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- Special to the Leader & Times

Not only is Red Stocking Breakfast a holiday tradition in Liberal, but funds raised benefit three long-standing programs in the community, Early Head Start, Head Start and Healthy Families. While these programs are federally or state funded, and may receive additional support from United Way and other grant sources, both rely on the Red Stocking Breakfast funds to fully serve their area.

Red Stocking Breakfast is KCSL's signature fundraising event. This year's event will be from 7:30 to 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14, at the Liberal Country Club, 339 W. 18th Street in Liberal.

All proceeds will help support KCSL's Seward County Prevention and Education programs.

According to Jessica Wadel, West Region director for KCSL, prevention and education programs are designed to help keep children safe and families strong.

“By helping families early, before problems arise, we increase the likelihood that at-risk children are raised in a safe and supportive home – which numerous studies show decreases the probability for negative childhood outcomes such as truancy and substance abuse,” □ Wadel asid.

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door (children age 10 and under eat free). Advance tickets are available online at www.kcsl.org. Tickets are also on sale at Spencer Browne’s Coffee Shop, located at 7 Village Plaza, Liberal.

The majority of the food for the breakfast will be prepared/donated by the Liberal Country Club; 100 percent of the funds raised benefit KCSL programs and services. The event features a breakfast buffet served by local “celebrities.” Attendees also have a chance to win two roundtrip airline tickets from Southwest Airlines, and they can bid on many silent auction items from local retailers. The event’s other major sponsor is Agri Beef Co. Supreme Cattle Feeders, LLC. Additional sponsors include Blue Cross Blue Shield of Kansas, The Community Bank, J & R Sand Company, Keating Tractor & Equipment, National Beef, First National Bank of Liberal and Conestoga Energy Partners.

“Attending Red Stocking Breakfast supports children and families in the Liberal area, while having a great breakfast with family and friends,” said Jeff Pfingsten, development manager for KCSL. “By attending a breakfast in your area, you’re helping ensure the future availability of programs that keep children safe and strengthen families.”

A Holiday Tradition

The Red Stocking Breakfast is a continuance of a tradition of holiday giving to the Kansas Children’s Service League that started more than 90 years ago. In the 1920s, the community was invited to make holiday gifts to children living at KCSL’s receiving home, a temporary residence for children awaiting a foster or adoptive home. These children would hang their “Little Red Stockings” in anticipation of the generosity of the community. KCSL will also host Red Stocking Breakfast events in Hutchinson, Garden City, Emporia, Kansas City, Topeka and Wichita.

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