# HAPPENINGS

WHAT'S NEW AT THE COMMUNITY FOOD BANK OF EASTERN OKLAHOMA

### Thanks - From Evelyn, a Senior Servings client



"I met and married my American husband in Germany, and we moved to Tulsa, my husband's home town. I never worked, but was able to learn English. Although we weren't rich, we always managed just fine." When Evelyn's husband died unexpectedly at the age of 59, she was terrified to learn there were no resources set aside for her as she had believed.

Click here to read the rest of Evelyn's story.

#### Thank you Reasors and KJRH



Reasor's presents a check for their Food 2 Families Drive in which they partnered with KJRH Channel 2. From L to R; Tim Willingham, Justin Jones, Amanda Russell, Greg Raskin and Katie Lepine.

## Click here to donate!

Your donations make a difference! Every \$1 provides 4 meals.

#### **Heart for the Hungry**



Your company can make a difference for those struggling with hunger in our community. "Most employees want to contribute to their community, and involving them actually increases retention and productivity. When businesses provide

avenues for their employees to volunteer, they get back much more than what they give." - Eric Kunkel, partner at CCK Strategies.

Businesses are encouraged to support the Food Bank by organizing a volunteer and team building effort, hosting a food and fund drive, hosting a meeting at the Food Bank, crafting a custom corporate experience or supporting financially with payroll deductions. For more information contact Rochelle Dowdell at

918-936-4508 or rdowdell@okfoodbank.org or click here.

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Save the Date

#### **SNAP Chat**



According to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) estimates, every dollar in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) spending generates \$1.79 in economic activity.

Today 46.5 million Americans (613,000 Oklahomans in October 2015) get SNAP benefits-on average about \$125 a month per person.

The Council of Economic Advisers (CEA) published a 2015 report stating SNAP benefits don't last through the month. When they run out, studies show, hospitalizations for hypoglycemia spike while kids' test scores drop off.

The 2015 CEA report finds SNAP is best at doing what it's intended to do: keep people from going hungry. But it also reduces poverty overall. According to the authors, in 2014 the program kept close to 5 million people out of poverty, 2 million of them kids.

The CEA highlights a growing body of research showing that children who receive food assistance to protect against food insecurity see improvements in long-term health and academic performance.

Many Ways to Help



#### Empty Bowls April 26, 2016 Cox Business Center

Please join us in the Food Bank's 35th year of fighting hunger, and participate in 2016 Empty Bowls.

Our goal for the evening is to raise 2 million meals and awareness to help fight hunger in our community. Empty Bowls is presented by the Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Foundation and planned by Co-Chairs Jason Glass and Brian Hughes, along with Honorary Chairs Elliot and Meg Nelson. Each guest will receive a keepsake bowl, as a reminder of the too many empty bowls in eastern Oklahoma.

For more information or to sponsor, contact Heidi Ewing at 918-936-4544 or hewing@okfoodbank.org.

#### Advocate against Hunger



It takes more than food to fight hunger, it also takes people speaking for the hungry.



Direct Energy, one of our corporate partners, volunteered at the Food Bank in 11 different sessions during 2015. They provided a total of 155 volunteers who logged 465 volunteer hours. The savings in labor means the Food Bank could provide an additional 37,200 meals for people in need. Rather than holding traditional team parties, Direct Energy selected the Food Bank as a site for their community events. They chose volunteer time for team building exercises and to give back to the community.

For information on volunteering click here or contact Adam Baker at 918-936-4545 or <a href="mailto:abaker@okfoodbank.org">abaker@okfoodbank.org</a>

Fighting Hunger, Feeding Hope

BANK

Community FOOD BANK of Eastern Oklahoma

www.okfoodbank.org

February 25, 2016 is Hunger Action Day at the State Capitol. Supporters of the Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma and Regional Food Bank of Oklahoma will join forces to fight hunger in the state. As part of Hunger Action Day, champions from across the state will have the opportunity to speak with their state legislators about the issue of hunger and ask them to work together to solve the problem.

If you are interested in advocating for hunger issues in our state, please visit our website <a href="https://okfoodbank.org/ways-to-help/advocacy">okfoodbank.org/ways-to-help/advocacy</a>.

To take action, <u>click here</u> and visit the advocacy page on our website.

To receive our monthly alerts click here.

For information on the issue of national hunger, please visit the Feeding America website at feedingamerica.org.



Community Food Bank of Eastern Oklahoma | 918-585-2800 | okfoodbank.org

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