



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bus driver's idea inspires help for the holidays

Bring a canned good, get a free ride on the "T" and T Lift this Thursday

(LAWRENCE, KS) – In addition to cash and bus passes, the Lawrence Transit System will be accepting a special mode of bus fare on Thursday, Dec. 20—canned goods.

Riders can bring any non-perishable food item to the bus in exchange for a one-way trip. The promotion is extended to riders on the "T" fixed-route system as well as certified passengers on the T Lift paratransit service. Items collected will be donated to local agencies.

Bus driver Tony Duran knows the importance of keeping the food banks well-stocked, especially during this time of year.

"During the holiday seasons a lot of the food banks are pretty much depleted," Duran said. "With my family, we've had to use them once in a while ourselves. I know that it's really important."

That's why Duran came up with the idea for a holiday food drive, in conjunction with the transit system. He said he sees passengers on a daily basis trying to make ends meet. "When people get on my bus, I know where they're going. I see them with the box of food on the bus."

Duran, who is a driver for both fixed-route and paratransit buses, will be driving Route 6 Counter-Clockwise on Thursday. He said he hopes passengers will take part in the food drive, even if it might be cumbersome to carry a canned good to the bus instead of a few quarters.

"I have a lot of good passengers who are very big-hearted," Duran said. "I usually round out at about 100 passengers just on my shift, so I know we could make a difference."

In the past, the "T" has done a "Stuff the Bus" campaign, where people bring donated items to a bus stationed at a certain place. This will be the first time riders bring cans directly to the bus in exchange for their fare.

The "T" fixed-route and T-Lift paratransit services are operated by MV Transportation.



The transit system operates from 6 a.m. to 8 p.m., Monday through Saturday. To help plan your trip or learn more about the routes, call (785) 312-7054 or log on to www.lawrencetransit.org.

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