

SEEDS OF HOPE

Holiday 2019

kansasfoodbank.org



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KANSAS
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Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

YOU ARE BRINGING JOY TO YOUR KANSAS NEIGHBORS

Dear Friend,

This time of year might be my very favorite. I always look forward to spending time with my family, enjoying special meals and experiencing the season of sharing!

Every holiday season, you – our caring community of Kansas Food Bank supporters – come together to help feed your neighbors at risk of missing meals. Because you choose to give, families can celebrate together around a full table.

A shared meal can bring stability to a family who is facing uncertain circumstances — especially during the holidays. Because food takes center stage, this season can be a painful reminder of hunger.

Your gifts help so much. Please take some time to learn how you are sharing hope for the holidays in this special issue of *Seeds of Hope*. On page 8 you will meet Melissa, Chris and their precious daughters. They have experienced some real hardships this past year, but thanks to you, they still have plenty to celebrate.

As we look forward to a new year of serving hungry Kansans, I hope we can continue to count on your generous support. We are working to reach even more neighbors with the healthy food they need to thrive — and we cannot meet our ambitious goals without you!

Thank you sincerely for your partnership in this important work. Countless local families are grateful for you this holiday season.

Happy Holidays,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

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ROSE ANNA AND HER KIDS ARE GIVING THANKS FOR YOU

Rose Anna at Geary County Food
Pantry in Junction City.



children have enough to eat. But with her current health problems and potential looming operation, Rose Anna greatly needs access to nutritious food, too.

“Thank you for being there for my family.”

That is why she is so glad she found out about Geary County Food Pantry, a [Kansas Food Bank](#) partner agency near her neighborhood.

Until she is able to find a job, Rose Anna can visit the pantry to pick up a variety of healthy groceries to support her recovery and help Dasia, Devon and Dametre grow and learn. She could not be more grateful to have you in her corner during her time of need — especially at the holidays.

“Thank you for being there for my family when I couldn’t,” Rose Anna says to friends like you.

Your gifts are so appreciated this holiday season. Because you choose to give, Rose Anna and her kids will be able to celebrate together around a special meal. Thank you for sharing hope!

This has been a trying time for Rose Anna. First she was laid off and had to start job hunting. Then she was in a car accident that left her with multiple injuries. Finally, her doctor found a lump in her chest that might require surgery.

It will take Rose Anna about six weeks to recover from her injuries, which makes finding work even more difficult.

This is a big problem. Rose Anna is raising three children — Dametre, 8, and Dasia and Devon, both 5 — on her own in Junction City. Without an income, she is really struggling to fill her family’s table with healthy food, in addition to other expenses.

Rose Anna cares deeply about her kids’ health, happiness and well-being. She says she will often skip meals to make sure her

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US GROW TO SERVE

The Food Bank Expands Our Reach!

The Kansas Food Bank held an open house event September 6 to celebrate the opening of its new \$5-million expansion, which has added 21,000 square feet of space to the existing warehouse. This expansion includes a new volunteer center that will provide dedicated volunteer space for the thousands of caring neighbors who give their time each year. It also increased cooler capacity so more fresh fruits and vegetables can be shared with food-insecure Kansans throughout the Food Bank’s 85-county service area.

“It has been a great year watching the new building take shape, and we are so excited to be able to open the doors and expand upon our mission of providing missing meals for our neighbors in need,” says Brian Walker, President & CEO of the Kansas Food Bank.

The Sunderland Family Foundation Volunteer Center will allow us to offer additional volunteer opportunities as well as accommodate large groups. We are very proud of this new center! For more information on volunteering, please call 316-265-3663. Tours are also available, and we would love to show our new space to anyone interested in learning more.



VOLUNTEER PROFILE:

GARY LINDSLY

“In retirement you have a lot of time on your hands,” Gary Lindsly says. “I’m terrible with time on my hands.”

For the past year, Gary has been using that extra time to fight hunger in our community! He splits his week volunteering at the Kansas Food Bank and with Meals on Wheels.

Gary puts together boxes, sorts donations from the annual Letter Carriers’ food drive and repacks items so they can be distributed to our network of partner agencies. He says he enjoys the physical activity of the work — as well as knowing he is helping make a difference in his community and across Kansas.

“Volunteering for the Food Bank makes me feel good,” Gary says.

It is a nice change of pace for him to give time in our warehouse after working as a vice president of construction and retail development. Gary’s wife of 47 years, Linda, is still working, so she is glad he can keep busy, too.

We are so grateful to have dedicated volunteers like Gary helping share nutritious food with hungry Kansans. He encourages others to join him in making an impact.

“Volunteering for the Food Bank makes me feel good.”

“You’ll feel welcomed and appreciated for your service,” he says.

Thank you, Gary, for your generous gifts of time! Our hunger-relief work would not be possible without caring people like you.



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

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN THE LIVES OF LOCAL FAMILIES!

Fancy and her husband, Cody, are doting parents to their little ones and dedicated caregivers to Fancy's grandmother. She has dementia, and the couple welcomed her into their home and work hard to keep her safe and healthy.

Fancy stays home with her grandma and two boys — Dominik, 18 months, and Landon, 8 months — while Cody works as a cook. Eventually, Fancy hopes to use her caregiving skills professionally as a nurse. But until she can go back to school, the family is depending on Cody's income, which is not always enough to cover their monthly needs. "We've been struggling," Cody says.

"The food really helps us a lot."



Cody, Fancy, Landon and Dominik at Bread of Life in Wichita

"Right now, we're extremely low on food," Fancy adds. "The end of the month is really difficult."

They look forward to getting back on solid financial footing. In the meantime, they are grateful to pick up groceries from Bread of Life, a pantry in Wichita that partners with the [Kansas Food Bank](#) to make sure families like Fancy and

Cody's have food on the table. Fancy knows how important good nutrition is to her grandma's health and her boys' development, and she is relieved she can pick up hearty grocery staples and fresh vegetables and fruits — like strawberries, Dominik's favorite. She is excited to have help with the ingredients she needs to prepare a

full holiday meal for her family. "Thank you for all your generosity when we needed you the most," Fancy says with a warm smile. "The food really helps us a lot."

So many local families are giving thanks for you this holiday season. You make a difference throughout the year!

THANK YOU FOR SHARING HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Chris, Melissa, Langley and
Lincoln at Community Access
Center in Independence



Your generosity helps your neighbors overcome all kinds of hardships — from job loss to illness to unexpected tragedies. Unfortunately, Chris and Melissa's family has experienced all of the above this past year.

The couple was in the process of buying of a house and moved their three little girls — Lincoln, 2, Langley, 4, and Layton, 9 — into a trailer home. While they were visiting family in Oklahoma, the trailer caught fire, and all their belongings were destroyed.

Prior to the fire, Chris lost his job and was out of work for about three weeks. He had to take time off due to Layton's serious health

problems, and the lapse in income hit the family budget hard.

But Melissa and Chris will not let their recent struggles bring them down. When we met them at Community Access Center in Independence, they were filled with gratitude.

They found a landlord that understood their situation and they will have help with holiday gifts for their daughters through local nonprofits. They are especially thankful to have help accessing groceries.

Melissa spends a lot of time couponing to save money at the store, but with their precarious

financial situation, healthy items are just too expensive. At Community Access Center, they can bring home high-quality foods to keep their family growing strong.

"Thank you isn't enough," Melissa says. "If there wasn't a place like this...it would be hard."

You bring hope in the form of food to the people in our community who need it most. Thank you for changing lives this holiday season!

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