



JANUARY 13, 2009

The story of '08 is the mystery of how the nation's economy could have gone so wrong and tanked so fast while so many people watched with so little concern.

But that was then; this is now. The story of '09 just unfolding will be all about how well America can survive with the least damage to its health, wealth and well-being. That's where your Food Bank comes in.

As the only resource of our kind and capability in Kansas, we have long been involved in protecting the poorest and most vulnerable from the despair and degradation of hunger and food insecurity. Now we are reaching out with emergency HungerCare to a new and growing population of jobless/victims of a relentless economic downturn, still in progress.

Our aim for all is to shield them from serious erosion of their chances for good health, a job and a productive place in their community until good times come again to Kansas. The challenge is huge, but so are the stakes. The Food Bank is now at a point where the demand for HungerCare food has risen 30% over the same period in 2007. And it continues to increase almost daily.

Where it will stop, nobody knows. But the upside is that the food all goes to stop hunger before it happens in the lives of a growing number of more than 100,000 Kansas men, women and children while it helps energize and motivate their hopes for a more promising future.

This thought—and the amazing loyalty and generosity of our Food Bank friends and supporters—will inspire our entire Food Bank team to meet and overcome any challenges that come our way.

Thanks to all,
—Brian Walker President/CEO



The first report of the annual distribution of food from the Food Bank was 420,721 pounds in 1984. By 1988 it had reached 2.5 million pounds. The distribution then increased to more than 3.6 million pounds in 1998, and then doubled to 7.2 million pounds in 2008. These ongoing increases in distribution through 2007 and the first part of 2008 were produced by the deeper and broader coverage of our HungerCare programs throughout the 86 Kansas counties designated in the Food Bank charter.

But commencing in mid-year 2008, the strong reverberations of a collapsing world economy reached Kansas and the all ready strong demand on our hunger relief supplies took a sharp jump upward as the massive downsizing of jobs began.

At this time, the increase in demand caused by the failed economy is one-third greater than what it was during the same period last year. With the help of our loyal support base, we are confident that we will overcome this challenge and continue, as always to fully serve food insecure Kansas families.

RALLYING AROUND THE BACKPACK KIDS - "As our economy worsens, chronic hunger grows in our children. The Food 4 Kids Backpack program is vital to help meet the basic needs of our children. Please let us know if there is ever a problem or the program is in danger of ending. My staff and others will gladly rally around and help. We see what a difference it makes in our children's lives." — *Margaret A. Chisham, Grieffenstein Special Day Program*

HOLIDELITY, a public service promotion of Fidelity Bank, has given the Food Bank HungerCare work a big boost with a handsome gift of \$29,250! The check presented by Fidelity V.P. Nancy Blanchat is a significant addition to the funds needed to cover the increasing demand for HungerCare among the new jobless in our community.

The contribution was "earned" from each \$25 donated for every new free checking account opened at Fidelity Bank between Nov. 18 and Dec. 21. "We are truly blessed to have friends like this," commented Brian Walker. "We greatly appreciate their help in our fight against hunger."

We wish them a Happy Holidelity!



Fidelity V.P. Nancy Blanchat presents check to KFB's Brian Walker.



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If you're new, we welcome you!

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