



Media Release

**EMBARGOED FOR RELEASE UNTIL
10 a.m., Feb. 4, 2010**

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Walmart Foundation State Giving Program makes major gift to Ozarks Food Harvest *The Food Bank and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks offering to CFO affiliate community foundations as the “Ozarks Million Dollar Hunger Challenge”*

SPRINGFIELD—Embargoed for Feb. 4, 2010 Release—A \$100,000 gift to Ozarks Food Harvest from the [Walmart Foundation State Program](#) will be utilized by The Food Bank as a challenge grant opportunity for affiliate community foundations of the [Community Foundation of the Ozarks](#) to address rural hunger in southwest Missouri.

Ozarks Food Harvest and CFO have dubbed the program the “Ozarks Million Dollar Hunger Challenge”—as the \$100,000 will essentially be leveraged to a total of \$1 million worth of food—because for every one dollar donated to Ozarks Food Harvest, it distributes \$10 worth of food items.

“It’s only natural that we partner with the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks since all of our service areas in this part of the state literally mirror each others’,” said Bart Brown, president and CEO of Ozarks Food Harvest, the only food bank serving one-third of Missouri.

According to Brown, CFO members will have the opportunity to fundraise in each of their communities for The Food Bank’s member food pantries and funds will be matched by the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program. Ozarks Food Harvest is leveraging gifts from both the Walmart Foundation State Giving Program and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks to make double the impact on rural hunger in its 29-county service area.

“The challenging economic environment we’re facing calls for us to identify new resources to help with hunger, and make the existing ones stretch further. The generous Wal-Mart grant provides the catalyst for local community foundations to raise matching funds, and the strength and connections of Ozarks Food Harvest insures those funds will be used in the most effective manner to address hunger in our Ozarks region,” said Brian Fogle, executive vice president of the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

This partnership is unveiled following the announcement of a new landmark hunger study which found that Ozarks Food Harvest is serving 155,000 individuals annually. Of the client households served, 81.5 percent reported that during the previous 12 months they had been in a situation where the food they bought, “just didn’t last” and [they] did not have money to get more. The complete study and key findings can be found at ozarksfoodharvest.org.

–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



About Ozarks Food Harvest—The Food Bank

Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank in southwest Missouri, serving more than 350 hunger relief organizations across 29 Ozarks counties. The Food Bank distributed seven million pounds of food during its last fiscal year—the highest distribution in its 27-year history—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.

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. Through its philanthropic programs and partnerships, the Walmart Foundation funds initiatives focused on creating opportunities in education, workforce development, economic opportunity, environmental sustainability, and health and wellness. From February 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009, Walmart—and its domestic and international foundations—gave more than \$423 million in cash and in-kind gifts globally. To learn more, visit www.walmartfoundation.org.

About Community Foundation of the Ozarks

The Community Foundation of the Ozarks is a public foundation serving the Missouri Ozarks. CFO is dedicated to working with its donors, nonprofit partners and affiliated community foundations in meaningful and purposeful ways. The Foundation's mission is to enhance the quality of life in our region through resource development, community grantmaking, collaboration and public leadership. Founded in 1973, CFO has since grown to include 41 affiliate community foundations and more than 1,600 charitable funds totaling approximately \$140 million. During the 2009 fiscal year the Foundation gave back \$15.9 million in charitable grants and distributions, a record number, and received more than \$16 million in charitable contributions. Since its inception, CFO has made more than \$70 million in grants and distributions. Go to www.cfozarks.org for more information.

For further information or to arrange interviews, please contact [Lindsey Neddenriep](#) or [Kelly Richard](#) at (417) 865-3411.

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