October 13, 2020

Lori Trenholm

Director of Community Investment

Douglas County Community Foundation

900 Massachusetts, Suite 406

Lawrence, KS 66044

Dear Ms. Trenholm,

I am pleased to write this letter of support for the application being submitted by Douglas County Kansas State Research and Extension on behalf of LiveWell Douglas County which remains committed to promoting life-long cooking and budgeting skills to increase healthy eating and achieve better health among residents of Lawrence and Douglas County.

Hunger and food insecurity is on the rise in our community. New and existing food access disparities have spiked as Douglas County continues to struggle with the COVID-19 pandemic. Feed America estimates that 15,220 people, including 3,650 children were food insecure in our county even before the start of the pandemic. The restrictions to in-person schooling, for many children, limited an opportunity to access healthy food that might otherwise not have at home. The proposed project will support the creation of a new pathway to nutritious meals for participating families.

Our organization is dedicated to building communities that support the health and well-being of all. The application aligns with this mission by proposing work to remove barriers to healthy living and, in particular, increase access to healthy foods and nutrition.

I would like to highlight the lengths to which Douglas County Kansas State Research and Extension has gone to ensure the accessibility of the proposed project. The accommodations include providing cooking equipment to families which they will go on to own after completion of the series. Removing this barrier in particular is significant as it is regularly identified as a need by Research and Extension and Just Food.

Thank you for considering this application for LiveWell grant funding.

Sincerely,

Joey - William J. Hentzler

Chair of LiveWell Douglas County

whentzler@gmail.com

785-580-3875