



Media Release

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Ozarks Food Harvest receives \$100,000 Grant through Walmart Foundation Associate Choice Program

SPRINGFIELD—Ozarks Food Harvest received \$100,000 from the Walmart Foundation today as part of the foundation's Associate Choice Program, an online campaign in which Walmart associates voted directly for a nonprofit to receive funding in their home state. The grant will help Ozarks Food Harvest feed thousands of hungry children, families and seniors as well as provide backpacks full of nutritious food to at-risk children through The Food Bank's Weekend Backpack Program™.

Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank in southwest Missouri, serving more than 300 hunger relief organizations across 28 Ozarks counties. The Food Bank leverages every dollar donated to \$10 worth of food distribution across southwest Missouri.

According to The Food Bank, the timing for the announcement is perfect, as September is national Hunger Action Month—a multi-faceted effort to mobilize the public to fight hunger.

"Hunger is at a crisis level in communities across the Ozarks. Nearly one-third of our client households we interviewed told us that they are sometimes completely without food. That's the bad news," said Bart Brown, president and CEO of Ozarks Food Harvest. "The good news is that supporters like the Walmart Foundation are stepping forward to help us end hunger. We were elated to have been chosen as one of the five finalists, but to have won this program's contest, illustrates that people do see that the implications of a long-term economic recovery means demand for food assistance will continue to increase for the next several years."

The six week voting program awarded \$5 million in grants to statewide organizations across the U.S. Of those funds, \$3.6 million are supporting hunger relief organizations based on votes from company associates. Walmart has recently announced \$2 billion commitment to help end hunger in America. Through the "Fighting Hunger Together" initiative, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation will give \$250 million in grants to hunger relief organizations and donate more than 1.1 billion pounds of food from Walmart stores, distribution centers and Sam's Club locations, valued at \$1.75 billion.

—More—

Transform Hunger into Hope™ at ozarksfoodharvest.org

Ozarks Food Harvest | P.O. Box 5746 | 2810 N. Cedarbrook Ave. | Springfield, MO 65801-5746 | 417-865-3411 | 417-865-0504



“As a company, we operate globally but look for opportunities to give back locally,” said Walmart Market Manager Skip Tinney. “We’re pleased that Walmart associates chose to support Missouri.”

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About Ozarks Food Harvest–The Food Bank

Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank in southwest Missouri, serving more than 300 hunger relief organizations across 28 Ozarks counties. The Food Bank reaches more than 155,000 individuals and distributes 8.5 million pounds of food annually—made possible due to its network of charities and direct-relief programs such as the Weekend Backpack Program™, Kids Cafe® and the Mobile Food Pantry™ program. Learn more at ozarksfoodharvest.org and at facebook.com/ozarksfoodharvest.

About Philanthropy at Walmart

Walmart and the Walmart Foundation are proud to support the charitable causes that are important to customers and associates in their own neighborhoods. The Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From Feb. 1, 2009 through Jan. 31, 2010, Walmart and the Walmart Foundation gave more than \$512 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally, \$467 million of which was donated in the U.S. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

Media Resources

- The following will be available for interview immediately following Friday’s check presentation:
 - Toby Youngblood, Project Manager for State Giving, Walmart Foundation
 - Becky Wood, Local Giving Program Manager, Walmart Foundation
 - Martha Digby, Local Giving Program Specialist, Northwest, Walmart Foundation
 - Skip Tinney, Market Manager, Walmart
 - Bart Brown, President/CEO, Ozarks Food Harvest

For further information or to arrange other interview opportunities, please contact [Lindsey Neddenriep](mailto:Lindsey.Neddenriep@walmart.com) at (417) 865-3411, ext. 110.

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