



## **CITY OF HAYSVILLE**

200 West Grand Avenue  
Haysville, Kansas 67060

### **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release  
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### **Community Comes Together for Haysville Food Bank**

Haysville, KS (November 19, 2015) The Haysville Food Bank, which is operated through the Senior Center has received over 2,000 pounds of canned and non-perishable food items in the last few weeks, thanks to the generosity of community members. Some of the food collected will be used for Thanksgiving food boxes for Haysville families and homebound seniors in need. Food boxes will be delivered prior to Christmas as well. Everything else goes into the bank to help citizens with urgent need throughout the year.

Haysville Senior Center Director Kim Landers is grateful for the help. “We probably only had about ten percent of our capacity. The shelves were really bare. But the community came together and everyone has been so generous. It’s touching, really.”

That generosity began right there at the Senior Center. Members usually gather on the first and third Wednesday afternoon of every month for a few friendly rounds of pay-to-play BINGO. In months with a fifth Wednesday, however, members pay their admission with cans of food, an event aptly named Food Bank BINGO. Although only about ten to fifteen members participate, many of whom have limited resources themselves, they always contribute more than their share, helping to keep the shelves stocked throughout the year.

Donations really started to rev up in October, however, when various student groups at Campus High School participated in Trick-or-Treat-so-Kids-Can-Eat (TOTS-Eat). According to schooltheatre.org, TOTS-Eat is an annual nationwide community service initiative of the International Thespian Society. Haysville’s efforts were coordinated by Campus’ Theatre Director, Roxana Stitt, who reported on Facebook that students, staff and faculty collected over 1,600 pounds of food.

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The giving didn't stop there. Haysville's elementary school latchkey program held a food drive of their own, which School Age Program Supervisor Kourtney Rowley called The Hunger Games. The six elementary schools competed to see which site could bring the most canned goods. Nelson Elementary's group ended up on top, with 650 of the 1462 cans donated coming from their school. Rowley delivered the items to the Senior Center last Friday.

It took some time, but volunteers at the Senior Center have unpacked, labeled and organized the items. The next job on the to-do list? Preparing 58 boxes for a Thanksgiving meal given to Haysville families and homebound seniors in need. Thankfully, volunteers from the Senior Center won't be filling the boxes alone. Students from Haysville West Middle School's National Junior Honor Society will be at the center on Thursday, November 19<sup>th</sup> to help. The boxes will contain a turkey (homebound recipients will receive a turkey breast), mashed potatoes, stuffing, cranberry sauce, several cans of vegetable such as corn or green beans, and everything to make a pumpkin pie. "We purchased the turkeys, which is a big expense, but with everything we received in donations, we probably won't have to buy anything else," explained Landers. "I'm so grateful to everyone who either donated or collected food for our food bank. They will help so many people in the community." And that's something to be thankful for.

For more information about the Haysville Senior Center, visit us at [www.haysville-ks.com](http://www.haysville-ks.com), or contact Kim at (316) 529-5903.

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