbank.org



IN THIS ISSUE:

PG 3 *You've Given New Hope to Kansas Neighbors!*

PG 7 *Big Thanks From College Students in Parsons.*

PG 8 *Students Have Brighter Futures, Because of You!*

KANSAS
**food
bank**
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairman

Doug Jenkins, *Professional Software, Inc.*

Past Chair

Don Meiergerd, *Retired Excel Food Distribution*

Vice Chairs

Dan Eilert, *Intrust Bank*
Dana Knott, *Dillions Stores*

Treasurer

Sam Seward, *M&L CPAs Chartered*

Secretary

Josh Hampel, *Hampel Oil*

President & CEO

Brian Walker

Directors

Jim Cocco, *Spirit AeroSystems*
Dan Dejmaj, *Westar Energy*
Michael Johnston
Roger Kepley
Rebecca Rather
Renee Reed, *Cargill*
Sergio Roman, *Fugate Enterprises*
Jim Sheldon, *Retired Raytheon/CEI*
Tim Zynda, *Concrete Materials Company*

EMERITUS BOARD

Kenny Doonan, *Doonan Truck & Equipment*
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*

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING KANSAS STUDENTS

Dear Friend,

After a long summer without the safety net of school meals, many kids and families have been looking forward to this new year of learning. There is a clear connection between nutrition and education — hunger must end before learning can begin.

That is why I am so very grateful for your generous partnership. You help make sure students have balanced meals on the table during vulnerable times, like over the weekend, when they might not have enough food at home.

The [Kansas Food Bank](#)'s *Food 4 Kids* program connects students facing hunger with a backpack full of healthy, kid-friendly meals when their parents might not be able to afford groceries. Participating children have the security of knowing they will have nutritious food to eat on the weekend, no matter what.

Access to food seems so simple. But it is truly life-changing. Consistent nutrition helps kids focus at school, supports their sense of well-being and reduces the risk of illness and developmental problems. You are doing your part to help children reach their full potential.

You will get to read about just a few of the young Kansans you are supporting in the following pages. I hope you will take the time to learn about the impact you are making for students at Skyline Schools on page 8. When you see little Kayla's big smile, please remember that you are — in part — the reason for her joy.

With every gift you give, you are creating a brighter future for our expansive Kansas community. Thank you for changing lives across our great state!

Gratefully,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE FOR GROWING FAMILIES

Jorge and Maria are loving grandparents. They help care for Angie, a budding scientist, and her brother, Juan, a talented saxophonist, while their dad works.

Although they are now in their golden years, Jorge and Maria still clean houses to help provide for themselves and their family. The work may not be steady, but the income is helpful — especially for the grandkids. Their dad, David, works as a mechanic, but there are times when his income is just not enough.

The family is so glad they learned about the food pantry at First Southern Baptist Church, which partners with the [Kansas Food Bank](#) to give away groceries in Liberal. Jorge and Maria are truly thankful to receive quality food to fill their table with nutritious meals.

Angie will start high school this year, taking one more step toward her dream of becoming a nurse. Your generous gifts are helping make sure she and her brother have the fuel they need to focus in class, learn, grow and thrive.

You are also a big help to Maria. She has diabetes and must pay her medical costs out of pocket. When you help provide healthy foods — like fresh fruits and vegetables — you give Kansans like Maria the ability to manage diet-related illness by supporting their good nutrition.

Caring friends like you make a real and lasting difference in the lives of your neighbors facing hunger. Thank you for sharing what you have!

Jorge at First Southern Baptist Church in Liberal



“[We’re] grateful we can get help.”

THANK YOU FOR HELPING KIDS LEARN AND GROW!

EMPTY BOWLS

Empty Bowls Project is an international grassroots movement to help end hunger. Every fall, Wichita State University's Ceramics Guild, along with Ceramics Media, the School of Art, Design and Creative Industries (ADCI), the Ulrich Museum of Art and many others, work together to raise funds for the Kansas Food Bank.

It all begins with Build-a-Bowl events in August. These bowls are collected, glazed and fired in preparation for the culminating event—the Empty Bowls Chili Cook-Off.

On the day of the Empty Bowls Chili Cook-Off, guests are presented with hundreds of bowls made by artists and community members, and dozens of chilies, soups and delicious desserts to try. Guests pay \$25 at the door and select a ceramic bowl to keep. They take their newfound bowl, fill it with chili/soup and eat to their heart's content.

A jury of local chefs and community leaders diligently sample the chilies and do the hard work of selecting winners for Best Chili, Best Vegetarian/Vegan Chili and Best Traditional Chili.



DARDEN Helping Kids in a BIG way



We are pleased to announce a \$10,000 grant to support the Food 4 Kids program from Darden Foundation. Local Olive Garden, Longhorn Steakhouse and Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen restaurants focus their philanthropic efforts on programs that enhance the communities where their team members and guests live and work. Our Food 4 Kids program is a natural fit for them aiding in the fight against hunger.

September is Hunger Action Month



September is the month where people all over America stand together to fight hunger and here in Kansas where 1 in 8 people experience hunger, awareness is especially important. It's a month to spread the word and take action on the hunger crisis and dedicate ourselves to a solution. Will you join in? Host a food and fund drive or volunteer. Make it a point to come tour our new addition and see what you can do to help put missing meals on the tables of our neighbors in need.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

GERRY SIBLEY

Gerry Sibley is a lifelong Kansan — he grew up in Topeka and is enjoying his golden years in the Wichita area. But, as manager of an international manufacturing company, he spent much of his life traveling the globe for work.

Now in retirement, Gerry is dedicated to helping the next generation thrive. About 10 years ago, he learned about the beginning of the *Food 4 Kids* program and decided to come help pack the bags.

Gerry sorts and stuffs the weekend food for distribution to schools across Kansas four or five days a week. He also helps organize and pack food drive and grocery deliveries.

“The more and more I volunteer for the [Kansas Food Bank](#), the more I think about what I do and appreciate the good work of others,” Gerry says.

It is clear from his generosity of time and effort that Gerry is committed to his Kansas community. He also volunteers with Habitat for Humanity, his church and the Kansas Aviation Museum.

Airplanes are a big passion of Gerry’s — he spent more than eight years helping to restore the B29 DOC bomber plane! But



Gerry Sibley

“ It really warms my heart and puts things into perspective for me. ”

the cause of *Food 4 Kids* has become very dear to his heart over the years. He knows his work is making a difference in the lives and future of Kansas children.

“I love reading the teachers’ feedback from the children receiving the *Food 4 Kids* bags,” Gerry says. “It really warms my heart and puts things into perspective for me.”

He adds that giving time at the Food Bank keeps him active and healthy! He always meets his step goal on his volunteer days.

We are truly grateful for Gerry’s commitment to childhood hunger relief. In discussing his work with us, Gerry encourages others to take up the cause!

“There’s plenty to do here and you always leave feeling good about yourself and the impact that you’ve made,” he says.

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

BIG THANKS FROM COLLEGE STUDENTS IN PARSONS!

Back in the fall of 2015, the LaBette Community College Pantry opened its doors to students at risk of missing meals. The pantry, which partners with the [Kansas Food Bank](#), shares shelf-stable, “college-friendly” groceries every Tuesday.

To date, over 150 students have visited the pantry for help with food — and David is among them. He studies sports management and currently manages LaBette’s volleyball and girls’ basketball teams.

Although he has a part-time job, it can be difficult for David to work

enough hours to support himself with the responsibilities of his course load. Fortunately, one of the coaches he works with told him about the college pantry.

“[It’s] nice to have something I can rely on,” David says. “A lot of students come.”

Until he graduates next year and secures a job with his degree, it is a real relief to David to have help putting food on the table.

Many LaBette Community College students, staff and faculty members

volunteer at the pantry, which is officially run by the Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society.

Tammy Fuentes, vice president of student affairs, works with the Food Bank and a local church to stock the pantry’s shelves. She says there are not many local resources students can access for food assistance, and she is grateful that generous friends like you choose to give.

You are improving the future for David and his many classmates through your gifts. Thank you for helping students thrive!

David at LaBette Community College Pantry in Parsons.



“ [It’s] nice to have something I can rely on. ”

STUDENTS HAVE BRIGHTER FUTURES, BECAUSE OF YOU

“Without the *Food 4 Kids* bags, I’d have students who would not eat over the weekend,” says Heidi McKennon, school nurse at Skyline Schools in Pratt. “This has such a big impact on these students.”

Heidi facilitates the *Food 4 Kids* program at her school. Every Friday she makes sure girls and boys at risk of hunger go home with a backpack full of nutritious food they can fix for themselves over the weekend. Because you choose to give, children will have reliable meals when school cafeterias are closed for the weekend.

Skyline Schools serves many rural students. Heidi stated that many of these students do not know where their next meal will come after the last school bell rings. *Food 4 Kids* is especially beneficial for families with parents who work over the weekend and may not be available to provide meals.

Because she is also the school nurse, Heidi says she often sees children who complain of symptoms she knows are caused by hunger. Teachers also recognize students’ energy levels and behavior problems and make references for them to participate in *Food 4 Kids*.

“Kids are coming to school on Mondays asking for food,” Heidi



Kayla at Skyline Schools in Pratt

says. “Some are dragging during the school day.”

Hungry children simply cannot learn. By connecting kids with consistent nutrition when they are most vulnerable to hunger, you set them up for a brighter future.

Fighting childhood hunger means

“This has such a big impact on these students.”

helping to break the cycle of poverty for countless Kansas families. Thank you for the vital role you play in helping students succeed!

KANSAS
food
bank
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984

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

MEMBER OF
FEEDING
AMERICA