

SEEDS OF HOPE

Holiday 2021

kansasfoodbank.org



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Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

THANK YOU FOR SHARING HOPE FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Dear Friend,

The holidays are the perfect time to remember the things we are grateful for in our lives – a special season for sharing our blessings, despite the hardship we have all struggled with recently. From loss of loved ones, to financial difficulty, to unemployment and more, Kansans have been dealing with one crisis after another for a long time.

This is why I am sincerely thankful for all you have done for the [Kansas Food Bank](#). Your support is especially appreciated this time of year as we shift our focus to the holidays and the increased need for fresh food.

Because of your help, the Food Bank is able to supply food to over 700 hunger relief partners across 85 Kansas counties, including food pantries, mobile distributions, health departments and kids' feeding programs.

As we look ahead to the new year, I hope you will share our goal of ensuring our hunger-relief efforts remain as focused and as steadfast as ever. Let the stories in this special holiday issue of *Seeds of Hope* inspire and invigorate your passion for helping our community's most vulnerable neighbors.

Your support is a real lifeline. I am so grateful to be working alongside such a generous member of our community.

Gratefully,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

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Connie shows off fresh strawberries she received from the food pantry at Living Waters in Wichita.



CONNIE IS THANKFUL FOR YOU THIS HOLIDAY SEASON!

Connie used to be a landscape designer until she was forced to retire early. Her heart disease and other health-related issues made it too hard for her to work. Now, she's facing the rising cost of living and often finds herself short on money for food.

But Connie doesn't let her situation put a damper on her kind spirit!

Connie is grateful to have help from the food pantry at Living Waters in Wichita, a partner agency supplied with fresh fruits and vegetables by the [Kansas Food Bank](#).

"This place is awesome," Connie says. "I love to come here because I get to pick out what I want. I get to feel like a real person."

Connie gives back in whatever way she can. She feels deep gratitude for her community which has provided so much warmth and kindness whenever she has needed it. In order to return the goodwill she has received, Connie

founded a Facebook group to help folks like her who are living on a fixed income, facing unforeseen hardship or just need a little extra help getting by in the wake of the pandemic.

Thank you, Connie, for connecting neighbors to resources for nutrition. And thank you to our donors who make these resources available!

“ I get to feel like
a real person. ”

2020-2021 IMPACT UPDATE



FOOD 4 KIDS AND SUMMER FOOD PROGRAM

More than 6,000 children received weekly food packets during the 2020-21 school year with our Food 4 Kids program. We distributed more than 151,000 food packets. In addition, over 79,000 meals were served to children through our summer food program.



PRODUCE BOXES

Nearly 4.4 million pounds of fresh produce was distributed, including produce boxes like the ones pictured here.



SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTION

In rural areas of Kansas, we distributed more than 11,000 senior food boxes.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

We distributed 18,804,467 pounds of food. 97% of your donations are utilized for program funding

GAYE AND HER FRIENDS

MAKE A BIG DIFFERENCE



solo operation – rather, a group effort that should be widely broadcasted.

“When we leave after those couple of hours, we just look at each other and say, ‘We really kicked butt today,’” Gaye shares proudly.

Though she retired from teaching in 2012, Gaye still finds ways to be connected to kids. One program she and her friends look forward to helping with at the Kansas Food Bank is Food 4 Kids.

“There’s just something about helping children and the elderly that makes me want to do more,” Gaye says.

To people interested in volunteering, Gaye encourages, “Leave the world better than when you found it.”

Neighbors like Gaye are ensuring a bright holiday season for so many Kansas neighbors. To all our volunteers, thank you for being powerful leaders in our community!

Gaye Clements always knew she was going to volunteer once she retired. After 31 years as a high school teacher, she’s used to supporting her community in whatever ways possible. When Gaye was introduced to the [Kansas Food Bank](#) through a few friends at the Pine Valley Christian Church, she knew it was the place for her.

Gaye loves volunteering at the Kansas Food Bank because of the socialization, the appreciation shown by the employees, the warm, welcoming atmosphere, and the feeling that “we” are helping “our” community. Gaye doesn’t ever think giving back to the community should feel like a

“Leave the world better than when you found it.”



THE SUPPORT YOU

PROVIDE IS CRITICAL

Two years ago, Dustin's mother sadly passed away from lung cancer. Soon after, Dustin moved to Wichita to help his 80-year-old father who is diabetic and in poor health.

Shortly after Dustin moved here to help his elderly father, the COVID-19 pandemic struck, making it difficult for him to find sustainable work.

"I've always worked for what I have, but I don't have any money left," Dustin says honestly.

He was hesitant to ask for assistance. However, with no source of income and his ailing father to care for, Dustin had no choice. He is so thankful to have had a place like Open Door to turn to, and thanks the Kansas Food Bank and our supporters for providing the fresh food he receives.

Dustin says, "People like myself need help and we appreciate the help in a time like this."

Thank you so much for giving support to neighbors like Dustin. Over the holidays, Dustin and his father will be grateful for the kindness you have shown. We are empowered to fight hunger because of you.

Dustin is grateful for fresh produce from Open Door, a drive-thru partner agency of the Kansas Food Bank.



“People like myself need help and we appreciate the help in a time like this.”

YOU CONTRIBUTE VALUABLE RESOURCES TO KANSAS

Margarita worked as a medical interpreter in doctors' offices and clinics before COVID-19 struck. Like so many Kansans, her work dried up when the pandemic first swept through the country, and she has been struggling to support her household of three since then.

Her family does not receive SNAP (food stamp) benefits, and she faces pressure when it comes to affording food after paying bills. Her daughter is working part time to help out where she can, but the family is having trouble making ends meet.

Thankfully, Margarita can rely on St. Patrick's Lord's Pantry, a [Kansas Food Bank](#) partner agency committed to serving any community member experiencing food insecurity. There, the family receives fresh food to get them through each month until Margarita can start working again.

"I never thought I'd be here," Margarita says vulnerably. "I never

*“ Thank you.
This is so helpful. ”*

saw myself as a person who would need to come to a place like this, but I am so thankful we can."

Your gifts are sharing hope with Margarita and her family by stocking the shelves of partner agencies like St. Patrick's Lord's Pantry in Wichita. Without you, Margarita's loved ones would lack a valuable resource for nutritious food.

"Thank you," Margarita says. "This is so helpful."

Margarita gives thanks for YOU outside of St. Patrick's Lord's Pantry in Wichita.



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