



Food for Families is open from 4:30 - 6:30 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at Centennial High School.



# Food for Families helps feed district families



Two years ago, students in Centennial High School's (CHS) Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) organization formed Food for Families, a non-profit mobile food pantry to help feed hungry students and families in the Centennial School District.

Food For Families provides community members a resource to healthy food choices on a bi-weekly basis. Each family receives a three to five day supply of groceries when visiting the pantry.

Katee Early, a student involved with Food for Families said, "It is important for me as a high school student to be involved with Food for Families, because it allows me to see how much I can personally impact my community in such a positive way, even as a teenager."

Food For Families is a market style pantry allowing clients to 'shop' for food. This eliminates the amount of wasted product and allows for food selection based on the preference, religious, cultural, and dietary needs of the families. They also provide emergency food boxes to district students when requested by a counselor or case manager. Early said, "Most of the Food for Families clients are honestly amazed by the variety of food it offers, rather than the simple basic food items found at most food pantries."

"Being involved with Food for Families has allowed me to put a face to the need in my community, meaning that it is more personal and visual--rather than some distant idea."

Brian Koll another FBLA student said, "Every customer I have worked with has been extremely thankful and awe struck when shopping at Food for Families. There have been multiple

times where people I was helping would begin to cry, relieved knowing that they could provide a meal for their family."

The program, operated out of a retired school bus, has distributed almost 105,000 pounds of food to more than 11,750 people and close to 2,700 families.

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"I was really surprised how thoughtful the students were and how excited they were to participate in something bigger than themselves,"

said Adriann Hardin, FBLA Advisor.

*"They are genuinely concerned about the other students they go to school with."*

For more information, visit the Food for Families website at [www.food4families.net](http://www.food4families.net).