

DECEMBER 9, 2008

We hear the voices of Backpack Kids in the monthly reports sent to us throughout the school year by those in charge of the program in each of the 238 elementary and middle schools in 64 school districts who are now participating in it.

The comments and observations included in these reports provide some very touching feedback about the effectiveness of the Food 4 Kids Backpack program, which sends food for the weekend home with 4,000 of the most vulnerable and hunger-stressed children in Kansas schools.

Here and on the back of this page, we share with you a cross-section of what some who play a part in this program have sent to us. We offer it as a special Christmas greeting message to our special Food Bank Friends.

—Brian Walker President/CEO



When we delivered the food, a first-grader told us, "This is the best day of my life!"

—Dodge Literacy Magnet, Wichita



One of our backpack students went from being a non-reader to reading at grade level. His teacher felt that this program helped him succeed.

—Vermillion Primary, Maize



Now, see the back side for more thankful comments about the Food 4 Kids program.

DRIVE ON! Creativity never seems to stop with our Food Bank friends who dream up new ways to help us help those at risk of going hungry. One of the latest ideas was a Canned Food Drive carried out by Donna and Ken Quinton targeted to 40 homes of their friends and neighbors. The centerpiece of the drive was a home-made but very persuasive flyer asking for the donation of a few cans to help those in need: "Five or 10 cans (or more) would be great, but even one or two will help."

Along with the flyer was a paper bag with instructions to fill it and leave it on the front porch. The rest of the story is that all 40 sites responded with an average of 10 pounds of food per bag. Adding 400 pounds of food for the hungry, and warming our hearts for the compassionate work of Donna and Ken. Drive on!

A HALF-TON (AND THEN SOME) When the employees of long-time Food Bank Friend Preferred Health Systems set out to hold a drive benefiting us, they set their goal at 1,000 pounds of nonperishable food to be achieved over a two-week drive time. They met that goal early and went on to bring the end total to 1,270 pounds.

According to Cindy Clough, who helped organize the event, the success of the half-ton and then some hunger relief food drive was achieved by the personal dedication and extra energy invested in its success by her fellow employees. "We were very motivated by the cause of helping people who might otherwise go hungry," she said.

Their "Half-ton and Then Some" success was observed by the wearing of jeans and personal choice T-shirts to work throughout Thanksgiving week.

PAMPERED SOME MORE The Pampered Chef visited your Food Bank again this year and we couldn't have been more delighted to see those area representatives from that fine organization. Not only were the three Pampered Chef consultants charming company, they presented us with a check for \$4,529.94—a result of contributions made through their 2007/2008 "Round-up from the Heart" campaign.

This campaign has been conducted across the nation and sponsored by the Pampered Chef since 1991, and it has raised a total of \$13 million in support of America's Second Harvest (now called "Feeding America").

The check for our share reminds us once again how wonderful it is to be pampered some more by some very generous folks.



Those wonderful kindergartners at Wichita Independent School completed their "Pennies from Heaven" Drive and posted a considerable gain: from 12,000 pennies in 2007 to 16,039 pennies this year. A check for \$160.39 was presented to KFB Board member Pat Rowley at a meeting of the joint kindergarten classes. He brought along a backpack filled with food to show how their money will be spent to help hungry children have something to eat on weekends.


Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us to you and yours!


Jim Robert B. Kevin Brian Lynette Bob Larry
Henry Tracey Brandon Don Steve Robert C. John
Richard Chelo





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 My students seem very appreciative and excited each Friday to get the packet. I've noticed that some of the youngest children that seemed very sleepy on Mondays are now coming to school more alert, and I think this is because of the food each weekend. —*Hope School, Hope*


 **We had a student so proud of herself for doing well on a test. She said it was because she ate so much food from her pack over the weekend. Thank you, Food 4 Kids!** —*Lyons Middle School, Lyons*


 A child told me she liked the food pack because it makes her momma feel better about not being able to give her enough to eat on the weekends away from school.
—*Allen Elementary, Wichita*


 For one particular family, this program was the only food the children were receiving on the weekends. Thank you so much for this program.
—*Slate Creek Elementary, Newton*


 Thank you for providing such an outstanding resource to the Jackson Elementary Families. You have nourished the minds of many students and given them the ability to be ready to learn every Monday morning. —*Jackson School, Wichita*


 **I notice that there are far fewer absences on Fridays. I have five sibling pairs. If a sibling is absent, the one who is here always asks to take the packet home for the other. They tell me they really use it over the weekend.**
—*Parsons Middle School, Parsons, Kansas*


 A disabled grandmother came to me to visit about her struggle of financially trying to raise two granddaughters. When I offered the Food 4 Kids program, her eyes lighted up and she saw some hope. I received a thank you today. They will no longer have to experience hunger on the weekends.
—*Minneha Magnet, Wichita*


 We have noticed a change in attitude and demeanor in two of our students who seem happier and seem to be doing better in class. The only change that we know of is the fact that both are receiving the food backpacks.
—*Herrington Middle School, Herrington*

 **One little kindergarten girl shared with me that the food made her backpack very heavy, but she would be strong so her brother and sister could have food for their tummies.** —*Black Traditional Magnet, Wichita*

 I have a little 1st grade girl whose teacher thought she might be going without food on the weekend. When I asked the child if this was the case, she was very hesitant to tell me that she had not had anything to eat for dinner the night before and only a slice of bread and a half slice of bologna over the weekend. She said, "We don't have milk or juice or anything else." I went to the Food Bank and picked up two extra packets to send home with this little girl and her brother. The next Monday, she said, "We got to eat this weekend." She said her thanks and gave me a hug.
—*White Elementary, Wichita*

 One of our families with 5 kids recently lost their father and were very bad off financially while waiting for Social Security benefits to begin. Their mother was extremely grateful for the help and so were the children.
—*Guthridge School, Parsons*

 Two of my kids shared that their parents have lost their jobs and there is very little food at home to eat. One little one said, "We don't have one crumb to eat at our house!" —*Garfield School, Parsons*

 **One student just looked at me, then at the food and then wrapped his arms around me and gave me a hug. I was speechless. I had never fathomed that this food could mean so much to these little kids. It is truly amazing what the Food Bank is doing to help them.**
—*Hope School, Hope*

