



Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging, Inc. Operation Food Secure Volunteer Description

Department:

Reports To: Care Management Program Manager

Summary: Operation Food Secure (OFS) is an initiative of Topeka Rescue Mission (TRM) designed to strategically address food insecurity in Northeast Kansas through “neighbors helping neighbors”. Recognizing that we can go farther together, OFS built a network of over 70 churches, nonprofits, tribes and neighborhood improvement associations to distribute boxes of fresh produce, dairy and pre-cooked meat products from the USDA Farmers to Families Food Box Program. Farmers to Families was created as a part of the federal government's response to the coronavirus crisis, purchasing surplus food products from farmers and redistributing it to those providing hunger relief.

As of February 2021, OFS has distributed 89,287 food boxes and 61,922 gallons of milk. This equivalent to 2.62 million pounds of food and 4.37 million meals! Jayhawk Area Agency on Aging (JAAA) has been part of the Operation Food Secure since July of 2020. JAAA receives and delivers 180 boxes every other week. A majority of our boxes are delivered to people over the age of 60 but there is no age or income guidelines.

Essential Responsibilities:

- ◇ Pick-up and delivery of boxes
- ◇ Informing JAAA of any concerns during delivery

Eligibility:

- ◇ Complete the JAAA Volunteer Application
- ◇ Complete a Kansas Bureau of Investigation (KBI) background check
- ◇ Complete the JAAA confidentiality agreement
- ◇ Vehicle that can hold boxes
- ◇ Valid Driver’s License and auto insurance required
- ◇ Ability to carry 25 to 30 pounds

Time Commitment:

- ◇ Every other Wednesday morning 1-2 hours depending on assigned route.
9:15am Box pick-up. Ongoing or until funding ends.

Supports:

- ◇ Training and directions on all aspects of your role and on-going training as needed.
- ◇ Ongoing support from JAAA

Benefits:

- ◇ Knowing that you are helping others in your community with hunger relief
- ◇ This program has become more than just a food box. The volunteers are building relationships with those they deliver to.