

FEEDING CHILDREN

A PUBLICATION OF
Kids Against Hunger®

A trademark of **FREEDOM FOODS**

“Nazareth Worker”

Photo by:
Dr. Robert Moore

1st Quarter 2016 | Volume 2 - Issue 1

Joplin Tornado Anniversary
pages 6-7

New Millennium For Israel
pages 8-9

ConAgra Partnership
pages 12-13

From the desk of the CEO



You Are Going Extinct

What can I do? I cannot make a difference. My little donation will not help anyone.

These along with many other excuses are used on a regular basis by so many of us to make us feel insignificant and useless when it comes to making a difference in the world. On top of that, the problems of this world seem so insurmountable that we fail to act because we have convinced ourselves that the world does not need our help. Add to that the fact that each of us has problems of our own to deal with on a daily basis that we feel we will be lucky to make it through each day handling what is already on our plate.

I am here to challenge each and every one of you to understand your place in this world. Back in 1990 Michael W. Smith wrote a song called "A Place in this World". I encourage you to go listen to the whole song but the lyrics in part are - "Looking for a reason...Roaming through the night to find...My place in this world", and I want you to know you are not alone in your feelings of hopelessness. Each of us in our own way and on our own journey are looking for our place in this world and how we can make a difference in this world we live in.

YOU ARE UNIQUE AND YOU ARE GOING EXTINCT!
Let that soak in for a minute...Of the billions of people who have ever lived on this planet there is no one...and I mean no one, who is uniquely gifted like you to make a difference in the world. You only have your life to live and because there has been and never will be anyone like you ever, you are uniquely qualified to change the world. Because you are unique and one of a kind, you are going extinct. Once you have lived your life and no longer part of this world, you take with you all your gifts and talents that allowed you to make a difference.

YOU ARE GOING EXTINCT!

Now imagine if each one of us had a full grasp of our importance in changing the world...If we truly understood that I must use what has been given to me to make this world a better place, and understand that once I am gone

there will be no one like me to accomplish what I am able to accomplish...This world would look vastly different. One of the inherent truths that comes with this understanding is that my gifts and abilities are not for my benefit or amusement, but to be used to have an impact on the world around me. If each of us lived like this and fully comprehended the magnitude of this reality, we could end hunger...hate...racism...war...and any other scourge that divides us.

You are going extinct. You are uniquely qualified. No one can do what you can do. These are not just lofty platitudes to elicit a response in you. They are God given truths that can and will change the world if you embrace them and live them out every day.

What is your place in this world? How will you now live knowing that you only have your life to live to use the gifts you have to impact this world? What will your story be? The world needs you. YOUR world needs you. Make your mark!

Nick Yaksich

Kids Against Hunger CEO

Feeding Children is a publication of **Freedom Foods**, a humanitarian organization with a mission to significantly reduce the number of hungry children in the USA and to feed starving people throughout the world. We ship meals to starving children and their families in more than 60 countries through partnerships with humanitarian organizations worldwide.

13702 B Street | Omaha, NE 68144
(866)654-0202 | (402)333-1346



Corporate America Feeding the Hungry

Ending the separation of profits and charity

By Nicholas Orson

Starvation is a solvable problem. It is not often you will hear that clear of a statement considering that there are currently 795 million people who fit in the category, “starvation”, according to the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (2015). What a number. What a mountain we face. But is it that big of a mountain? Can we really colonize Mars but cannot feed our fellow man? What if we have been going about it all wrong?

The current size of the global market for financial assets (i.e. stocks, bonds, securities, etc.) is sitting comfortably at \$264 trillion dollars, according to Business Insider (2015). Yes, that’s with a T. So we know our problem is not money. Then what is holding us back from wiping out starvation? I would like to propose a possible roadblock: our separation of profits and charity.

Steven Collins and Paul Murphy (2013) of The Guardian wrote an amazing article titled, “Corporations and fight against hunger: why CSR won’t do.” They essentially say that corporations are separating their profitable side of business from their charitable/goodwill side of their business. However, Collins and Murphy challenge this idea and even argue that there is no need to separate the two. Confused? Let me elaborate.

Corporate America has done an amazing job feeding the hungry through donating money to organizations like Kids Against Hunger and even donating time and resources. While good, I believe there is a more sustainable model that can benefit the Kids Against Hunger’s of the world and their corporate donors. Corporations need to start seeing the people they are feeding as potentially new consumers and producers in this global economy. The number one fuel to the fire of poverty is malnutrition according to a 2008 study conducted by the World Bank. This means that if malnutrition is eliminated, poverty will all but cease to exist. Since there is such a direct tie, corporations can start adopting an “economic investment” model to eliminate both malnutrition and poverty. Here’s how it could work:

First, a corporation starts to “invest” their money, time, and resources into non-profits such as Kids Against Hunger and creates a partnership of sorts. Kids Against Hunger would take that investment and take care of the immediate food needs. They would then start to teach and train the people how to farm and produce goods, which can be sold in the marketplace. A small percentage of profits would be paid back to Kids Against Hunger and in turn funneled back to the corporation. Suddenly, the people being fed are no longer reliant on corporate donations and corporations have long-term investments with a small but profitable rate of return.

Corporate America is a powerhouse ready to transform the face of starvation forever. But let’s not be afraid to ask the hard questions and be okay with creative, imaginative, and sustainable answers. Simply put:



**Let’s
end
starvation
and
change
the
world.**

Kids Against Hunger®

A trademark of **FREEDOM FOODS**

Welcomes



Barry Bressler & Family

Central Florida Satellite

Deltona, FL

Dave & Carrie Gunning

Johnson City Satellite

Johnson City, TN



**Joshua McDowell
& Family**

Hickory Satellite

Hickory, NC

New Satellite Locations

Kids Against Hunger - Sioux Falls

In 2007 Kids Against Hunger-Sioux Falls founder Darrel Johnson was on a mission trip in Haiti and saw first hand the desperate need for food and medical care. Not one to stand by and do nothing, he decided to sell his home and other possessions and move to Haiti and open a medical clinic and nutrition center. He did have one small issue however; he forgot to include his wife Kathy in this decision. Her response to his plan was "have a good time, you're not selling the house!"

After some careful, and more rational thought, Johnson decided moving might not be the best idea. Johnson looked around for something he could do in the United States to support the people in need in Haiti. He came across Kids Against Hunger and not long after he was dipping into his retirement savings to start the Sioux Falls satellite in August of 2009.

Johnson again found himself in Haiti on a mission trip over New Year's 2010, leaving six days before an earthquake devastated the capital city of Port-Au-Prince. Once the magnitude of the disaster was known, the call for aid went out and the community of Sioux Falls responded. With support from businesses, churches and individuals, Kids Against Hunger was able to pack and ship 900,000 meals in 2010. Almost all of those meals were sent directly to people in desperate need in Haiti.

As the years have gone on, Haiti is still on the hearts and minds of Kids Against Hunger - Sioux Falls board members. Many have visited and seen first hand the impact the organization has had. Knowing the need is all over the world, Kids Against Hunger - Sioux Falls has been partnering with organizations that bring food to people in need, places like Guatemala, Zambia, Nepal and Haiti; even some locally in the Sioux Falls and South Dakota area.

The organization continues to expand operations to include large and small off-site packs. Last year, over 5,600 volunteers packed over one-million meals, which was the largest year so far. As the Kids Against Hunger-Sioux Falls team looks to the future, they continue to be humbled by the outpouring of financial support and incredible partnerships from the community. They are honored to be a part of facilitating an opportunity for people to come together to make a dramatic difference in the lives of others.



Darrel Johnson helps prepare food for kids in Haiti. One week later the devastating earthquake hit Port-Au-Prince.



Middle school students from Sioux Falls Christian packed 25,000 meals for students in Haiti.



Food is packed and ready for shipment to kids in need all over the world.

MAY 22, 2011

Fifth Anniversary After The Joplin, MO Tornado

By Andrea Minor



Sometimes it hard to believe the Joplin tornado was five years ago...it seems like yesterday. Other times it feels like it was a lifetime ago. The city has rebuilt (give or take a few buildings and businesses) and the citizens have moved on. Those who lost loved ones will always have pieces of themselves missing but for the most part it seems the phases of grief are running their appropriate course. Those that lost their lives in the tornado have been forever memorialized and will live on in some fashion.

Disaster time is odd. The first week after the tornado felt like months. Running on little to no sleep can do that to a person pretty quickly. Then it seemed like time stopped and restarted at a very slow pace. My memory of the time is in snapshots. Not because I lost anyone or anything but because I think I switched to auto pilot. I cannot remember the first time I spoke to a representative from Kids Against Hunger but I am so grateful that I

did...and always will be. They came into Joplin with so much more than a food resource. They brought smiles, hugs, compassion, and a lending hand to do whatever was needed whenever it was needed. Within the first hours of arriving in Joplin, they set up their food trailer in the parking lot of what had been a Dillon's grocery store. I have no idea how many people were fed that first day but the line was constant. For those who did not want to abandon their search of their destroyed home for salvageable items we had teams driving around handing food to those working. It was amazing. Lodging was an issue for many and the initial plans on where to house the Kids Against Hunger team fell through. They ended up staying at a cheerleading gym in Miami, Oklahoma. No complaints were ever heard from anyone. They were a constant source of encouragement to myself and everyone around them.



The Joplin tornado was a devastating time but it was the beginning of new relationships with people we might have never met. It was a time for renewed passion for what truly matters and reflection. It was a wake-up call to remind us of the importance of cherishing those we love and reaching out to help our fellow man.

I participated in the Walk of Silence this year. As I passed each flag that listed the name of someone lost in the tornado I was taken back to those first days after the tornado, and yes...there are things I miss. I miss how everyone was greeted with a hug. I miss the way everyone pitched in to help those around them with no expectation of repayment. I miss the compassion people showed for each other without gauging if they were worthy. There are parts of the disaster that I think are beautiful and if you look hard enough in the midst of the rubble and chaos you can see a glimpse of heaven.



Peace Lutheran Church after tornado



Peace Lutheran Church Rebuilt

A New Millennium For Israel

By Nicholas Orson



Barry and Batya Segal

There are few moments in life when one gets a glimpse past the smokescreen and hype of the American media circus. And if one wants to sear the life out of their finger, they need only press the hottest button in that circus – the Middle East. This is where our story begins.

Meet Barry and Batya Segal, the founders of Vision for Israel, “a non-profit, charitable organization established to help rebuild the nation of Israel, both physically and spiritually,” according to their website, www.visionforisrael.com. Their story is unique and insightful, inspiring the greatest in anyone who hears it. Just as a sliver of wood cannot show you the full beauty of a tree, their story will span the edges of these pages.

In 1993, Barry Segal had an earth-changing vision from the Lord. In it he saw a time of prosperity and then one of despair and struggle for the nation of Israel. After starting Vision for Israel in 1994, following this vision, their story took a sharp turn off of the beaten path and their family was struck by sudden and shocking loss at the hands of terrorism.

In February 1996, their daughter lost four friends to Hamas terrorists. Less than two weeks apart, Hamas suicide bombers attacked two buses, leaving dozens dead and dozens more mourning. While the bombings did not have the effect on Barry and Batya like they did to the families who lost loved ones, the Segal's made a critical decision to act and help those families affected by the bombings.

The Segal's opened The Joseph Storehouse in 1998 to better aid not only the people of Israel but also their Arab neighbors. (The Joseph Storehouse is a subsidiary of Vision

for Israel and depending on the country, both names have been used.) Rather than siphon all support to Jewish victims only, the Segal's extended the hand of grace to the Arab community as well, recognizing that even they were affected by terrorism and the hardships of the region. Barry Segal further elaborated on the decision to support both Jews and Arabs: “I think there are four main reasons we do not look at all Arabs as the culprits: First of all, I served in the Israeli military and my border patrol unit was comprised of 25% Arab Muslim Bedouins who have helped secure Israel's borders together with Jewish-Israeli soldiers. These are full Arab citizens of Israel. So they also protected my life as I would protect them.

“Second, God's word says, ‘For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:16)’

“Third, Israel has a population of about 8.6 million citizens of whom about 19% are Arab Muslims or Christians by upbringing. They, for the most part, have a higher standard of living than anywhere else in the Middle East with the same rights to vote and be educated, unlike in Arab-Islamic regimes across the Middle East.

“Fourth, we understand that Islamic Jihadism is the culprit and when the Palestinians, led by leaders such as Mahmoud Abbas or previously Yasser Arafat, brainwash a whole generation to hate and kill Jews, we see who the real enemies of Israel are. However, Israeli-Arabs are also fearful of groups like ISIS and Iran's terror network. ISIS, Hamas, Islamic Jihad, the PLO are all terror networks.”

Since its inception in 1998, Vision for Israel has provided invaluable supplies and food to over 800,000 Jews, Arabs, and all minority groups in the region.



The Millennium Center

But the vision does not stop here...

"The new center in the heart of Israel will be called, the Millennium Center, a multi-faceted center for the physical and spiritual restoration of Israel. This will be one of the largest humanitarian aid centers in all of Israel.

"We also see the future of the Millennium Center as a lighthouse and an educational center for tour groups, congregations, gatherings, media events and serving the community around us for the betterment of culture, education and life for the people of Israel."

Not only will people from America and around the world have the opportunity to get to know the people of Israel, it will offer them a chance to truly join them in changing the region through their hands-on interaction and partnership with Kids Against Hunger.

Kids Against Hunger will be partnering with the Segal's and Vision for Israel to create one of the largest feeding epicenters in the entire Middle East. As part of a larger vision for creating packing centers around the globe, Nick Yaksich, CEO of Kids Against Hunger, further explains how Kids Against Hunger is providing for a unique need in the Middle East:

"The need has grown significantly [in the Middle East]. They have a constant need for food. With the wars in Syria, [Vision for Israel and other regional feeding centers] do not have the resources right now to meet the need. With our unique food and resources, Kids Against Hunger will be able to feed and reach more people than we have ever been able to reach before.

"Kids Against Hunger will be first of all partnering with [Vision for Israel] and packaging food with their volunteers. Then they can take the food and distribute it around the region.

"This will be Kids Against Hunger's first attempt to pack food on an international level. We want this [partnership] to be the first to better reach the people in the Middle East."

Vision for Israel has been setting roots in the region since 1994, feeding over 800,000 people, making them one of the most influential organizations in the region. The partnership between Kids Against Hunger and Vision for Israel will prove to bring an even greater impact to the region. However, none of this would have been possible had Nick Yaksich and the Segal's never met.

According to Nick Yaksich, the two met through a mutual friend who had taken a missions trip to Israel. This friend had visited The Joseph Storehouse and felt led to connect Nick Yaksich with Barry Segal, trusting the two had similar vision. After meeting, Nick Yaksich described the connection as an instant "click." After sharing their visions with each other, they met in Omaha, Nebraska and finalized the formal relationship.

The Millennium Center will become the first ever international packaging center for Kids Against Hunger. The plan is to have their first packing event there by the end of 2016. With the goal to reach the Syrian refugees and millions of other deeply affected by the unrest in the Middle East, the vision has never been bigger. In fact, at this point the vision can only be accomplished with the help of divine intervention, something both the Segal's and Yaksich's are very familiar with.

So what makes this story so special? Simply put, this is a rare moment in history where the vision for seeing the Middle East healed and the players willing to carry out that vision meet. Kids Against Hunger will provide the resources to feed millions of people in need in the Middle East while Vision for Israel will be able to use their deep networks and regional experience to make sure that aid gets into the right hands and stays there. With the added location of the Millennium Center, the region may for once start to see a more plausible path to peace and stability.

While many may doubt the need for aid in the Middle East (so much focus is given to Africa, which definitely needs aid, but is far from being the only region in need of it) here are some of the statistics surrounding the refugee crisis and hunger in the region:

There are almost 4.4 million registered Syrian refugees alone.

There are 885,500 Iraqi and Egyptian refugees in Iran.

3.3 million Iraqis have been completely displaced, while 10 million Iraqis still living there need humanitarian aid.

In Palestine, 1.6 million are in need of food support.

Due to the conflicts in Yemen, 2.5 million people have been displaced while 14.4 million people in Yemen need food, 7.6 million at such a severe level only external aid can help.

This cannot go on any longer. The Segal's recognized this and the vision given to Barry back in 1993 rings truer today than ever before. Through the partnership between Kids Against Hunger and Vision for Israel the world no longer has to go numb to the staggering statistics surrounding hunger in the Middle East. There is real change on the horizon and Israel will be a beacon of hope thanks to Vision for Israel and Kids Against Hunger.

Resources:

¹ All statistics provided by World Food Program USA
<http://wfpusa.org/where-wfp-works/middle-east>



Kids Against Hunger - Canada



Carl Nabein and Wayne McConnachie

Kids Against Hunger (KAH) Canada had its humble beginning in 2004. Richard Proudfit, founder of KAH, came to Peterborough, Ontario, Canada to introduce the non-profit and initiate a packing event with Carl and Tanya Nabein. This led to them creating KAH Canada.

A few years later, in 2007, they were encouraged when a family from Massachusetts made a significant contribution towards the KAH Canada cause to honor their son Brian.

Another highlight of that year was when Carl Nabein and Wayne McConnachie visited KAH in New Hope, Minnesota for the annual conference, sparking new vision for KAH Canada.

From 2007 to 2009 there were sporadic food packing events throughout Ontario. However, in 2010 KAH Canada and the high-profile sports entertainment company, Electronic Arts, from Burnaby, British Columbia hosted a two-day packing event, which saw 25,000 meals packaged by its employees. Electronic Arts packed another 88,000 meals the following year. The relationship developed between KAH Canada and Electronic Arts led to them producing a spectacular video that KAH Canada uses to this day.

The next couple of years saw some incredible growth. In 2011, a Mississauga/Burlington Ontario satellite was launched and hosted semi-annual events. In 2012, another satellite was launched in Bowmansville, Ontario by the local Rotary Club. Rotarian Fred Mandryk helped KAH Canada succeed in many ways. Within the Rotary Club he

still continues to work tirelessly with KAH Canada, opening doors to many other Rotary clubs and district conferences. A fourth satellite was launched in 2014 in Calgary, Alberta.

KAH Canada has built a growing network of clubs, universities, colleges, and churches. Some of the top partners are the Kiwanis Club, Key Clubs, Trent University, Fleming College, and several local churches. KAH Canada has received major support especially from Pathway Church, which has hosted a couple events and plans to do more in the future.

2015 was a busy year beginning with the launch of a partnership with Tenfed. Tenfed is a Canadian clothing company from Toronto, Ontario. They donate a portion of their clothing sales to KAH Canada. This money has not only created a stream of revenue for KAH Canada, it has also established a strong business partnership.

Additionally in 2015 the churches in Peterborough began organizing and fundraising for an event called, "One Million Meals Peterborough", to launch in 2016. No one could have expected the tremendous response. The April 2016 event saw 600 local volunteers package 129,600 meals! The success of the "One Million Meals Peterborough" event led to the planning and structuring of a second event, projected to launch in the fall of this year. Overall, 2015/2016 has seen major growth with several Rotary Club events as well as events within schools in the Greater Toronto Area.

As of April 2016, KAH Canada and its volunteers have packaged over 1,500,000 meals!

To date, KAH Canada has distributed food locally in Canada in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, Quebec, and Nova Scotia. Outside of Canada they have distributed food to Africa (Burkina Faso, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Malawi, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Uganda), Asia-Pacific (Philippines), Central America (El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras), South America (Peru), and the Caribbean (Dominica Republic, Haiti, Jamaica).

In the future KAH Canada is hoping to be featured at the 2018 International Rotary Club meeting in Toronto, Ontario. They hope that their continued relationship and partnership will lead to the International Rotary Club choosing KAH Canada as its international charitable cause, furthering the influence and opportunity for KAH Canada.





Chloe Bennett from the Academy of Christian Church in Colorado Springs, Colorado presents Stan Sack of the Colorado Springs Satellite a check for \$157.00. Chloe raised the money in three hours for Kids Against Hunger when she set up a stand that sold lemonade and used golf balls.

WORLD HUNGER STATISTICS

- Every 6 seconds a child dies (nearly 16,000 every day) because of hunger and related causes
- Approximately 3.1 million children die from hunger each year
- 21,000 people (all ages) die per day from starvation



ConAgra Partners With KAH For Domestic Food Product

Recipe for Success:

Dash of Flavor and a Mix of Collaboration

The Passion: At Kids Against Hunger (KAH) we have a passion for ending hunger; both around the world and in our backyard. Since 1999, Kids Against Hunger has expanded its efforts to reach children and families in 60+ countries and over 50+ satellites in the United States. Last year, Kids Against Hunger packed and distributed over 45 million highly nutritious, vitamin-fortified meals around the world. This work happens with the help and support of lots of volunteers and partners. ConAgra Foods and its employees have been significantly engaged with KAH over the past five years, forming a partnership that resulted in the packing and distribution of over 3.5 million meals. Acknowledging our mutual passion of addressing the significant issue of hunger, we were eager to take this relationship to the next level.

The Vision: Kids Against Hunger's original flavor has fed over two billion children and families across the globe. It was developed by food scientists during the middle 1970's. The founder of KAH, Richard Proudfit, had worked to design an inexpensive, highly nutritious, shelf stable meal that could be shipped, easily prepared and consumed worldwide. It was important to ensure that if prepared and consumed by a 2-year-old in Ghana or a 92-year-old in Ecuador, the flavor would be appreciated and could easily absorb the flavors and spices preferred by people in the diverse communities where it was distributed. Thus, the original product was designed to be flavor neutral. Much has changed since the original launch; specifically we discovered that people facing food insecurity in the US actually prefer a nutritious meal with flavor. Additionally, many US food pantries operate on client choice, meaning they allow families to shop the pantry, choosing the foods that they want to bring home. To increase the likelihood that our nutritious and fortified product would be chosen and consumed by families, Kids Against Hunger needed to update our product with a new flavor and packaging to reflect contemporary preferences.

The Process: Kids Against Hunger CEO, Nick Yaksich, recognized the potential opportunity to expand its partnership with ConAgra Foods and its employees by utilizing their professional knowledge, research, development and technical skills. At the end of 2014 Nick proposed the idea of teaming up to redevelop its product line to best meet the needs of individuals within the US who are food insecure. At the start of 2015 Kids Against Hunger and ConAgra formalized its partnership and gathered a team of employees consisting of flavor experts in Spicetec flavors and seasonings, food scientists, nutritionists, and marketing professionals. Work immediately began on product development, which is an interactive process where the scientist, chefs and business teams collaboratively work to identify cost effective and great tasting products that meet consumer expectations. Initial bench trials identified preliminary sensory gaps and the team worked to close those gaps, to make the formula sensory ready. After sensory, customer identified gaps were discussed and the team continued to work to correct those gaps within cost. Over the course of six months ConAgra employees volunteered over 150 hours which resulted in the development of six popular flavor profiles for the US market. A series of taste test panels were performed, followed by two weeks of market research resulting in the Latin Rice flavor being preferred by the majority.

The Product: The new Latin Rice features premium, long-grain white rice, soy that is darkened, ten fortified vitamins and has a shelf life of 3-years. Another new addition is the black beans that provide color and flavor as well as protein. All together there is 17 vitamins and minerals and 9 amino acids that can serve up to six people with just 6 cups of boiling water. It comes in a fantastic new package that is moisture-proof and odor-proof to prevent spoilage as well as insect and rodent problems. The Latin Rice, with its flavor and richer texture, also passes the Federal School Lunch requirement. The collaborative partnership with ConAgra and its employees was essential in creating this winning formula of Latin Rice, a beneficial asset in our fight against hunger here in the US.

The Success: Latin Rice that was packaged by ConAgra employees at the Council Bluffs, Iowa plant made its debut at the Open Door Mission Omaha, Nebraska in April of 2016. The Open Door Mission is a local organization that puts all their energy into ending homelessness and poverty in our community. Joshua Smith, Director of Gift's-in-Kind at the Open Door Mission, accepted 14 pallets of Latin Rice. That's just over 99,000 meals for the Open Door Mission to distribute. They began to include it in their monthly food packages and have given out over 33,000 meals so far.



"They come in such a wonderful size, it's perfect for families and the monthly food packages," Joshua said. The Open Door Mission has previously distributed KAH's international product but said that the initial roll out of the Latin Rice seems to be a big hit. "No one has turned down the Latin Rice, they seem to be enjoying it." He said that this is probably due to the increased flavor and texture of the Latin Rice. By KAH providing both the International and Latin Rice, the Open Door Mission can distribute the food to over 700 pantries, reaching over 1,000 people a week just in the Omaha, Nebraska area.

To date 2 million Latin Rice meals have been packaged and distributed by Kids Against Hunger satellite locations to food shelves, pantries, and food banks throughout the United States.



Kids Against Hunger - Southeast MO



Rick Hetzel - Southeast, MO Satellite Director and his wife, Cheryl Mothes

Throughout my life I have been presented with different paths for my journey. My father and mother guided my life until I enlisted in the Army and then Sergeant Billy "The Stone" Baker made it a point to let me know, without any doubts, how my life should be lived as a soldier. Following Vietnam, I was blessed to have many wonderful role models and mentors to help shape and guide my decisions.

When God puts something in front of you, again and again, you know you might need to pay attention. So, begins my experience with Kids Against Hunger. Several years ago, my wife, Cheryl, who has been involved in mission work in Haiti for several years, developed an annual event in our area for people interested in learning more about mission opportunities. We called it Missionfest.

As a part of Missionfest, we thought a "hands on" mission project during the 2015 event would provide a great opportunity for folks to participate in a local mission project and provide food to those in need. After reaching out to many of our friends, we were told there was a Kids Against Hunger Satellite in nearby Paducah operated by Russ Kegel and his wife. I was not sure this was the best project for Missionfest, so I did what many guys do, I put it on the back burner.

A few months later, my wife and I were visiting several schools and agencies we support in Haiti, when I was handed a meal pack prepared by a Kids Against Hunger Satellite. I thought it was a strange coincidence that I should be in a very remote area of Haiti and find their school supported by the very organization we were considering for Missionfest.

A few days later as we boarded the plane in Port-au-Prince for our trip home, I scooted down the narrow aisle of the big aircraft looking for my assigned seat. As I looked up, there sat a gentleman looking me straight in the eye and wearing a shirt with the logo, "Kids Against Hunger." I was starting to believe this was not just a mere coincidence anymore.

During our 2015 Missionfest event, Russ Kegel and members of his church came over to do our meal packing event, which resulted in over 32,000 meals packed for our local food bank in Southeast Missouri. During the event, I told Russ about my experiences with the Kids Against Hunger idea. Russ put his hand on my shoulder, looked me in the eye and said, "I think God is sending you a message - consider developing a satellite here for Kids Against Hunger."

Having two businesses and many volunteer responsibilities, this idea was not the easiest to accept. After much discussion, my wife and I agreed, few things in our lives have been put in our path as Kids Against Hunger.

In January 2016, we submitted our application to become Kids Against Hunger - Southeast Missouri. In March 2016, with the generous assistance of Russ Kegel and his wife, Mona, and Stephen McBee and his wife, Julie, we kicked off our KAH Satellite with our first meal packing event of 25,000 meals for Haiti. Shortly thereafter, we delivered the meals for shipment to the Haitian American Caucus, a school we support near Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

One of the greatest feelings in the world is knowing that we as individuals can make a difference, even if it is only to one child.



KAH - Southeast Missouri Inaugural Packing Event - March 2016

Faith Lutheran Church

By Savannah Behrends

It started as a simple conversation in 2013 between a Faith Lutheran Church minister and Jerry and Marilyn Lantz from Global Compassion Ministries (Kids Against Hunger - St. Peters).

Faith Lutheran Church had previously been looking into an organization similar to Kids Against Hunger (KAH) that was based out of Chicago. They knew that they wanted an interactive group activity that would both benefit the VBS staff and students, but also the world. The conversation quickly snowballed into a partnership between the church, Global Compassion Ministries, and KAH. The first question was how long the partnership would last.

"Five years just felt like something that we could commit to and would make a difference," said Novak. The next question was where could they send the meals that would make the most difference? And how would they get them there?"

"We asked Jerry and Marilyn where there was a need for help and they said there [Jean Macoute Village in Haiti]," said Dawn Novak, the Children's Ministry Coordinator at Faith Lutheran Church.

Global Compassion Ministries would then take the meals packed in three-month increments to the village. The Jean Macoute village is located in the Nord-Quest region of Haiti, which is near the west tip of the island. Roughly 500-600 people live in the village, or about 120 families. Because their culture has multi-generational families under one roof, the Kids Against Hunger meals are the perfect size.

Since they live on the coast of the Caribbean Sea, their main food source and income come from seafood. But part of the church's goal was to help leave the village with a better future rather than just feed them highly nutritious meals for five-years.

"They [KAH and Global Compassion Ministries] are also teaching them how to grow things to help create a more sustainable food supply," Novak said. Their goal was simple, raise and pack enough meals to feed everyone in the village. Not just for a day or a week, but a whole year at a time.

But how were they going to pull it off? "We encouraged our students to bring in offerings each day to pay for the meals. We make it kind of fun and reward them. If they raise enough money, then the Student Ministry Leader has to do something funny, like kiss a goat," Novak said.



VBS packing party

Novak said that there are roughly 400-500 VBS students each year and about 200 volunteers.

After raising the money, the students would then "give up" one day of crafts to pack the meals. Some of the younger students would color pictures of Bible verses to send in the boxes as well.

They also held another meal packing party on the Saturday following the end of VBS for church and community members.

During their first year (2013) they raised \$9,007 and packed 34, 128 meals. The following year (2014) they raised \$9,395 and packed 36, 048 meals. Last year they raised \$7,045 and packed 36, 037 meals.

"It's good for the kids to see that there are other kids all over the world, little boys and girls, that are hungry...that their lives are a little different and they can help feed them and make them stronger while sharing the gospel with them," Novak said.

Novak and the Director of Children's Ministry, Julie Brunette, said that the event is something that the kids look forward to every year. "This experience has been wonderful for the kids, adults, and our church as a whole," said the two.

This year they are planning on creating a base camp map indicating where the meals have been distributed to help show the kids how far they have reached.

With two years left in the commitment they do not seem to be slowing down. Some volunteers have taken the idea to different places, like Green Park Lutheran School and Rockport Elementary School. There is also hope they will continue in the future.

"We are still dreaming about the future," Novak said.



Presentation of KAH check

Kids Against Hunger/ Freedom Foods
13702 B Street
Omaha, NE 68144-36320

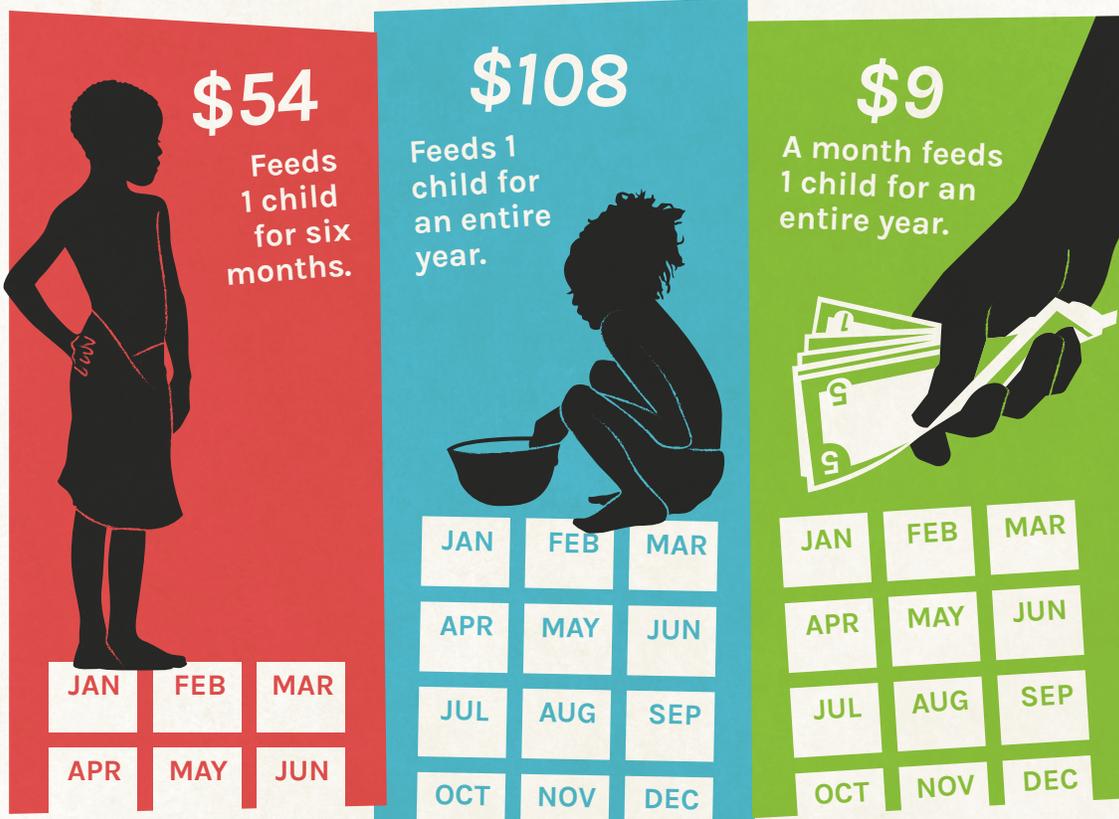
**If you can't feed
a hundred people,
then feed just one.**

- Mother Teresa

Feed Just 1

Kids Against Hunger®

A trademark of FREEDOM FOODS



Donate at KidsAgainstHunger.org/feedjust1