

Summer 2026 Newsletter

seeds of Hope



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

PARTNER
FOOD BANK OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**



Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairwoman
Rebecca Rather

Vice Chairs
Dana Knott, *Dillons Stores*

Treasurer
Sam Seward, *Adams, Brown, Beran & Ball CPA, Retired*

Secretary
Josh Hampel

President & CEO
Brian Walker

Directors
Jim Cocca, *Spirit AeroSystems*
Judy Davis
Dan Dejmaj, *Westar Energy*
Dan Heinz, *Intrust Bank*
Michael Herbert
Doug Jenkins
Roger Kepley
Don Meiergerd
Shannon O'Neil, *Adams Brown CPA*
Gautham Reddy, *MD*
Renee Reed, *Cargill*
Sergio Roman, *Fugate Enterprises*
Karen Wright, *Wichita State University*
Andrea Zynda

EMERITUS BOARD
Kenny Doonan, *Doonan Truck & Equipment, Retired*
Tom Kitch, *Fleeson, Gooing, Coulson & Kitch*
J.V. Lentell, *Intrust Bank, N.A. Retired*
John E. Moore, *Lt. Governor – Retired*
Jim Shelden, *Retired Raytheon/CEI*
Dr. Charles Wood, *Estate Planning Consultant*

YOU FUEL THE FUTURE OF KANSAS!

Dear Friend,

Children are our future, and your generosity helps ensure Kansas kids have access to nourishing food, which improves health and lays the foundation for life-long well-being.

I am always so grateful for your partnership that meaningfully contributes to the lives of our community’s kids.

This time of year, we turn our attention to helping close the summer meal gap. The high cost of living already makes healthy food hard to afford, but during the long summer months, thousands of children will lose access to the meals they would normally eat at school.

For parents and caregivers, replacing up to 10 additional meals per week per child is not an easy task — especially right now. The added strain can cause food insecurity for the entire family.

That’s why your support is so essential. Because of friends like you, the Kansas Food Bank, along with our agency partners, is already hard at work stocking our shelves to help meet the increased need for healthy food this summer.

Your partnership makes a real difference for neighbors like Bailey, whose story you can read on the next page. Because of the help she receives, she can provide well-balanced meals that support the health of her four kids.

Thank you for your continued generosity as we work together to ensure *every* Kansan across the state has ongoing access to the nourishing food needed to thrive this summer and beyond.

Gratefully,

Brian Walker
PRESIDENT & CEO



Bailey, Merak and Severy visit Chase County Care and Compassion in Strong City, a Kansas Food Bank agency partner.

BAILEY FINDS SUPPORT

Bailey’s adult life has been devoted to caring for and teaching young children. After nine years in the classroom, she chose to stay home to raise her four children.

Around the time Bailey left her teaching job, her husband, Gabe, started his own business painting houses. Unfortunately, Gabe fell from the roof of a house while painting, fracturing 12 ribs. He was unable to work for two months.

During this time, there was one month when the family had no income. That’s when a friend encouraged Bailey to visit Chase County Care and Compassion in

Strong City, a Kansas Food Bank agency partner. Now, when her family needs a little extra help, she knows where to go.

“It’s been a blessing...It’s been a really big help to bridge the gap,” Bailey says, adding that the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) “only gets you so far.”

“It’s been a blessing...It’s been a really big help to bridge the gap.”

Bailey is grateful to remove the stigma of visiting a food pantry for her kids — Ezakias, 10, Acacia, 7, Merak, 4, and Severy, 1. She emphasizes that this is just a season and it is okay to ask for help, something she says she had to learn herself, too.

“My kids love pantry day,” Bailey says. “When we get home, they help unload and it’s kind of you know like a treasure [hunt]. It’s like ‘oh what do we have?’”

Thank you. Friends like you help make it possible for families like Bailey’s to keep enough healthy food on the table this summer and all year long.

TOGETHER, WE ARE BUILDING A HEALTHIER FUTURE FOR US ALL

EXPANDING FOOD ACCESS ACROSS OUR ENTIRE SERVICE AREA

This fall marks an important milestone for the Kansas Food Bank. Beginning in September, we will expand our role in distributing food through The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a federal program that provides nutritious USDA foods to households experiencing food insecurity.

Through a new contract with the Kansas Department for Children and Families, the Kansas Food Bank will now manage TEFAP distribution across 77 counties. Combined with the five counties we began serving last year, this expansion means we will now coordinate TEFAP distribution across 83 of our 85-county service area.

Across these newly added counties, there are currently 170 TEFAP distribution sites operated by local partner agencies. As this expansion begins, our partner network will nearly double, allowing more families in rural and urban communities to access nutritious USDA foods.

Four counties currently do not have a TEFAP distribution site. In the coming months, the Kansas Food Bank will work to recruit and train new partners in those areas to ensure residents have access to these important food resources.

This expansion strengthens our ability to deliver nutritious food to communities across Kansas and ensures more neighbors have access to the needed support.



GARDEN CITY EXPANSION — FRESH PRODUCE, INCREASED REACH

Fresh fruits and vegetables are reaching more families across western Kansas than ever before thanks to a major expansion of produce distribution. Last summer, the Kansas Food Bank doubled mobile produce pantry visits in 10 communities, allowing neighbors to receive fresh food twice each month and creating more reliable access to nutritious options.

This spring, local partner agencies across the 31 western counties joined the expanded distribution effort and now receive produce deliveries twice each month. Increased delivery frequency, combined with investments in agency capacity, means families can access fresh, healthy foods more consistently within their own communities.

“Being able to receive fresh produce twice a month has truly been a blessing for our neighbors,” said Gayona McDonald of Genesis Pantry in Colby. “Our agency was able to add a walk-in cooler from the Agency Capacity Grant that the Food Bank offered. That was a turning point for us in being able to expand our distribution of fresh produce.”

With donor support helping strengthen local agencies and infrastructure, more neighbors now have dependable access to fresh, nutritious food close to home.



Summer Feeding Sites

Summer is here, and the Kansas Food Bank helps support USDA Summer Meal sites that provide nutritious meals to kids while school is out. We sponsor select locations and partner with communities across Kansas to increase access to summer meals.



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

Harley picks up healthy food for her family at the Decatur County Food Pantry in Oberlin, a Kansas Food Bank agency partner.

HARLEY'S FAMILY HAS FULL PLATES

Harley and her husband, Justin, met as teenagers, became best friends, eventually fell in love and then became husband and wife. After having three children together, their bond has only grown.

“My man’s a big support. [Justin] helps me a lot...He’s my rock,” shares Harley.

Justin works three jobs to ensure their kids — Dominic, 7, Tice, 6, and Aurora, 4 — have everything needed to grow and thrive, especially since the family has faced medical challenges recently.

About two years ago, Tice was diagnosed with a heart murmur

and shortly after that, Dominic was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes.

Between managing multiple diagnoses and travelling for appointments, Harley and Justin have their hands full. Harley has had a hard time finding a job that allows for the flexibility she needs to support her sons.

With medical expenses, gas prices and day-to-day costs, making ends meet can be a challenge. Thankfully, Harley can visit a Kansas Food Bank agency partner in Decatur County.

“We rely on this place,” Harley says. “It’s super beneficial to us.” Harley also receives creative

recipes from Food Bank staff that help her hide vegetables in meals to help ensure her kids have a well-balanced diet that supports their health.

“My kids don’t like vegetables, but I can make zucchini pasta and they can’t tell,” Harley says.

Thank you for sharing hope in the form of healthy food for families like Harley’s.

“We rely on this place. It’s super beneficial to us.”

ASHLEY FOUND A LIFELINE



Ashley and Macie

The Kansas Food Bank and its agency partners provide essential support during challenging times for families like Ashley’s, when a spouse’s serious medical emergency changes everything.

Ashley’s husband works hard to provide for his family, and Ashley stays home to care for their five kids — Jayce, 17, Sophea, 11, Lilyann, 7, Elizabeth, 5, and Macie, 2.

About two years ago, when Ashley was pregnant with Macie, her husband had a heart attack. He had to have a quadruple bypass. Thankfully, the procedure was successful.

“His entire heart was just basically dead,” Ashley explains.

That’s when community resources like the Kansas Food Bank agency partner in Marion County became a stabilizing force for Ashley, helping her keep healthy food on the table for the entire family.

Ashley’s husband has since recovered, and he is able to work again, managing a local hardware store.

While the family recovers from the impact of this major medical event, the food pantry helps fill in the gaps. Ashley appreciates everything she receives.

“The kids like all the treats and snacks. [The Food Bank staff] spoil them,” Ashley says. “It’s a nice food pantry. They’re really nice.”

Your partnership helps provide a lifeline for many families like Ashley’s, helping ensure our neighbors have somewhere to turn for hope and support during challenging times.



Jayce, Sophea, Lilyann, Elizabeth and Macie visit the Marion County Food Bank in Marion, a Kansas Food Bank agency partner.

“It’s a nice food pantry.”

A GROWING PASSION FOR FIGHTING HUNGER

In December, Andrea joined the Kansas Food Bank board, ready to serve with her ideas, time and passion for kids and Kansans of all ages who are experiencing food insecurity.

“I just want to be able to help in any possible way I can and in ways that I didn’t even know existed,” Andrea explains.

Over 10 years ago, her husband, Tim, joined the Food Bank board, and since then, Andrea’s passion for fighting hunger has only grown. Tim stepped down from the board last year, and last summer, Andrea began volunteering with the Food Bank.

“The mission really resonates because as a mother, you know [one of] my most important goals...is making sure my kids are fed and...fed well,” says Andrea.

“I just want to be able to help in any possible way I can.”



Andrea and her kids, Lydia and Brady, volunteer together.

Volunteering with the Food Bank has not only been a fun experience for Andrea, but it has also helped her navigate a new season of parenthood as her two kids, Lydia and Brady, prepare to head off to college in the next few years.

“A big part of how and why I’ve been volunteering more [is] because I need to fill my time with meaningful...things because the most meaningful people to me don’t need me the way they used to,” shares Andrea.

Thank you, Andrea, for being such a vital part of the work we accomplish together. We are so grateful to have you on board!



KANSAS
food bank
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984

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