



## MEDIA RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**  
September 1, 2009

**FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:**

Kelly Richard, Public Relations Coordinator, 417-865-3411  
[krichard@ozarksfoodharvest.org](mailto:krichard@ozarksfoodharvest.org)

Kelly Polonus, Great Southern Bank, 417-895-5242  
[kpolonus@greatsouthernbank.com](mailto:kpolonus@greatsouthernbank.com)

**Local Bank Helps *Fill the Food Bank* this September**  
***Great Southern teams up with Ozarks Food Harvest for month long food drive***

SPRINGFIELD, Mo – Great Southern is partnering with Ozarks Food Harvest September 1 – 30 to help *Fill the Food Bank* through a community-wide food drive at all Springfield Great Southern banking locations.

The *Fill the Food Bank* partnership will help The Food Bank stock the shelves of its newly built, 46,000 square-foot facility. The food collected in this month long drive will be distributed to The Food Bank's network of 350 member charities across 29 counties in southwest Missouri.

As the need for food assistance continues to grow in the Ozarks, so does the need for Ozarks Food Harvest's services. Currently The Food Bank is serving more than 55,000 unduplicated individuals each month. Projections reveal that this number may rise to an unprecedented 65,000 individuals a month by year's end.

All non-perishable food donations may be taken to any Springfield Great Southern location. A complete listing of participating banking centers may be found at [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org). Individuals may also donate to the Virtual Food Drive online at [www.greatsouthernbank.com](http://www.greatsouthernbank.com).

The official results of the *Fill the Food Bank* food drive will be revealed at the end of the drive with a special conference hosted at Ozarks Food Harvest's new facility at [2810 N. Cedarbrook](http://2810.N.Cedarbrook). Contact [Kelly Richard](mailto:kelly.richard@ozarksfoodharvest.org) for details on this conference.

With total assets of \$3.3 billion, Great Southern offers banking, investment, insurance and travel services. Headquartered in Springfield, Mo., Great Southern operates 56 retail banking centers and more than 200 ATMs in Missouri, Kansas and Nebraska. The company also serves lending needs through loan production offices in Overland Park, Kan., Rogers, Ark., and St. Louis. Great Southern Bancorp is a public company and its common stock (ticker: GSBC) is listed on the NASDAQ Global Select stock exchange. [www.greatsouthernbank.com](http://www.greatsouthernbank.com)

Ozarks Food Harvest works with more than 350 hunger relief organizations, reaching more than 53,000 people each month in 29 southwest Missouri counties. The Food Bank doubled its distribution to nearly seven million pounds of food annually, the highest distribution in its 25-year history, and this is possible because of its network of charities and direct relief programs such as Kids Cafe®, the Weekend Backpack Program™, Club F.U.N.™ and the Mobile Food Pantry™. For more information, call Ozarks Food Harvest at (417) 865-3411 or visit [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org).

###