



KCAPS' NEWSLETTER

CURRENT HAPPENINGS and 2025 STATISTICS



It's always interesting to look behind us, all the while remaining forward focused. In the January 2024 newsletter we shared a hope that we would have a new parking lot by the fall of that year. Due to one thing and another, lots of red tape along with seasonal and weather delays, it has taken much longer than anticipated. However, it appears we are about to accomplish that goal. For those of you who donate to our stores – please watch for new traffic patterns in the parking and donation areas. We are trying something new – with the hope of cutting down on the traffic chaos that often occurs on donation days. Please be patient with us, and other donors, while we all get used to a new way of doing things.

In 2022 we provided enough food to make approximately 26,000 meals. In 2025 that became 39,685 meals through our food bank, plus an additional 15,660 meals distributed through the Neighborhood Market in Traver. That's over 55,000 meals. People have commented that is a lot of food. It certainly is, but that evens out to be about 5 meals per person served, per month. Most people eat around 94 meals per month. What we are providing is not insignificant, but people are not being overindulged through our food bank either. Unless it is an extreme and verifiable emergency, clients are limited to coming only once per month. Many come less often.



We have over the last 8 years or so noticed an increasing number of senior citizens coming through our doors for assistance. According to some studies – nationwide the number of food-insecure seniors (60+) has more than doubled since 2001. That is borne out with our experience.



Our Christmas With Dignity Toy Stores served just over 500 children in 2025. That includes children in Kingsburg, London, and Traver. We also provided 171 food boxes at Christmas; 50 each to Traver and London, 71 in Kingsburg.

Our Thrift Stores are going gang busters, and we are grateful for your donations of household goods and clothing. We invite you to come shop in our stores; there are some real treasures to be found!

In recent years we have referred over 100 people to professional counseling services. Through KCAPS they can receive counseling at a greatly reduced fee, or in some instances for free. Some people only need a few sessions; others have experienced more trauma and are in need of more assistance. We of course have some people who start counseling and then bail when the tough questions arise. Currently there is a waiting list for those requesting services.



We have found counseling to be a fantastic tool in giving people a hand up. If you are overwhelmed with life, depressed, in crisis, or have a pattern of consistently shooting yourself in the foot – it's hard to make good decisions. Quite a few of those being seen by our counselors are children. Those children are caught in conflict between two warring parents, victims of abuse, witnesses to abuse, dealing with the death or separation from a loved one, living in a home with addiction, being bullied at school, or living in a great home but having their own mental health struggles. If we can help them early, their likelihood of having successful adult lives increases dramatically.



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CURRENT HAPPENINGS and 2025 STATISTICS continued



Our tutoring center is busy helping students of all ages. We currently have about 55 children on the rolls. Some come more frequently than others. We also have a mental health professional there to assist when a student is having a bad day. Some students have been identified as needing a boost in that area and are now being seen in either a group or individual setting. Helping emotionally helps academically.

Poverty Reduction studies, including those cited by sources like the Brookings Institution and The Heritage Foundation, suggest that following these steps dramatically increases the likelihood of avoiding poverty.

- Graduate from High School
- Gain full time employment
- Delay pregnancy until after marriage (and until after age 20)

One analysis found that only 8% of people who followed this sequence were below the poverty level, compared to 79% who didn't. Giving these students an academic boost is extremely important, and we are grateful to be in a position to help.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP

- We are a Christian organization, and we covet your prayers for our ministry, our staff, our volunteers, and our clients.
- If you aren't already giving financially, please do so. \$25 per month, multiplied by many people makes a big difference. (Less than \$25 is great – more of course would be fantastic.)
- Thank you for your donations to our stores. This is an amazingly generous community, and we are so thankful for all the great stuff we receive.

A few details of note:

- We spend \$13,000 - \$15,000 per year on disposal fees. We would rather spend that money helping people. We know YOU aren't doing this – but a good rule of thumb is that if you couldn't sell it at a yard sale, we probably can't sell it either. Please tell your friends.
- Please do not donate things that are ripped, torn, stained, covered in fur, or smells like your pet, or obviously broken.
- It is illegal for us to sell, or give to a client, mattresses, cribs, and baby car seats. Those must go directly to the dumpster.
- So – reducing our trash is a great way to help.

PRAYER REQUESTS

Please pray for: ~Continued great Thrift Store proceeds ~The donation of really good stuff for our stores ~The successful completion of projects ~That the food we provide will be a blessing to our clients in more ways than just a meal ~For our clients receiving counseling and tutoring services ~For the clients not mentioned that are heavy on our hearts and in our prayers ~For the health and safety of our staff and their families ~For our volunteers and their families ~Thanksgiving for the many blessings we receive ~Thanksgiving for our ministry partners ~That we remember who we serve, why we serve, and from whom all these blessings flow. †