

PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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TCCF and food bank team up for child nutrition

COLBY, Kan. (June 09, 2010) – Genesis-Thomas County food bank and the Thomas County Community Foundation have partnered to help kids who might otherwise not have enough to eat or the right kinds of foods to make it through the summer.

The agencies estimate that 50 or more kids in Thomas County suffer from “food insecurity.”

Melinda Olson, executive director of the Thomas County Community Foundation, said representatives from Genesis, the Colby Wesleyan Church, the Church of Christ, school representatives, Extension agents, the foundation, the Thomas County Coalition and Smart Start met earlier this spring to discuss how to meet the summer nutritional needs of these children. The group determined that families need some help with food during the summer months, and a plan emerged to use the food bank to address the need.

Under this plan, Olson said, Genesis will increase the amount of food that families with children can receive each month from the food bank in June, July and August. The agency will include a “kid-friendly” bag for each child in each family’s grocery allotment. This will include items which can be eaten without preparation, cooking or refrigeration, said Wynn Duffey, Genesis board president.

The agencies are asking for donations of both food and money for the program. Food donations should be taken to Genesis in the Thomas County Office Complex, 350S. Range, Suite 13, labeled with “Summer Food Program for Kids.” Checks may be sent to the foundation at 350 S. Range, Suite 14, Colby, Kan., 67701, with “Summer Food Program for Kids” in the memo section.

Food items on the list include saltine or graham crackers, single-serving packages of crackers with peanut butter or cheese, Goldfish and Teddy Graham crackers, poptop cans of meat such as beans and franks or Vienna sausage, single-serving containers of cereal or large boxes of healthy cereal that will last for a week at a time, cereal bars, fruit cups, raisins, fresh fruit that will last a while like apples or oranges, juice boxes, aseptic pack boxes of milk that do not require refrigeration, granola bars, pudding cups and pretzels. All items need to arrive in unopened boxes or containers.

New clients to Genesis must be Thomas County residents. They will need to complete the required form and bring a government-issued photo ID. Genesis is open from 10 a.m. to noon and 1 to 4 p.m. on Wednesdays. Clients may use the food bank once every 30 days.

For information call Genesis at (785)460-7930 or the Foundation at (785)460-6192.

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