



KHA Member Spotlight

Healthy Living – Find Your Way

Member: Geary Community Hospital, Junction City

Program: Geary Community Hospital Farmers Market

Target: Geary County Community

Description: The GCH Farmers Market is a farmers market featuring quality fruits, vegetables and homemade goods for the local Geary County community. Unfortunately, Geary County is ranked as one of the unhealthiest communities in the state of Kansas with the highest food insecurity rate and limited access to quality produce. In 2014, as an effort to be part of the solution, Geary Community Hospital established a weekly farmers market throughout the summer months to provide better access to fruits, vegetables and locally homemade goods.

The GCH Farmers Market has developed into the place to be on Thursday afternoons during the summer averaging 500-600 customers and 25-30 vendors on a weekly basis. Often times throughout the summer, the market hosts kid friendly events such as pumpkin patches, face painting, cooking demonstrations and games to get the whole family involved.

In 2016, the GCH Farmers Market partnered with the Geary County Health Department and Live Well Geary County to make the SNAP EBT machine available for SNAP families in our community. The Geary County Health Department also received grants through the Kansas Double Up Food Bucks program and the Geary Community Healthcare Foundation to double the SNAP clients' money spent at the market. To date, \$10,702 have been distributed and redeemed to SNAP families to use for local produce at the GCH Farmers Market.

Contact: For more information on these strategies, reach out to [Nikki Davies](#) (785) 210-3307.

The Kansas Hospital Association is collecting member stories about how hospitals are helping staff, patients and communities live a healthier life with a healthy lifestyle. These programs are featured in our *KHA Current Report* newsletter and on our [Healthy Kansas Hospital website](#). Please submit your hospital stories [using this format](#) to csamuels@kha-net.org.