

summer 2011

seeds *of hope*



KANSAS
food bank
HELPING THE HUNGRY • SINCE 1984
FEEDING AMERICA
A Member of

Thank You for Helping to
Fight Summer Hunger!



THANK YOU FOR FEEDING KANSAS KIDS

Dear Friend,

As a dad, I think about my kids' needs all the time. Not a day goes by when I don't worry about taking care of them. From school supplies to baseball uniforms and everything in between, my family is very fortunate to be able to afford our basic necessities.

But not all Kansas families are so lucky. For some, simply putting one full meal on the table each day is a luxury. It saddens me to think about all the dads out there who try so hard but just can't find work. Or the single mothers at the end of their resources.

I feel for these parents and their families – especially the children who suffer by no fault of their own.

Summer is a particularly challenging time for those living in poverty. When kids are out of school for the summer, they don't have access to the same free school meals that they do during the academic year. And that's where we must pick up the slack.

The [Kansas Food Bank](#) is working through more programs in more places than ever to fight child hunger this summer. From summer feeding sites at parks and recreation centers to helping stock food pantries for desperate parents, your gifts are going to work to make sure our community is a more hopeful place for struggling families and their children this summer.

Please take a little time to read the stories in this issue of *Seeds of Hope* – stories that illustrate the kind of difference you're making in the lives of hungry Kansans everyday.

I say it often because it's true – we couldn't do our work without your partnership and generosity. You have my sincerest thanks.

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YOUR GIFTS MEAN FAMILIES WILL EAT THIS SUMMER

Marisol and her husband have four beautiful children, ages 10, 8, 5 and 2. They love their family more than anything and have built their lives around raising healthy, successful kids.

But with the slow down in the economy came a slow down in business for Marisol's husband, a sub-contractor by trade. She says the past year has been particularly tough.

“Thank you!”

Things are hard enough during the school year, but when their three oldest children get out for summer break, it's going to be even tougher for the family to stretch their meager budget. That's because the children participate in their school's free meal program...and when summer comes, it means no more breakfast and lunch at school.

Marisol had been feeding her family not much more than pasta and beans, just to fill the kids'

stomachs. She knew they needed more than that, but she just couldn't afford meat or vegetables at the store.

Fortunately, a friend told her about God's Food Pantry at Holy Savior Catholic Church in Wichita—a hunger-relief partner of the [Kansas Food Bank](#).

Your support of the Food Bank means this food pantry can provide boxes full of fresh produce, meat, canned goods, bread, cereal and other healthy foods to families like Marisol's.

“It's a relief – I used to be worried about how my kids would eat,” she says honestly. “I don't have to worry about that anymore.”



Marisol and her son, Thierry

She couldn't be more grateful for the role you play in the health and food security of her family. Without your support, she'd be in an even more desperate situation.

“Thank you!” she says. “I hope the Lord will keep providing for you.”

YOU'RE FIGHTING SUMMER HUNGER!



Thank you for providing kids in need with balanced meals.



Elderly Kansans have enough to eat, thanks to you.



You're feeding hungry kids all year long.



You give young people the fuel to learn.



Kansans in need are so grateful for your help.

THANK YOU!

Summer Feeding Programs

The [Kansas Food Bank](#) expects to increase the number of children reached through federally-funded summer meal programs, thanks to community outreach efforts. Working in partnership with Wichita Public Schools and the Kansas Food Bank, churches, parks and recreation centers and other locations will serve as summer meal sites. This is particularly important as shortfalls in education funding

make fewer public schools available to host free meals in the summer.

The Food Bank will also provide public schools with help getting the word out about where children can eat for free during the summer months. In addition to targeting high-poverty neighborhoods in Wichita, the Kansas Food Bank will distribute flyers to the 1,500 Wichita children in the Food 4 Kids program telling them about the nearest source of free meals during the summer months. Check out the map of summer meal sites on our website at www.kansasfoodbank.org.

Filling the Gap

The [Kansas Food Bank](#) and Partners for Wichita will make sure kids don't go hungry this summer during the two-week gap between when the USDA Summer Feeding Program ends and when school begins. Five Locker Mates sites have been selected where sack lunches will be available to children who need a meal. Partners for Wichita will assist as lunch monitors and help to distribute meals. Two years ago we



Locker Mates sites have been

started this project with one site, then last year we added another one, and this year we're thrilled to expand this service to five locations.

Champion Windows – Close the Window on Hunger

Our friends at Champion Windows are raising awareness and dollars



for child hunger. This June, July and August, they are forming

partnerships with food banks in all 75 of their affiliate locations. The [Kansas Food Bank](#) will be represented by the local Champion store in Wichita. It's a win for you and for the Food Bank.

AARP's Drive to End Hunger

Jeff Gordon, AARP, and the AARP Foundation are teaming up to solve the problem of senior hunger in America. Kansas ranks 27th in the nation with over 5 percent of the senior population in our state living at risk for hunger. Over 17 percent

of our senior population report not having enough money to buy food this past year. Jeff Gordon will drive



the #24 car at the Nascar Sprint Car

Series in Kansas City on June 5th to help raise awareness of hunger in our state. The AARP foundation also stepped up to provide a \$10,000 grant to the Food Bank.

SUPPORTING KANSAS YOUTH WITH VOLUNTEER SERVICE



Ed Murphy

“When I run into children that thank us for bringing them food, it’s all worth it,” says Ed Murphy, [Kansas Food Bank](#) volunteer.

When Ed retired a few years ago, he started looking for an organization that shared his values where he could give his time. He had always been involved in youth

If you’d like to volunteer at the [Kansas Food Bank](#), contact Larry Gunkel at lgunkel@kansasfoodbank.org.

programs and wanted to do something that would have an impact on disadvantaged kids.

He found a perfect fit delivering food for the Kansas Food Bank’s Food for Kids program. He says he loves loading and unloading the trucks – it keeps him fit and healthy.

But more importantly, it gives him an opportunity to meet some of the people who benefit from your donations to the Kansas Food Bank.

Ed’s eyes were opened even more when he went out to assist in the most recent national Hunger Study by surveying food recipients at some of the Food Bank’s hunger-relief partners.

It made him realize that while we are making progress in the fight against hunger, there’s still an uphill climb ahead. But the good news, he realized, is that the scope and magnitude of support that Kansas donors offer to the hungry is even greater than he anticipated.

When he’s not volunteering for the Food Bank, Ed spends time with Marilyn, his wife of 42 years, their two children and five grandchildren. He says he also does a lot of working out so he can keep up with the demands of loading and unloading Food Bank trucks!

Ed encourages everyone who can spare even a little time to get involved in the fight against hunger on an even deeper level by giving their time in addition to their treasures.

“[Volunteering] is a great way to stay connected with the community,” says Ed. “I’m enjoying the benefits of knowing that people in need are taken care of.”

YOU HELP SUPPORT FAMILIES IN TIMES OF NEED

The morning after Samantha shared a can of beans for dinner with her mother, sister and 3-year-old daughter Zoey, she knew she needed help.

“We had nothing,” she remembers.

Samantha, her mom and Zoey had just moved to Wichita in hopes of finding better opportunities and starting a new life. But they weren’t able to get on their feet as quickly as they’d hoped.

Samantha’s mom went to work right away cleaning houses, but Samantha was having trouble finding a job that she could work and still make sure Zoey was cared for – childcare was too expensive and just wasn’t an option.

“You don’t know how much this means to my family.”

Zoey is the most important thing in Samantha’s life, and she’s

doing everything in her power to make sure her precious little girl has all of her needs met – especially the basic need for nutritious food. Which is why she reached out for help.

“It’s very important for her to eat healthy,” says Samantha about Zoey. “But nutritious foods are more expensive.”

The United Methodist Open Door food pantry was exactly the kind of help she needed. Thanks to your support, this hunger-relief partner of the [Kansas Food Bank](#) is able to provide good, healthy groceries like peanut butter, grapes, cereal, meat and pasta to families like Samantha’s in real need of food.

Samantha is thankful beyond words for your compassion and generosity that are helping her



Samantha and Zoey are grateful for your help

family while they keep striving to make a better life for themselves.

“Thank you!” she says. “You don’t know how much this means to my family.”

YOU'RE KEEPING KIDS STRONG AND HEALTHY THIS SUMMER



For the children who belong to the Opportunity Club, a branch of the Boys & Girls Club of South Central Kansas, it's a home away from home and a beacon of light in a sometimes-dark situation.

With bright, open and inviting spaces, an art room, music and dance studio, computer room, learning center, gymnasium and so much more, it's a dream come true for disadvantaged kids. But even with all of the activities, games

and experiences, the main draw is the Kids Kitchen.

As a hunger-relief partner of the [Kansas Food Bank](#), the Opportunity Club offers afterschool meals during the school year and a full breakfast, lunch and snack all summer long.

"A lot of families are going through hardships," says Lindsey Wassinger, marketing director. "We allow the kids to eat until they're full."

Which is a luxury many have never had before.

"I'm concerned kids don't have access to food at home," adds Site Director Stephanie Hollimon.

With up to 300 kids at the club each day, most of whom participate in their schools' free and reduced-price meal programs, summer meals are especially important. And your

support means the kids at the Opportunity Club won't be going hungry even when schools close for the summer.

As a former school principal, Stephanie knows very well that proper nutrition – year-round – is key to kids' success in the classroom and beyond.

“Thank you! We couldn't do this without you!”

"Thank you! We couldn't do this without you!" says Stephanie sincerely. "This meets a basic need that has a ripple effect in the entire community."



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