

**WESTSIDE CAN RECEIVED FOOD DONATIONS FROM REDEMPTORIST
COMMUNITY SERVICE AND CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER DAY SAINTS**



"Partnerships and working together made us better. Today our good friend Jorge Coromac from Westside CAN Center is here. For the last 2 years we have shared food, volunteers and sometimes even just some encouragement," said Director of the Redemptorist Community Service Julie McCaw.

Westside CAN Center continues engaging with partner organizations serving the Westside community and to continue the implementation of the community policing and outreach programs. The donation of food was distributed to families of the Westside and Kansas City.

During the donation ceremony last week, Director of the Redemptorist Community Service Julie McCaw said, "Redemptorist Center is receiving a semi-truck of food donated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints in partnership with Governor Parsons as part of the Kansas City Giving Machine which was located at Crown Center during the holidays. We are excited the Governor is joining us today along with Elder Nielsen. On this truck sits 40,657 pounds of food that we will be putting into our community! We cannot say thank you enough. The right to food is one of the most basic human rights."

McCaw added, "Too many in our community do not have the resources they need to realize this right. Too many parents are struggling to put food on the table. Too many students are trying to learn while ignoring their empty bellies. Too many children aren't getting the nutrition they need to grow up healthy and strong. Too many seniors today, right now as we are all here, will fore-go a meal because their cost of living or medication is just too much. And too many people don't know where their next meal will come from. Nearly two years ago our food pantry faced significant challenges and change. Covid arrived, and we all faced something very unknown. With a staff of 7 and an army of volunteers we moved with change and continue to serve those who needed us most. The Center added hours and stayed open until every person in line was helped each day, we never closed. We found partnerships and networks in our community that allowed us to grow at a rate no one saw coming. Since March of 2020 Redemptorist Center has given out over 3,000,000 pounds of food" said McCaw.

"Partnerships and working together made us better. Today our good friend Jorge Coromac from Westside CAN Center is here. For the last 2 years we have shared food, volunteers and sometimes even just some encouragement. Jorge and I both have loaded USDA food boxes into cars and trucks during a polar vortex and when it was 90+ degrees outside alongside Officers Bill Keeney, Chato Villalobos and Richard Salzman and our dedicated volunteers. Our common goal was to make sure that anyone in need, had food. We are better together, and we are so thankful for our continued partnership," said McCaw.

CAN Executive Director Jorge Coromac said, "Through the pandemic and still today we continue to partner with many organizations most notably KCPD, Rev White from Mt. Sinai, Modest Miles from Morning Star and Scott Burnett our Jackson County Legislator who drives his truck from organization to organization making sure we all have what we need and always jumping in to help."

In attendance today are several members of our board- Dustin Hardison, President Trish Soltys, Treasurer, Deb Feehan and Fr. Gary Ziuritis who is also the pastor of this beautiful church. Without their help and guidance Redemptorist Center would not be where it is today," said Coromac.

Also in attendance were John O'Connor, President of Cristo Rey High School and Steve Belen, Principal of Cristo Rey High School, located in this building. John has been a constant help and always willing to work with the CAN center through all the changes and movement. Coromac gives credit to the students at Redemptorist Center for their tremendous help.

Coromac thanked Governor Parsons and Elder Nielsen for this amazing donation which will feed so many in this community. "Thank you as well to Michele and Keith for all of your hard work organizing to help make today happen. We are so thankful with director Julie McCaw Redemptorist Community Service and Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints and all volunteers for their amazing leadership and tireless work to serve the community and partnership with Westside CAN Center," said Jorge Coromac.



