



BARBER COUNTY
UNITED

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BCU Awards Grant

SOUTH BARBER FOOD BANK RECEIVES PATHWAYS GRANT THROUGH BARBER COUNTY UNITED

Kiowa, KS – Barber County United is proud to award South Barber Ministerial Alliance and South Barber Food Bank with a \$7,380 Pathways to a Healthy Kansas grant. The purpose of the Economic Stability Grant is to provide new opportunities and greater access to healthy food for South Barber Food Bank clients. The grant is made available through Barber County United's partnership with Pathways to Healthy Kansas an initiative of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas.

The Ministerial Alliance along with food bank volunteers, Kiowa Hometown Market, and Barber County United have been collaborating to create a plan to establish strong community norms for a healthier more nutritious environment at the food bank in Kiowa. The Ministerial Alliance has pledged to adopt Healthy Eating Research (HER) nutrition standards by following SWAP guidelines for the Charitable Food System at the South Barber Food Bank. SWAP stands for Supporting Wellness at Pantries and is a toolkit and nutrition ranking system that the food bank volunteers will use to easily identify and categorize the healthiest options available on the food bank shelves.

The \$7,380 is facilitating the relocation of the food bank. The food bank will still be in the Kiowa Community Building, but it will now be located across the hall in a larger space. New flooring, shelving units, storage and organization systems, safety and cleaning equipment, and technology are some of the upgrades made possible by the grant. The Pathways grant is also funding a Donor Awareness Campaign which will be implemented at Kiowa Hometown Market later in 2022. This campaign will support the good intentions of local donors by simply indicating the healthy, cost-effective options for food bank donations.

This collaborative group of food-equity stakeholders is providing a significant opportunity to affect the nutritional health and well-being of the South Barber County community by playing an integral role in the quality of the local food system.

PHOTO L-R: Luke MacKinney, Mick Gillig, Teresa MacKinney, Melva Armbruster, Robin Eubank-Callis, Barbara Stevens, Cody Jackson, Margaret Johnson, John Miller, Deb Kolb, Dennis Halstead



Barber County United is a local quality-of-life coalition focused on new approaches to rural wellness. The coalition strives to strengthen Barber County communities by bringing its people together to become healthier Kansans. The Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas initiative, Pathways to a Healthy Kansas, combines community-wide evidence-based solutions and promising practices for improving active living, healthy eating, and tobacco prevention to make a large impact across multiple sectors in communities. The program provides community coalitions with the tools and resources needed to engage their communities and remove barriers to healthy living. Debra Kolb, Barber County United Coordinator of the Pathways program, manages the collaborative project addressing social determinants of health across the county.



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