



Healthy Congregations Mini Grant Opportunity

Responding to Urgent Food Access Needs

United Methodist Health Ministry Fund



What is SNAP?

- SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) helps low-income families buy groceries each month.
- Benefits are based on household income, expenses, and family size.
- In Kansas, SNAP reaches about **187,000 households**, supporting children, seniors, people with disabilities, and working families.
- Every dollar in SNAP benefits generates more than a dollar in local economic activity.

The Faces of SNAP

- 65% of SNAP participants are in families with children
- 36% are in families with members who are older adults or are disabled
- 44% are in working families

Where We Are & What's At Stake

- SNAP benefits, totalling \$33 million, still haven't gone out in Kansas, despite multiple court orders.
- Each day of delay means greater hardship for 187,000 Kansas households and deeper strain on local grocers, food banks, and communities.
- Kansans need fully funded benefits **now**.

Where Things Stand Legally

- 2 cases brought in Fed Ct. to force November benefits (APA)
 - a. Massachusetts → State Plaintiffs
 - b. Rhode Island → Individuals & Non-profit organization Plaintiffs
- 10/31 - Courts issue orders, R.I. court (TRO) gives 2 options to USDA
 1. Pay full benefits by 11/3 w/ contingency funds and Section 32 funds
 2. Pay partial benefits w/ just contingency funds by 11/5
- 11/3 - USDA informs court of decision to deplete contingency funds (\$4.65 billion) to provide partial funds (50% max. allotment)
- 11/4 - R.I. Plaintiffs file motion to enforce TRO - (hearing on 11/6)
- 11/5 - Mass. Plaintiffs file response asking for further judicial intervention

What USDA's Guidance Says

- Authorizes partial payments from contingency funds.
- Directs states to calculate benefits based on maximum allotments.
- **No timeline** provided for when Kansas will receive funds.

What This Confusing Guidance Really Means

◦The USDA's complicated process for determining these partial payments means:

- Many individuals and families will receive less than 50% of their expected benefits.
 - Some may receive no benefits at all.
- Because of the technology required to calculate reduced amounts, families may not receive these benefits for weeks.

The Cost of Delay

- Families relying on SNAP are being forced to make tough decisions between paying utilities or putting food on the table, among other impossible decisions.
- Grocery stores, childcare providers, and local economies are feeling the strain.
- Every day of delay deepens the crisis for Kansas families.

What Kansans Can Do

- Contact Congress and demand immediate and full SNAP funding.
- Share Kansas Appleseed's posts and alerts.
- Donate money, food and time to our food bank partners like Harvesters, Kansas Food Bank and Second Harvest.
- Sharing your story over social media, op-eds, and letters to the editor in support of SNAP funding.

Keep the pressure on — this is a people-powered fight for our neighbors and Kansas values!



Karen Siebert
Advocacy & Public Policy Advisor

State of Kansas Food Bank Service Areas



Kansas Food Bank
1,492,136 residents*

Harvesters-The Community Food Network
1,412,378 residents*

Second Harvest of Greater St. Joseph
33,366 residents*

*Based on 2020 Census



What is a food bank?





The Response to Hunger and Food Insecurity in the U.S.



**For every 1 meal a food bank provides
SNAP provides 9**

How You Can Help



Give Food



Give Time



Give Money

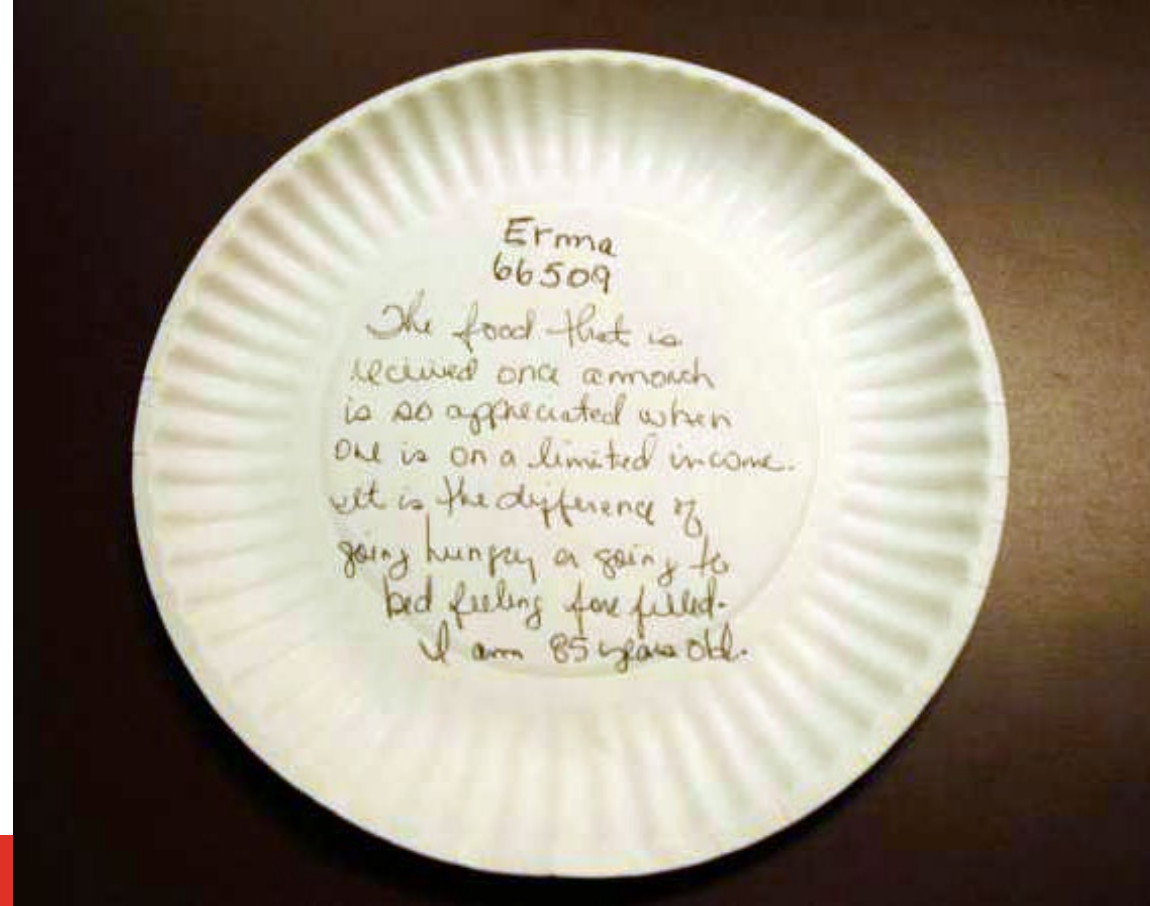


**Give Voice
(x2)**



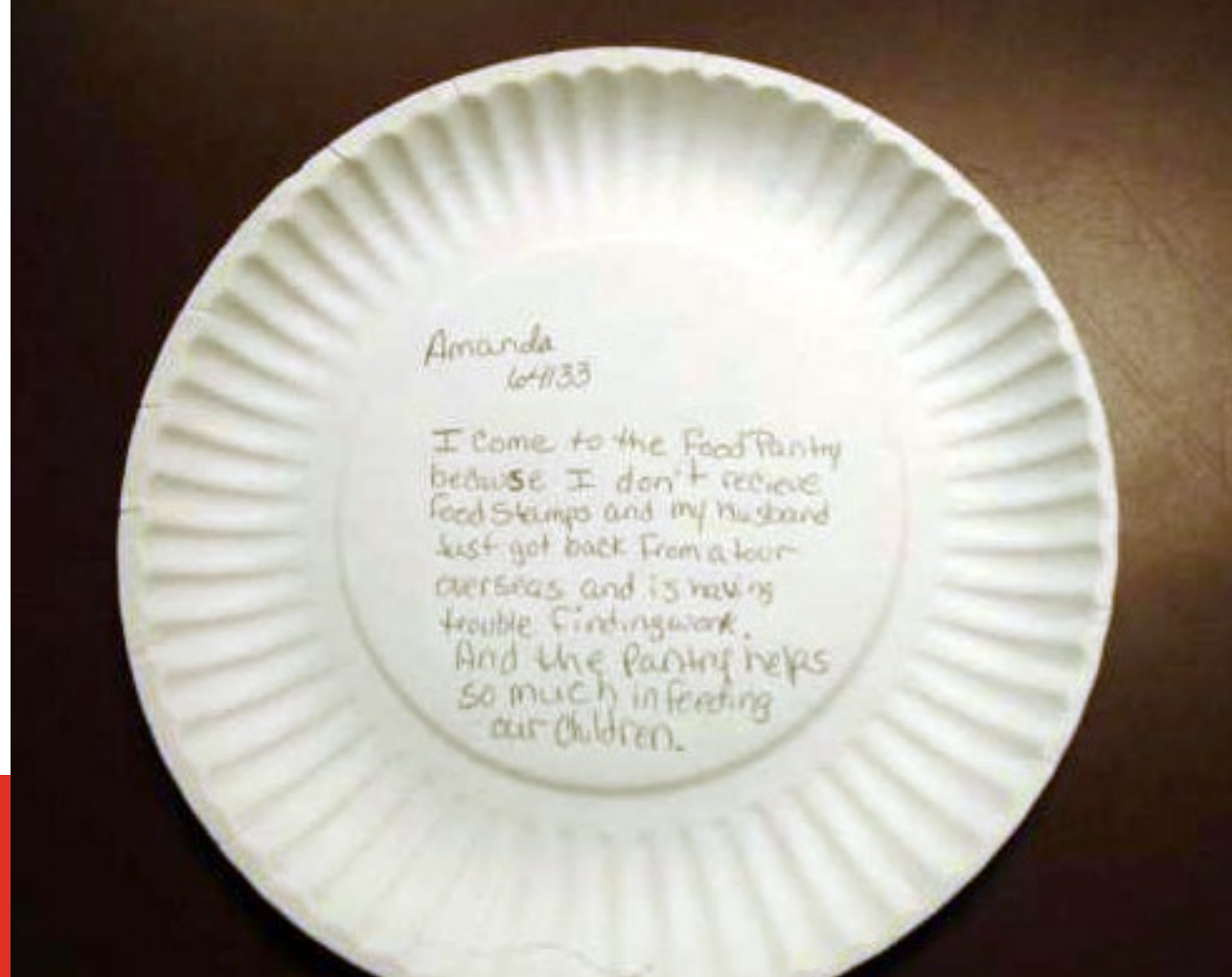
If Harvesters didn't have a food pantry even though I have a full time job there would be months I would have to decide between food, utilities, and medication.

-Sam



The food that is received once a month is so appreciated when one is on a limited income. It is the difference of going hungry or going to bed feeling fulfilled. I am 85 years old.

-Erma



I come to the food pantry because I don't receive food stamps and my husband just got back from a tour overseas and is having trouble finding work. And the pantry helps so much in feeding our children.

-Amanda



Help.

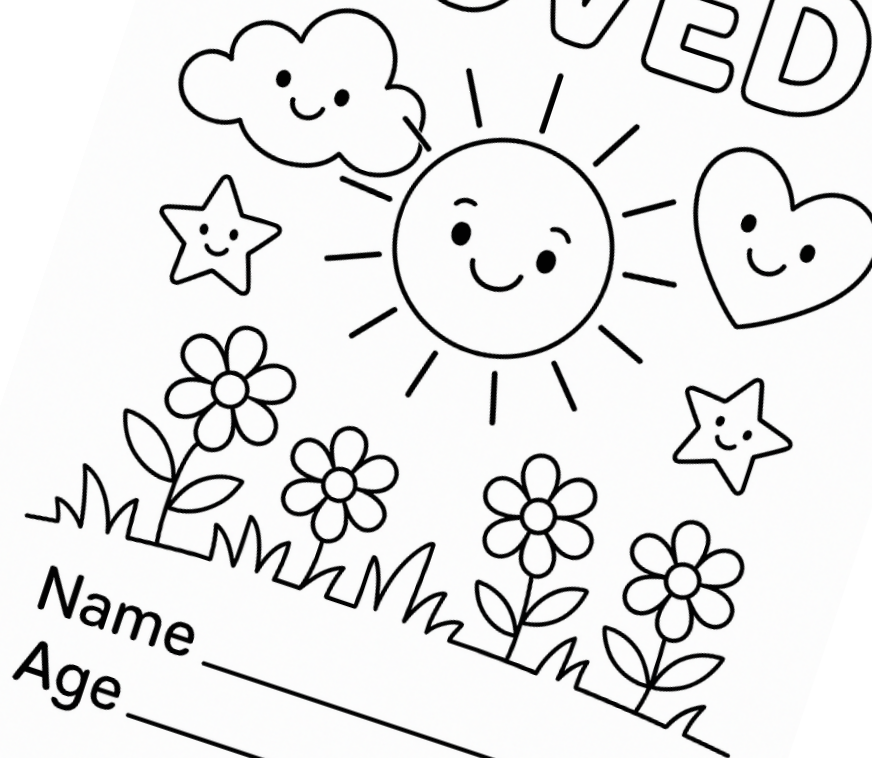
-Daniel



HELPING OTHERS



YOU ARE LOVED



Name _____
Age _____

Pack to Give Back

Harvesters Holiday Boxes



Each Holiday box should include the following items:

- 2 – 14.5 oz. Cans of Green Beans
- 1 – 15.25 oz. Can of Corn
- 1 – 14 oz. Can of Cranberry Sauce
- 1 – 15 oz. Can of Sweet Potatoes
- 1 – 10.5 oz. Can of Cream of Mushroom Soup
- 1 – 8.5 oz. Box of Corn Muffin/Bread Mix
- 1 – 6 oz. Box of Stuffing Mix
- 1 – 6.6 oz. Box of Instant Mashed Potatoes
- 1 – .87 oz. Packet of Gravy Mix

Barbecued Chicken Burrito Bowls

[Download Recipe Card](#) | [How-to-Make Video](#)

Each Box Will Include:

- 1 (9.75 oz) can Swanson white chicken
- 1 (18 oz) bottle BBQ sauce (no glass)
- 1 (15 oz) can black beans
- 1 (15.25 oz) can corn
- 1 (14 oz) box instant brown rice
- 2 (15 oz) cans pears/canned fruit



Healthy Family 
MEAL KITS

8 Can Chicken Chili

[Download Recipe Card](#) | [How-to-Make Video](#)

Each Box Will Include:

- 1 (14.5 oz) can chicken broth
- 1 (4.5 oz) can diced green chilies
- 1 (12.5 oz) can chicken breast (drained and flaked)
- 2 (15.5 oz) cans beans, undrained (kidney, red, pinto or black)
- 1 (14.5 oz) can petite diced tomatoes, undrained
- 1 can white corn, lightly drained
- 1 (8 oz) can tomato sauce
- 1 packet of chili seasoning



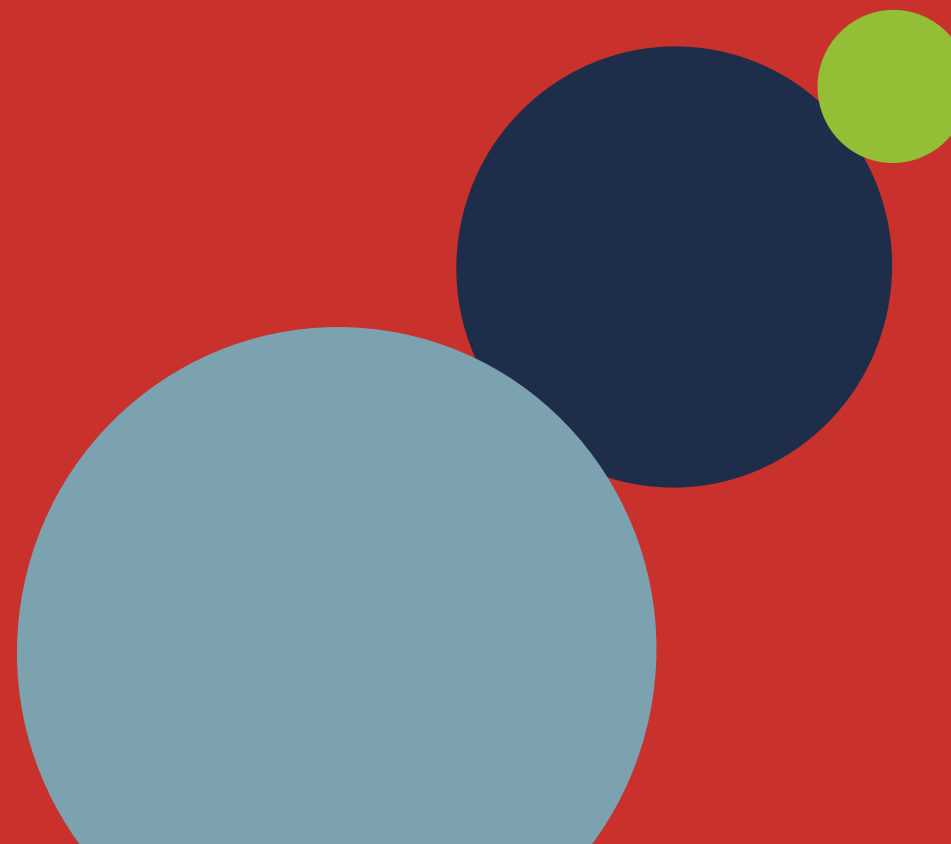
Healthy Family 
MEAL KITS

Each Kit Should Include:

- Boxed Cake Mix
- 1- 12oz Can of Flavored Soda
(To be used in place of eggs, oil, and water for baking the cake – we recommend orange, grape, or lemon-lime. Yes, this really works!)
- Tub of Frosting
- Box of Birthday Candles
- Small Bag of Balloons
- Happy Birthday Banner
- Plates
- Cups
- Napkins
- Plastic Utensils: Forks, knives, spoons (all-in-one package)



Faith in Action: Mini Grant Opportunity





Faith in Action: Purpose of the Mini Grants



- We are called to feed the hungry as an expression of justice, mercy, and love
- Churches play a unique role in addressing food insecurity in community
- Mini grants are intended to:
 - Support church and community-based practical food access efforts
 - Build sustainable systems for food support

How it Works



- Healthy Congregations churches are eligible
- Apply for up to \$500 in matching funds
- Match through volunteer hours, in-kind support, or monetary contributions
- Rolling proposal acceptance and prompt review
- Quick fund distribution for immediate implementation

Project Ideas:

- Amplify and leverage your existing efforts – within both your church and community
 - Food Pantry Support
 - School-Based Programs
 - Food Waste Recovery
 - Distribution Infrastructure
 - Community Engagement



Food Pantry Support



Partner with local pantries and partners to expand and support existing pantries, host donation drives, etc.

Implementation considerations:

- Donate money, food, or time to food pantries
 - Leverage local partnerships for food donations, support
 - Host food donation drives
 - Encourage volunteering with local food pantries
 - Use of church facilities for pop-up pantry site
 - Support special offerings

Food Pantry Support: Resources



State food banks, supporting local pantries across Kansas:

- Harvesters: <https://www.harvesters.org/>
- Kansas Food Bank: <https://kansasfoodbank.org/>
- Second Harvest Community Food Bank: <https://www.shcfb.org/>

State food banks, supporting local pantries across Nebraska:

- Food Bank of Lincoln: <https://www.lincolnfoodbank.org/>
- Food Bank for the Heartland: <https://foodbankheartland.org/>



School-Based Program



Collaborate with educators to support food access efforts

Implementation considerations:

- Partner with schools, support existing efforts
- Encourage and support backpack food programs, weekend meal kits, breakfast options
- Help schools develop little pantries, share tables, and other creative strategies at the school, and/or have these easily accessible at your church for kids in your congregation and community

Food Waste Recovery



Rescue surplus food and distribute quickly

Implementation considerations:

- Focus on shelf-stable food
- Work with local businesses to set up food drop boxes
 - Include a list of items needed
 - Convenience stores, grocery stores, other easily accessible locations
- Help to distribute rescued food:
 - Partner with local food pantries for food donation
 - Serve as distribution site (pop-up pantry)
 - Blessing Boxes, Little Pantries, Mobile food ministry
 - Collaborate with schools – school-aged, early childhood

Food Waste Recovery: Resources

- **Check with your local food pantry first!** What do they need? What is most helpful?
 - **Kansas**
 - Find food pantries, meal sites, grocery distributions in your area: <https://kansasfoodsource.org/>
 - Donate deer or elk to participating meat processors: <https://ksoutdoors.gov/Hunting/Hunting-Programs/Donate-Your-Deer>
 - **Nebraska**
 - Find food pantries in Nebraska counties: <https://www.foodpantries.org/st/nebraska>
 - Donate whole field-dressed deer to participating meat processors: <https://outdoornebraska.gov/hunt/hunting-programs/hunters-helping-the-hungry/>
- **Food Rescue Networks.** [Food Rescue US](#)

Distribution Infrastructure



Use church facilities for food storage, pick-up, or delivery hubs

Implementation considerations

- Partner with food banks, pantries, & health departments to ensure food safety and maximize impact
- Focus on shelf stable food
- Review accessibility of your facilities
- Mobilize volunteers to effectively manage distribution flow



Community Engagement



Implementation considerations

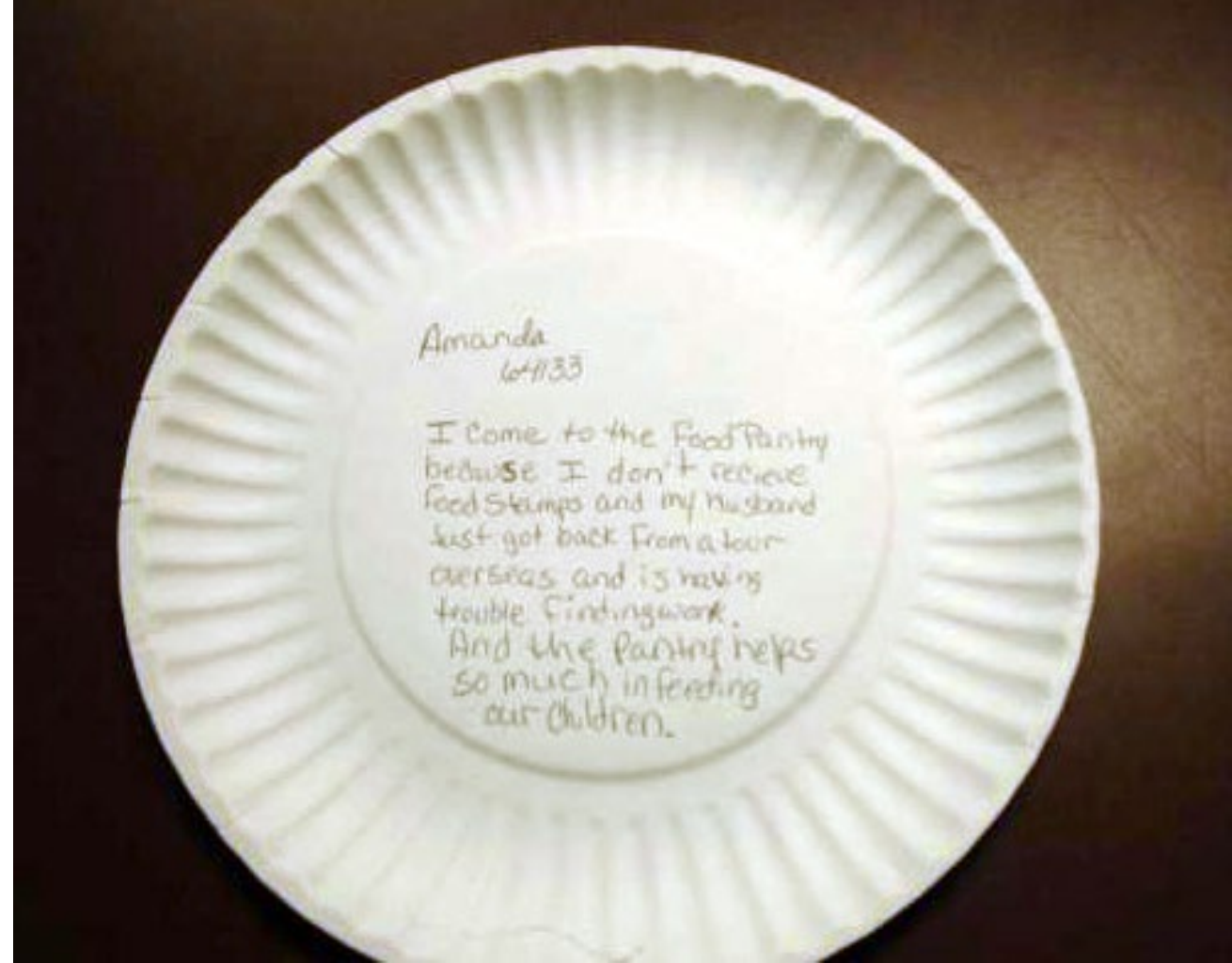
- Host donation drive events
- Participate in local Food, Farm, and Policy Council
- Raise awareness about hunger and food justice
- Collect stories

Example: Paper Plate Campaign

Resources:

- Kansas Food Action Network: <https://www.ksfoodactionnetwork.org>

Raising Awareness and Sharing Stories: Paper Plate Examples from Harvesters



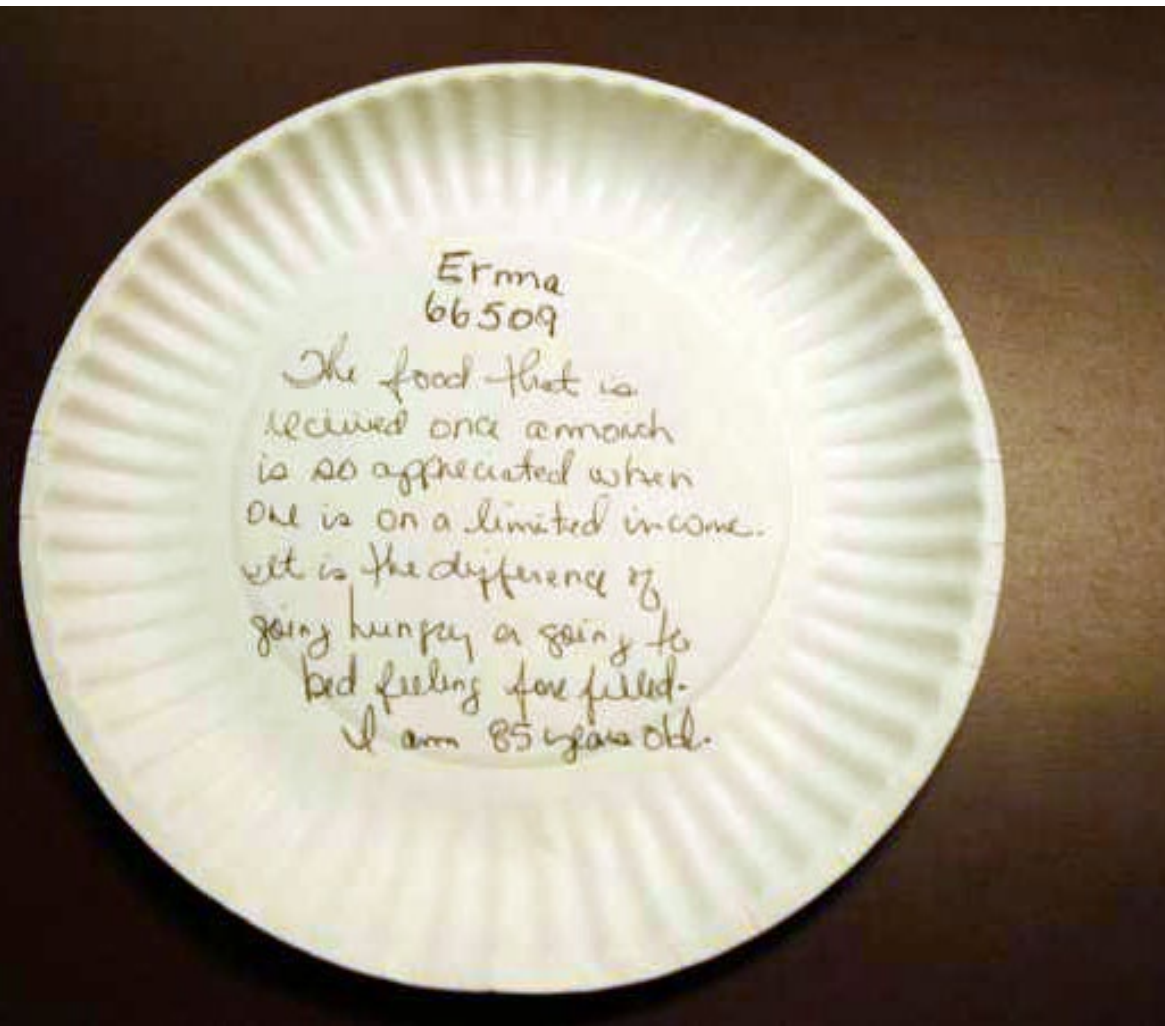
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Amplify Impact



- This is more than just a grant.
- This is an opportunity to creatively leverage your resources, lift your voices, and join forces with others in your communities to:
 - Strengthen current food ministries
 - Develop community partnerships
 - Raise awareness of growing need
 - Foster innovation and collaboration

Amplify Impact



Align with Advent and congregational life

- Bulletin inserts, prayers, devotionals
- Volunteer mobilization
- Storytelling
- Special offerings and matching campaign



Opportunities to lead, raise visibility and support sustainable solutions

- Empower lay leaders and youth to take action
- Educate about SNAP delays and food insecurity
- Use the faith voice to help support food security policy
- Build long-term fundraising strategies
- Raise awareness through a Paper Plate campaign

Proposal Outline

- **Project Title and Description**
- **Request amount** (Up to \$500)
- **Target Audience:** Who will be served/benefit
- **Timeline**
- **Matching Plan:** How you will meet the match requirement (volunteer, in-kind, or monetary)
- **Partnerships:** Any organizations or groups you'll collaborate with
- **Leadership Roles:** Who will lead the project and how leadership will be shared or developed
- **Story Collection:** How you will gather stories or feedback from participants
- **Budget:** How the matching grant will be used
- **Engagement Plan:** How you will involve your congregation and/or work to advance food justice

Next Steps

- Review RFP
- Consider the assets, gifts, and gaps in your team, congregation, and community
- Submit application
- Rolling submission, quick review and turnaround
- We will be developing resources and sharing with you – stay tuned!