

# the2020 SNAP-Ed HIGHLIGHTS



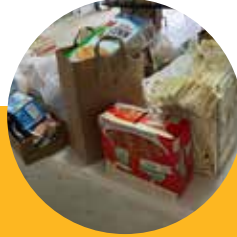
## **New Food Pantries in COVID-19**

### **Congressional District 1**

The Lindsborg community in McPherson County had limited access to the county food bank due to location, and days, and times that the county food bank was open. Together the Associated Churches of Lindsborg (TACOL), Messiah Lutheran Church, Bethany College Student Ministries, and SNAP-Ed were able to establish a new food pantry, Dala Pantry. The pantry was up and running by mid-June and at full capacity by mid-July.

The SNAP-Ed educator offered valuable guidance and protocols to help with the opening of the food bank. She coordinated with the Kansas Food Bank, local businesses, local grocers, and volunteers for donation efforts. She also partnered with local farmers markets to receive food donations that were not being sold. She subsequently provided recipes, nutrition, and food safety handouts, and helped as needed.

In the future, she plans to obtain additional funds for refrigeration equipment to expand food storage and implement nutrition classes for the food pantry clients.



## **Food Fight! Increased Food Donation in Cherokee County**

### **Congressional District 2**

To increase the amount of food donation in Cherokee county food pantries, the SNAP-Ed agent and staff partnered with the Farmer's Cooperative Association to implement food donation events, the Cherokee County Food Fight Challenge. The challenge encouraged all communities to compete to see which of the participating communities could raise the greatest amount of food that could be donated to the local food pantries.

The Farmers' Cooperative Association (COOP) provided scales at each community to weigh food donations, donated 2000lbs of food, and raised awareness of the challenge.

At the end of the two-week challenge, nearly 13,000 pounds for food were donated to 8 local food pantries.



## **Prairie Band Potawatomi Community Garden**

### **Congressional District 2**

In the Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (PBPN) Community Garden, the Tribal Food System pilot partnered with the American Heart Association, Sunflower Foundation, the PBPN Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP), the tribe's Lands Department, SNAP-Ed nutrition assistants, and K-State's Master Gardener program for the preparation and maintenance of a community garden at the PBPN Tribal Health Center. Community volunteers even helped during harvest.

In 2020, the garden grew crooked neck squash, Indian corn and there was also a local harvest of milkweeds. The PBPN garden produced tomatoes, peppers, and zucchini in addition to the squash and corn which were shared with participants of the Diabetes Prevention Program and the Elders Center.

For FY21 the Tribal Food System project director and nutrition assistants are completing the Master Gardener program and working with partners for earlier community garden planning to allow continued success and support.



### **Online Nutrition Education Amidst Pandemic**

#### **Congressional District 3**

Within days of the suspension of face-to-face programming, SNAP-Education educators from Wyandotte county were challenged to serve their audience virtually. They worked diligently to transition curricula into virtual settings through Zoom. Program participants shared how excited they were to have this new online educational opportunity available. One class participant, Linda, shared that she had never used whole grain products. After the class, she switched from using white bread to 100% whole grain bread and the family ended up loving it.



### **Promoting Healthy Pastries with Nutrition Facts Panel**

#### **Congressional District 4**

A SNAP-Education agent is a steering committee member of RISE Cowley, a coalition to make Cowley county a healthier place to live, work, and play. San Miguel Bakery, an ethnic food store, worked with the coalition to receive nutrition facts for their popular bakery items. The nutrition fact panels were printed and showed at point-of-purchase. The store identified the needs for additional refrigerator and freezers and has since obtained refrigeration systems to store more healthy food items.



### **SNAP-EBT Accepted in Farmers' Markets**

#### **Congressional District 4**

The farmers markets in Arkansas City and Winfield successfully implemented SNAP EBT in July 2020. SNAP-Education staff from Cowley county have contributed by coordinating application for EBT equipment, providing materials, and training vendors and market managers on how to accept SNAP-EBT and eligible products. Despite the pandemic, the soft opening was a success with \$115 in tokens distributed and \$107 redeemed with 10 vendors. SNAP-Education will continue to increase awareness of the availability of EBT acceptance in farmers markets.