



- Special to the Leader & Times

The Seward County Health Department is joining the Kansas Food Bank in the fight against Senior Hunger with a new initiative titled Bob Box. Bob Box is sponsored and endorsed by former Kansas Senator Bob Dole. The program began in the fall of 2012 in 25 Northwest Kansas Counties. It is now entering its second phase adding an additional 24 counties.

Bob Boxes are designed as a safety net for seniors who experience hunger. They are not an entitlement just because someone is over the age of 65, rather the box is designed for seniors who are too proud to seek pantry or governmental assistance such as the commodity program. Each box contains shelf stable canned and dry items that seniors can prepare meals from.

“All too often in rural Kansas we find seniors who go hungry because they are just too embarrassed to ask for help” said Debi Kreutzman, Community Relations Manager for the Kansas Food Bank. “These are seniors who would rather go without meals before asking for assistance, they were not raised that way.”

Bob Boxes are available locally

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As Senator Dole said, “Growing up in a small town, I was instilled with values where one doesn’t think twice about rallying around a neighbor in need. The Bob Box is designed to specifically rally around our senior neighbors in need and is a hand up, not a hand out.”

In the first year, more than 100,000 meals were provided through the Bob Box program with more than 1,500 seniors receiving help. Kansas seniors on limited budgets face difficult choices. Food should not be one of those choices. Bob Box provides a safety net for those seniors living in extreme poverty who need help, yet are too proud to ask for help.

For more information on Bob Box please contact the Health Department at 620-626-3369