

"Boxes of Blessings" returning for 9th year

**(KAIR)--A tradition of the holiday season is set to return next month, as Atchison-based MGP Ingredients and local non-profit agencies again team up to distribute food boxes, containing 25 pounds of non-perishable items each, to Atchison-area families in need.**

**According to a release, the food distribution, known as the "Boxes of Blessing" project, will mark its ninth consecutive year when held December 9.**

**The release explains that the food boxes, available while supplies last, will be distributed that forthcoming Friday afternoon, from 1 until 7 p.m., in the alley south of the Atchison Wholesale Grocery, located at 100 South 3rd Street.**

**Drivers who wish to receive a food box are asked to line up on Main Street.**

**Michael Buttshaw, MGP- vice president of Ingredient Solutions sales, marketing and R&D, in the release, calls "Boxes of Blessings" a "labor of love," adding that it- hoped the distribution will "brighten the holidays for our neighbors,"**

**The project was inspired by a community program developed more than 20 years ago at B.C. Williams, a Dallas-based ingredients distributor and producer of custom mixes, bases and concentrates. Initially focused on helping families in Texas and Tennessee, "Boxes of Blessings" was extended to the Atchison area in 2014.**

**Local partners include Atchison County Food Pantry at First Christian Church; the Salvation Army of Atchison County; Catholic Charities of Northeast Kansas; and Pantry of Hope; Atchison Wholesale Grocery and the Atchison Police Department.**

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