

# SALINA

EMERGENCY AID  
FOOD BANK

EST 1971

## Nourishing News

Winter, 2024

### FIND US AT

**255 S. Chicago**  
**Salina, KS**  
**785-827-7111**  
**[www.salinafood.org](http://www.salinafood.org)**

### OFFICE HOURS

#### MON - THURS

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

#### FRIDAY

9:00 am - 12:00 noon

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

### DISTRIBUTION TIMES

#### MON - FRI

Window opens at

1:00 pm

#### MONDAY NIGHT

Window opens at

5:00 pm

\*Distribution may end  
early due to supply &  
demand

## Choosing Choice

Twenty-eight food banks in the Feeding America network have participated in a study funded by the Morgan Stanley Foundation with the goal of measuring the impact of Feeding



America's *Choice Capacity Institute*. During their time in the *Choice Capacity Institute*, the chosen pantries were encouraged to move along a "choice continuum" ranging from offering no choice, (such as a pre-packaged box) to limited choice, to modified choice, and all the way to

full choice. For reference, our pantry is considered a "modified choice" pantry in that we offer a clients choices from a menu of items, but volunteers fill the order rather than clients picking items from the shelves directly.

The study documented widespread positive outcomes for pantries that moved towards full choice on the continuum. Further, said pantries saw their operational flow improve in terms of their pantry's layout to the variety of foods Offered. One of the biggest benefits identified next to improvement on overall client satisfaction, was

the freeing up of financial resources to spend on items highly sought after as opposed to purchasing items that clients did not really use. Our agency is proud to offer a modified choice pantry, but with 87% of Americans concerned that hunger is on the rise (according to Feeding America's latest polls), is client choice sustainable? As food costs continue to rise and the availability of items we can purchase in bulk fluctuates, pantries like ours are feeling the stress and strain of the growing demand for food assistance. Did you know that in 2023, we broke our daily distribution record by filling over 77 orders in less than 2 hours? Did you know that we went through multiple distributions where we had triple the number food orders than what we had 2 years ago? Finding food to fill up shelves has always been a challenge, but never more so than in 2023 when our retail rescue program delivered nearly 50,000 lbs less than in 2022. In order to keep shelves stocked, our pantry has to be both realistic and creative. For example, it means replacing canned meat with packages of bacon bits when bacon bits can be purchased for 5x less than canned spaghetti or ravioli. In addition, it means stopping distribution early when supplies diminish to a certain point where we no longer can provide 3 meals for a full week for another family.



## Food is Medicine

There is no doubt that hunger relief agencies like us have a deep connection to individuals in need, and the experience to get healthy food to vulnerable people. Across the U.S., the healthcare industry is tapping into the food bank network in their efforts to embrace food as medicine —the notion that food and nutritional security are essential to improving community health. In North Carolina Blue Cross Blue Shield is partnered with non-profits to deliver food boxes to food insecure members. Here at the Salina Food Bank, the mobile outreach team from Salina Family Healthcare has tapped into our “built-in audience” to offer free healthcare evaluations and vaccine opportunities. Aetna representatives have also set up stations during our Weekly Grocery Program to provide clients information and resources, while giving away much needed hygiene items like toothbrushes and laundry soap. Since approximately 80% of healthcare outcomes and costs are tied to social factors like lack of nutritious food, it makes sense for our pantry to continue exploring ways to work closely with health professionals to make a positive impact in this community.

**March 21st**



**GIVE IN PERSON 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.**

**Salina Fieldhouse**



**GIVE ONLINE**

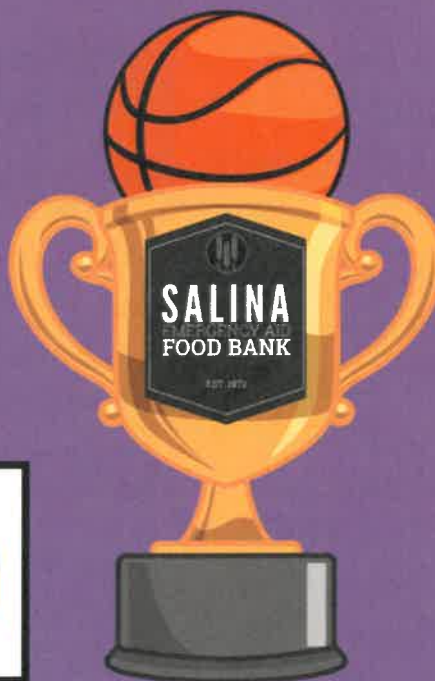
**Midnight to 11:59 p.m.**

**MatchMadnessGSCF.org**



**Match Madness donations  
to the Food Bank will be  
matched up to 50% from a  
matching pool of  
\$313,000!**

**Be a  
champion  
for charity  
at**







Salina Emergency Aid Food Bank  
255 S. Chicago  
Salina, KS 67401  
[www.salinafood.org](http://www.salinafood.org)

**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**

## **Saturday, May 11th**

**Over 200 volunteers are needed to collect, sort and process donated items on Saturday, May 11th.**

**Volunteers are also needed the following week ! Save the date on your calendar & get on our volunteer list in March!**

