

Summer 2025 Newsletter

seeds of *Hope*



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

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

YOU HELP TAKE HUNGER OFF THE TABLE THIS SUMMER!

Dear Friend,

The first few days of summer break should be a time for children to relax, unwind and play. But instead of excitement, many children might already be feeling the ache of summer hunger.

During the long break from school, thousands of families throughout Kansas are going without the meals that children normally eat at school.

At the Kansas Food Bank, we have already been hard at work stocking the shelves in preparation to meet this increased need for healthy food.

As you can imagine, covering up to 10 additional meals per week *per* child is not an easy task, especially while the cost of food remains high...which is why I am so grateful for your partnership.

Together, we can provide nutritious food all summer long to Kansans facing hunger. Your generosity helps our partners and programs across the state prepare to put wholesome food into the hands of our neighbors who need it.

In this edition of *Seeds of Hope*, you will meet a few of our neighbors who have been impacted by your support. I hope you are inspired by Kathy's story (page 8) — because it's friends like you that ensure she can make nourishing meals for her granddaughter.

Thank you for putting healthy food on the table for Kansans of every age this summer and beyond.

Gratefully,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

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YOU STRENGTHEN MARY'S FAMILY

The way Mary's family cares for one another is an inspiration.

Mary opened her home to her father-in-law after he was diagnosed with dementia. And when he needed full-time care, Mary quit her job at the Health Department to take care of him alongside her youngest adult daughter, who lives at home.

Although Mary is happy to help whenever she can, her family's income decreased significantly after her husband retired. Unfortunately, that means it's not always possible to keep enough nutritious food on the table for everyone.

"Sometimes, we're having to fall back on credit cards just to be able to eat," she says.

Thankfully, friends like you ensure that Mary can pick up healthy groceries at Sheila's Giving Closet, a Kansas Food Bank agency partner in Winfield.

"[Sheila's Giving Closet] has helped us a lot," Mary shares.



Mary is grateful to pick up healthy food for her family at a Kansas Food Bank agency partner in Winfield.

"We love coming here," Mary continues. "They make you feel like [you're] a part of the family,"

Donors like you ensure Kansans of all ages have access to the wholesome food needed to thrive. Thank you for partnering with us!

“ [Sheila's Giving Closet] has helped us a lot. ”

TOSHA AND ROD ARE GIVING HOPE TO KANSANS

Every time Tosha and Rod help a neighbor facing difficult circumstances, they think about their son.

Their volunteer work has become deeply personal ever since their adult son developed a substance abuse disorder, leading to homelessness.

In support of their son and wider community, Tosha and Rod have focused their efforts on serving neighbors experiencing homelessness for the past five years. That's why, when the

couple heard about the pop-up medical clinic that the Kansas Food Bank partners with, they immediately volunteered.

"It's been incredible to see people actually get the help they need," Tosha says. "It's not just medical care — it's food, supplies, and, most importantly, a sense that someone cares about them."

Rod works full-time in the aerospace industry, but that doesn't stop him from donating as much time as possible to

the cause. And when Tosha underwent back surgery, she returned to volunteer at the pop-up just three weeks later.

"Some of the people we helped are now helping others," Rod said. "They've gotten on their feet and want to give back."

When asked how the couple would encourage others to get involved, their answer was simple — just start. Tosha says, "You will never walk away wishing you hadn't helped!"

"It's about giving people hope, showing them that someone cares."



Tosha and Rod volunteer with the Kansas Food Bank to help neighbors experiencing homelessness.

DANA IS GRATEFUL FOR YOU

Dana's priority is supporting her daughter's family, especially making sure her grandchildren are happy and healthy. That's why she moved to Kansas — to be close enough to help care for her family.

"At first, my daughter was like, 'I don't want my mom living that close to me.' But now? She's like, 'Where are you, Mom? Do you have any of this?'" Dana says with a laugh.

Dana works in the cafeteria at her granddaughter's elementary school. She enjoys being so near to family at work, but unfortunately, the income she makes is not always enough for healthy groceries.

Partners like you make it possible for Dana to visit a Kansas Food Bank agency partner, Obidiah's Pantry in Anthony, to pick up fresh produce, healthy staples and wholesome ingredients, which help Dana manage her prediabetes.

"Sometimes even just the meat is a lifesaver," Dana continues, noting that the price of protein can be a huge hit to her grocery budget.

Because of friends like you, Dana can support her health, care for her community, and focus on what matters most — family.

“ Whatever I [have to] do to help cover my family, you know. ”



Dana picks up healthy groceries from a Kansas Food Bank agency partner, Obidiah's Pantry in Anthony.

TOGETHER, WE ARE CHANGING LIVES!



JERSEY MIKE'S MONTH OF GIVING

We are grateful for everyone who participated in Jersey Mike's Month of Giving. Together, we raised \$47,000, which will help the Food Bank provide nutritious food and vital resources to even more Kansans facing hunger.

For the month of March, Jersey Mike's offered Month of Giving coupons and invited friends and supporters of the Kansas Food Bank to round up at the register.

Jersey Mike's also hosted a Day of Giving on March 26 — where all three local locations donated 100% of sales (yes, 100%) from that day to the Food Bank.

Fighting hunger never tasted better. *Thank you for your generosity!*



We Are Grateful for Central Valley Ag

The Central Valley Ag Cooperative (CVA), official co-op of Kansas State University Athletics, are dedicated supporters of the Kansas Food Bank.

At the K-State Women's Basketball game in February, Don Meiergerd, long-time Kansas Food Bank board member and volunteer, received the honorary game ball from Central Valley Ag Cooperative (CVA) for his dedication to fighting hunger.

During the K-State Men's Basketball game in March, CVA generously presented Kansas Food Bank representatives with a \$10,000 check.

Because of CVA's dedicated partnership, the Kansas Food Bank will be able to fill up to 40,000 empty plates with wholesome, nourishing meals for Kansans facing food insecurity.



Thank You BASF For Helping to Tackle Hunger

For the past nine years, BASF Group has partnered with K-State Athletics to tackle hunger through the Sack Hunger initiative benefiting the Kansas Food Bank.

Each time the K-State football team records a sack during the season, BASF makes a monetary donation to support our mission of providing food-insecure Kansans with healthy food.

With this gift, the Sack Hunger initiative has now raised a total of \$35,750, providing more than 143,000 meals to neighbors facing hunger. We are incredibly grateful for this ongoing partnership and its impact on fighting hunger across Kansas!



Serving Vulnerable Kansans

At the Pop-Up Medical Clinic, the Kansas Food Bank is partnering with local agencies to bring multiple resources into one place for neighbors experiencing homelessness.

The Kansas Food Bank aims to serve some of our most vulnerable community members by working with other non-profits to provide health exams, vaccinations, wound care, food resources and more.

For neighbors facing homelessness, the Food Bank provides fresh produce and healthy food that is easy to carry and needs little to no preparation.



Summer Feeding Sites

Summer is here, and the Kansas Food Bank is helping provide nutritious food for young Kansans all summer long.



To check out summer feeding sites across the state, scan this QR code:

Kathy is thankful for the healthy food she receives from the Kansas Food Bank.

YOU HELP KATHY PUT FOOD ON THE TABLE

Kathy enjoys cooking nourishing meals for her 16-year-old granddaughter, Layla. Thanks to friends like you, Kathy will have plenty of fresh and wholesome ingredients on hand this summer.

When Kathy gained custody of Layla, she shares that she found a renewed sense of purpose.

Kathy and her husband built a beautiful, blended family. They shared a life of love together, and although he has since passed, that love carries on. Many of their children and grandchildren live nearby.

Before retiring, Kathy was a pharmacy technician. But unfortunately, her Social Security

income and widow's pension often don't stretch far enough to afford the nutritious groceries she and Layla need to live a happy and healthy life.

"Prior to me getting my granddaughter, I would be struggling, but it was only me..." shares Kathy on how caring for her granddaughter has impacted her.

Because of the compassion of friends like you, Kathy can visit an agency partner of the Kansas Food Bank to pick up nutritious food.

Kathy also recently participated in the Good Food at Home program, a three-month initiative with Partnership for a Healthier America (PHA). Through this program, the Kansas Food Bank

worked with PHA to provide participants with Instacart credits, helping neighbors access fresh fruits and vegetables.

Now, Kathy can make the healthy meals Layla needs to thrive.

Thank you for helping put nutritious food within reach of every Kansan this summer!

"I love the people [at the Kansas Food Bank]."

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