



notes

catholic  charities
OF NORTHEAST KANSAS

Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas

School's Out - Summer Food Drought



It's the time of year when school-aged children everywhere are celebrating the end of school. For most kids it signifies anticipated days of staying up later and sleeping in longer. It's spending muggy days at the pool, riding bikes with their friends, or leveling up on the latest video game. It's schedule-free; it's carefree.

But, for some parents, when school is out, it's likely that the food is out as well. For struggling families who rely on school food programs to help feed their children, the summer months can be challenging. Without the school lunch subsidies, this can mean providing an **extra 140 meals** over the summer for a family of four. These are extra meals *without* any extra means of affording them. These families turn to our food pantries when they have no other options.

While demand increases, food donations tend to decrease throughout the summer. At Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, we refer to this as a "Summer Food Drought." At a time when families need us most, our pantry shelves are growing empty. The lack of donations can have a ripple effect. When donations are down, and our shelves are bare, we don't have as much food to give out. We compromise by giving out less food per person. Eventually, our clients reach a breaking point where they can no longer stretch out the food they receive any further.

The stress for these families mounts even higher when, faced with the decision between buying groceries or paying their rent, they are all too often going hungry.

Even through the expansive efforts of our Kids Summer Food Program, we recognize we cannot feed every hungry child in our 21 county service area this summer. Perhaps it's not feasible for a working parent to get to one of our food sites or it's just not yet available in their area.

Whatever the reason, we are working to resolve this need through our food pantries. But, we can't do it without your help. All of what we do could not be possible without food donations from our community. Together, we can help keep our shelves stocked and our neighbors in need fed.

Everyone can do *something*. Perhaps you can donate a few cases of food or maybe you toss a few extra items in your cart at your next visit to the grocery store - all donations, big or small, are welcomed and appreciated.

In addition to parish and grocery store food drives, donations can be dropped off at any of our nine food pantries. Visit us online at catholiccharitiesks.org/givehope for a list of needed items and locations.

No one should experience hunger this summer - *especially a child*.

TurnStyles Thrift Store Undergoes Makeover

TurnStyles' volunteers were invited to a "Remodel Reveal" for a first peek at the newly revamped Overland Park thrift store. The store closed down for just one week in May so that old carpet could be pulled up, existing cement floors polished, fresh paint applied to the walls, and store merchandise reorganized.



"We want those we serve to feel good about coming here to shop," said Zoran Misis, TurnStyles Director. "The response so far from customers and volunteers has been very positive."

A ministry of Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas, TurnStyles relies on the donation of new and gently used clothing, jewelry, housewares, furniture and more. Items are sold at deeply discounted prices with proceeds benefiting programs and services offered throughout the 21-county service area.

For donation information visit: catholiccharitiesks.org/turnstyles/donate



Giving the Basics

Hope Hero Shout Out!

They say some of the best ideas are born out of necessity. For Teresa Hamilton, it was the "basic necessities."

In 2008, Teresa was approached by an acquaintance seeking help affording toilet paper for herself and her family. Teresa was shocked to learn that, even with government assistance, her friend struggled to give her family basic items like soap, shampoo,

toilet paper and feminine hygiene products. As result, there were times the kids even stayed home from school rather than endure the bullying they faced. Teresa helped her friend get back on her feet, but knew there had to be others that faced the same dilemma.

After intense market research, Giving the Basics, a 501(c) nonprofit dedicated to providing basic hygiene and toiletry products to those in need, was born.



Providing Personal Care Products for Human Dignity™



Giving the Basics partners with organizations like Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas to help fill gaps where donations may fall short.

"When people think of our Emergency Assistance Centers, food is the first thing that comes to mind," said Dustin Hardison, Director of Stabilization and Housing. "But the people we serve are also in need of soap and shampoo and the basics. It's hard to go to school or a job interview if you look and smell dirty."

The residents of Shalom House, Catholic Charities' shelter for men experiencing homelessness, are also some of the recipients of these hygiene products.

World Refugee Day: A Celebration of Courage

It's hard to start over. It's even more difficult when it involves a new country, a new language and well, a new way of doing just about everything.

Catholic Charities' Refugee and Immigration Services' resettlement program understands that it takes strength and a great deal of courage to leave one's home, due to persecution. In recognition of their resilience, staff hosts World Refugee Day every June. This year's fun-filled event featured a variety of games, a bouncy house, face-painting and a friendly volleyball competition. There was also live music and a buffet featuring food from six different countries.

"It's really a celebration of our refugees and their brave journey to find peace and a secure home," added Rachel Pollock, MSW, Director of Refugee and Immigration Programs.



Ways to Make a Difference

School's Out. Food's Out.

A **\$100 donation** will help us **feed a family from June through August** --- with **91 cents of every dollar going directly to programs and services** to assist our neighbors in need.

Or you can help feed a family all year long with your **\$32 monthly recurring** gift.

Visit online at: catholiccharitiesks.org/feedthehungry

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