



TUESDAY, MARCH 10, 2009

Our country will survive the crushing worldwide economic storm now in progress. And so will we. As long as it lasts and whatever it takes to get our nation back in shipshape, your Foodbank remains on the front line facing ongoing increases in our food distribution, which are now running 30% higher than in the same period during last year's recent distribution of 7.3 million pounds.

While these increases continue to climb, so do the number of those who depend on us for emergency hunger relief. Today, that number is swollen by the emerging multitude of the new jobless and food-insecure Kansans who continue to join the more than 100,000 Kansas families who are chronically in need of help with their daily bread. The size and scope of our job continues to increase while the ability of some of our key contributors to give at the same level as they have in the past is decreasing. Even with all these factors on our plate, our plans for the future are focused more on progress than survival.

Our Five Year plan, for example, calls for a number of progressive steps to improve our Rural Delivery program, our food sourcing efforts and our development and fundraising capabilities. We are bullish about our ability to meet the challenges in our present situation and are determined to come out of it stronger and more effective than ever.

We can and we will do it with the continued help and inspiration provided by supporters like those reported on this page. These and all the others like them in our future give us the edge in togetherness, teamwork and toughness to get our job done.

Thanks to all,

—Brian Walker President/CEO

**NEW HOPE FOR THE HUNGRY** arrived at the Food Bank on Feb. 28 when a delegation representing the WalMart Foundation presented us with a \$200,000 donation designated especially for our Rural Delivery and Senior Box programs. The KFB leadership in attendance agreed that it couldn't have come at a better time. Our distribution of food for HungerCare over the last year soared to a new KFB record amount of 7.3 million pounds. And at its current rate, this year's distribution is on track to reach an even higher total.

During the ceremony, credit was also given for the more than 170,000 pounds of food donated to the KFB by Sam's stores in Wichita during the last year. Now the seven WalMart stores in Wichita have commenced weekly food donations for your Food Bank. Our thanks to a corporate partner for putting help and hope out there, big time!

**KIDS HELPING KIDS** was a wonderful sight to behold at the Food Bank on Monday, Feb. 15. That's when 40 Bishop Carroll High School kids divided into two groups and raced through their assigned tasks to fill packets of weekend food for our Food 4 Kids Backpack program.

Each of the groups—one in the morning, the other in the afternoon—plunged into their work in a bright and happy mood, clearly focused on their task at hand and having fun while doing it.

At the end of the day, the combined 60 work hours contributed by Bishop Carroll kids produced 1,024 packets of weekend food, all ready and set to go into the backpacks of some of the most needful kids in Kansas.

**HOT, MEDIUM OR MILD?** "Any way you like it." That was the proper response to the question at the first annual EMC Insurance Corporation chili cook-off—conceived, planned, organized and conducted by a merry band of some of EMC's most creative employees as a community project of the Wichita office.

It was so much fun for all who either ate or cooked or both, that the charity activity will be carried on next year. Posters and e-mail were used to promote the event and to sign up 16 chili cooks who competed for a grand prize plaque and/or blue ribbons for the best in the Hot, Medium and Mild categories.

More than 100 participants cast \$5 voting chips for their favorite chili, then after they bought and ate some, they visited with their friends and fellow workers and went away happy. And we are also happy with the \$726 raised from the cook-off and generously donated to the Food Bank. Muchas gracias amigos, ole!



Peggy Peterson of EMC presents a check to Brian Walker along with Bill Charlsen of Charlsen Insurance.

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

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If you're new, we welcome you!

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