

SEEDS OF HOPE

Summer 2020

kansasfoodbank.org



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THANK YOU FOR HELPING PROVIDE RELIEF IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19

Dear Friend,

I have so much gratitude for your support. During these uncertain times, we are sure of one thing: Your partnership makes a difference.

Over the past few months our work has become even more critical. Kansans have been missing paychecks and losing jobs, seniors are self-isolating for safety and some students have been without the food they typically eat at school.

We expect the need for food to persist for many months as our local economy struggles to recover from coronavirus closures.

Here at the Kansas Food Bank, our priority has always been getting meals and groceries to those in need. We can only accomplish this goal with the support of our caring community.

We are putting your gifts to good use serving balanced meals at summer feeding sites, filling partner food pantry shelves and sharing fresh groceries with underserved areas through our Mobile Pantry Program. These initiatives are helping your Kansas neighbors get back on solid financial footing, thanks in large part to you.

You can meet just a handful of the neighbors you help in this special summer edition of *Seeds of Hope*. On page 7 you can read about Sharon, who can fill her grandkids' plates with quality food all summer long because you choose to give. You can also learn more about our response to the COVID-19 pandemic on page 8.

I cannot thank you enough for the trust you place in the Kansas Food Bank to feed our community's future. You help fulfill our mission to provide nutritious meals. Thank you for your partnership.

Gratefully,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

DAYAMY'S FAMILY IS GIVING THANKS FOR YOU

Your support of the Kansas Food Bank changes lives every day. During this long break from school, your partnership has been especially important for parents like Dayamy.

Dayamy and her husband, Daniel, are raising their two little girls — Camilla, 4, and Hannah, 9 — in western Kansas. They love the peace of small-town rural life. But with the nearest grocery store more than 20 miles away in Dodge City, keeping their pantry stocked is a challenge.

Even if there were a supermarket closer to home, paying for food would not be easy. Daniel works in construction, but his income sometimes runs out before all the family's expenses are covered. Dayamy is anxious to earn her own paycheck, but with the high cost of childcare and limited options, she needs to stay home with Camilla right now.

Summers are always especially difficult because Hannah loses access to the food she typically eats at school.

When you give, you help connect countless Kansas families with the food they need to thrive. Friends like you help deliver fresh groceries directly to rural

Dayamy and her daughters, Hannah and Camilla, at their local Kansas Food Bank Mobile Pantry.



communities through the [Food Bank's Mobile Pantry program](#).

A truck filled with fruits, vegetables, lean meat and other healthy items visits rural communities regularly

to help make sure neighbors like Daniel and Dayamy can fill their family table with balanced meals. The couple is truly grateful for your support.

“Thank you,” Dayamy says. “You give us plenty.”

You share hope in the form of good, healthy food with Kansans facing hunger. Thank you!

“Thank you. You give us plenty.”

THANK YOU FOR FIGHTING HUNGER ACROSS KANSAS!



RA “Jiggs” Nelson Award



Our *Food 4 Kids* program is joining a distinguished list of the R.A. “Jiggs” Nelson Quality of Life Award winners. Dr. Nelson was a well-known pediatrician in Wichita who was instrumental in the Head Start program and a co-founder of LifeWATCH. The [Kansas Food Bank](#) was presented with the award and a monetary donation at the Wichita Medical Research and Educational Foundation annual Ethics conference.



Jeff Bezos Donates \$100 Million to Help Food Banks



Results of a preliminary impact analysis of the coronavirus crisis and CEO pulse surveys of the Feeding America food bank network conducted from March 19 to March 23 revealed the rising demand for food as the fallout from when the crisis began.

In response to this growing need across the nation, all 200 Food Banks in the Feeding America network, including the [Kansas Food Bank](#), received a generous gift from the CEO of Amazon, Jeff Bezos.



VOLUNTEERS OF THE QUARTER:

KARLA AND ISAIAH

No one is too young to make a difference in the fight against hunger!

Isaiah, 16, began giving time packing, organizing and sorting items at the [Kansas Food Bank's](#) warehouse last summer to fulfill his school's stewardship requirement. But when he realized how much fun the experience was — and the scope of the Food Bank's impact — he decided to stay on as a regular volunteer.

Isaiah can often be found sorting on the floor with his mom, Karla. The pair bond while sorting donated items a few hours every week.

"You know you're making an impact," Karla says of volunteering. "If people could see the food here, they'd know the need."

She has raised Isaiah in Wichita all his life. When he is not volunteering, Isaiah likes to spend time with his friends and play video games. His appreciation of



Karla and her son, Isaiah,
at the Kansas Food Bank

“*You know you’re making an impact.*”

technology has influenced his future plans — after graduating high school, Isaiah hopes to study computers at the Wichita State University Campus of Applied Sciences.

Committed volunteers like Isaiah and Karla are vital to the Food Bank's efforts to connect hungry Kansans with the healthy food they need to thrive. Thank you for your generous gifts of time!

KIDS HAVE THE FUEL THEY NEED TO THRIVE BECAUSE YOU GIVE

Sharon is constantly doting on her grandkids. Rochelle and Romello, 11, and Marteaus, 12, live with her and always rave about her cooking.

Although many seniors her age are relaxing in their golden years, Sharon works hard as a home health aide to help cover her family's expenses. Her husband has been unable to work since he had a stroke, and his disability assistance is limited.

A savvy shopper and economical chef, Sharon can typically stretch her budget to provide for her husband and the grandchildren. But she admits there are times when she has had to miss a bill payment to buy groceries, and vice versa.

“ Thank you for
[your] donations
and help. ”

When classes let out for any reason, many parents and caregivers like Sharon have a hard time filling their families' tables.

You bring them hope. Kansas families can access needed meals and bags full of nutritious food through the [Food Bank's](#) network of partners and programs, which they are relying on now more than ever. Your support helps stock the shelves at Table of Hope, the food pantry at First Metropolitan Community Church in Wichita's Douglas Design District.

Sharon is able to visit Table of Hope once a month for help with food. She says the pantry makes a big difference for her family — especially when Marteaus, Romello and Rochelle are out of school.

Diet related illnesses including hypertension and diabetes are common in Sharon's family. She hopes that, with your help, her grandkids continue to eat healthy food like what she receives at the pantry.

“Thank you for [your] donations and help,” Sharon says to friends like you.

Romello and Rochelle at MCC
Table of Hope in Wichita



YOUR SUPPORT BRINGS HOPE TO GROWING CHILDREN

Linzy, Katie, Taylor and Jayce outside the library in Bucklin.



In her more than 15 years as library director in Bucklin, a small Kansas town of around 800 people, Kathy Leon has developed a deep understanding of the challenges her community faces. One the most prevalent is childhood hunger.

This problem is especially serious when students don't have the meals they typically eat in the school cafeteria. Kathy teamed up with school officials, teachers and dieticians from area towns to address the issue of summer hunger about four years ago. The result was a summer feeding site at the Bucklin Library.

Stories like the above resonate across our state as the [Kansas Food Bank](#) helps rural communities with summer food programs.

Kids are able to enjoy a meal and enrichment activities at the meal sites.

This summer the Kansas Food Bank will be working with numerous summer meal sites across the state. In addition, we will help provide meals at 18 Filling The Gap sites in Wichita when there is a two-week break between when the USDA program ends and when school begins.

In the wake of COVID-19, countless families are facing challenges of replacing meals their children received at school. Food programs for kids who are out of school can only continue their important work because people like you give so generously. During this critical time, we are truly grateful for the shared community effort of friends like you and folks like Kathy and her colleagues who help create positive change. Thank you for caring about kids' health and well-being!

COVID-19 Response Update

Thanks to the generosity of people like you, we have increased our food distribution efforts in response to the COVID-19 crisis.

- We have maintained regular contact with our partner agencies to make sure there is no interruption in service.
- We have implemented stringent sanitation protocols to make sure food can be shared safely across our network.
- Partner agencies began using "no to low contact" distribution models, many switching to drive-thru operations to keep pantry staff, volunteers and guests safe.
- We are providing prepacked disaster boxes to partner agencies to help with increased demand.
- Many rural schools have delivered or hosted drive-by pickups of *Food 4 Kids* bags for chronically hungry children.
- The Greater Wichita Ministerial Alliance has helped deliver *Food 4 Kids* packets to Wichita area children and emergency food boxes to isolated seniors.
- We have provided food boxes to low-income senior complexes in several rural communities so that older people can avoid public settings like food pantries and meal programs.
- Shelf-stable meals have been provided to congregate meal sites, child feeding locations and shelters.

Emergency food assistance due to COVID-19 has certainly passed the "need status" and transitioned to "survival mode" for the residents and children of the communities we serve. The days, weeks and months ahead will be a different landscape for food banking. We have adjusted our strategies as needed to ensure No Kansan Go Hungry.



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