



# OZARKS Food Harvest

The Food Bank



# time Harvest

The Newsletter of Ozarks Food Harvest  
The Food Bank: Transforming Hunger into Hope™  
615 N. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, MO • (417) 865-3411 • (417) 865-0504 • ozarksfoodharvest.org

2006 Holiday Edition



## Our Service Area



Call for a list of member agencies near you!

## Board of Directors

**President: Mike Mattson**  
Guaranty Bank

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## Announcing Campaign to Build New Facility

In the last 20 years Ozarks Food Harvest has distributed 65 million pounds of food and filled the plates of tens of thousands of children, adults and seniors in the Ozarks. In the last four years, requests for food assistance have increased by 44 percent, and The Food Bank realizes that the next 20 years of hunger relief will require diligence and a larger facility!

While there is more than enough food available in Southwest Missouri to serve all those in need, Ozarks Food Harvest was forced to turn down over a quarter of a million pounds of food in 2005, because there was nowhere to store it.

A larger facility is critical to meeting the needs of impoverished individuals, children, families and seniors in Southwest Missouri. The warehouse Ozarks Food Harvest has leased since 1989 is simply inadequate.

In order to take advantage of as much donated food as possible, Ozarks Food Harvest must adapt to changes in the food industry – particularly the pronounced increase in frozen and refrigerated foods – and customize its storage space accordingly.

The Food Bank has embarked on a *Compassion in Action* capital campaign to build a larger, customized and more efficient food distribution center to better meet the needs of its community.

"Ozarks Food Harvest helps more than 37,000 people in 29 counties in the Ozarks each month, and our community can't afford to waste food that could be helping these people," Jim Lewis, Ozarks Food Harvest's *Compassion in Action* capital campaign Co-Chair, said.

The new facility will allow The Food Bank to double the quantity of food distributed,

and expand its outreach and education efforts. This ultimately means more food for low-income children, families, and older adults who struggle daily for this basic human right.

Ozarks Food Harvest is proud to announce that more than half the \$4.1 million campaign goal has been raised!

"We have gratefully accepted our first choice in property, located in an industrial park near Kearney and Hwy 65, as a lead gift from the Charlie O'Reilly Family and Tom Rankin," said Michael Mattson, Board President.

Please join the *Compassion in Action* capital campaign to *Transform Hunger into Hope™* in the Ozarks.

You can be part of *Compassion in Action!* See the new capital campaign giving option on the Donation Form on page 4.

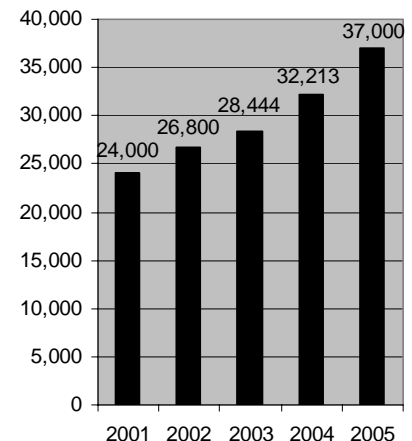
“ In 2005, we were forced to turn down over a quarter million pounds of food simply because there was no where to store it. ”

— Jim Lewis, Campaign Co-Chair —



This illustration depicts the future Ozarks Food Harvest distribution center. FRONT ELEVATION

### Requests for food assistance



# Thank You!

The partners listed below are helping *Transform Hunger into Hope™* through special events, food drives and in-kind donations or program support.

## Grandmother's gift of giving is her legacy

Pam Crawford wanted to share the spirit of giving with her grandson Kaden, so she began the *Kaden D. Sumter Cereal Drive* several years ago to collect nutritious cereal for those in need. The Food Bank is grateful to be among the hunger relief charities that receive proceeds from this cereal drive each year.

Sadly, Pam passed away on April 6 this year. Her family requested donations to the *Kaden D. Sumter*



Pam's daughter Ashley and grandson Kaden are both proud of her legacy.

*Cereal Drive* in lieu of flowers at her memorial.

This year, Ozarks Food Harvest received 225 lbs of cereal and \$477 to purchase cereal at discounted rates as a result of Pam and her family's generosity.

By creating this annual cereal drive, Pam has done more than help those in her community who can't afford to buy nutritious cereal, she has passed the legacy of giving on to her grandson Kaden and her whole family.

### Full Circle Garden™ Supporters

Burrell CSTAR Program	Dr. Ioana Popescu
Central High School	Mr. and Mrs. Jim Quarles
Michelle Christianson	Virginia Sallee
First and Calvary Presbyterian Church	Salvation Army Harbor House
Chef Aaron Gregory	Seed Savers Exchange
Horticulture Club at Drury University	SoMo Agri Supply
Hummerts International in Springfield	Stokes Seeds Inc.
Jerome H. Schaffitzel Greenhouses, Inc	The Temple Israel
Lake Ozarks Christian Church youth	Shelly Winterberg
Rose Magaw	Alex Young, Eagle Scout
Missouri Organic Assoc	Mary Zoller

### Program and Operations Supporters and Grantors

Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation	Greater Ozarks British Motoring Club
Community Foundation of the Ozarks',	Kraft Foods
O'Reilly Family Foundation Fund	Springfield Painting and Striping
Dillons	Slusher Foundation
Gannett Foundation,	Sunderland Foundation
Springfield News-Leader	The Pampered Chef

### Major Food Drives From July to November

Aaron's Automotive	MSU Gamma Sigma Sigma,
Adam Bowen	Spike Out Hunger
Chase Bank Services	MSU Student Activities Council
City of Springfield Park Board Aquatics	National Weather Service
Coldwell Banker	Ridgecrest Baptist Church
Crockett Chiropractic, PC	Sonic Drive-In, Commercial Street
Dillons on West Battlefield	Spokane High School
Disney Elementary 1st Graders	Springfield Park Board
Drury, Lamda Chi	St. Johns Hospital Dietary Department
Greene Co. Sherriff's Dept & Jail	The Discovery Center of Springfield
Kickapoo High School, FBLA	The Tan Co.
Macy's Partners in Time	United Steel Workers

### Voice of Advocacy

Advocacy is another way Ozarks Food Harvest is *Transforming Hunger into Hope™*. Elected government officials and representatives for Southwest Missouri have a significant impact on quality of life in the Ozarks.

Thank you to everyone who cast their vote this November.

## Agency Spotlight: Texas County Food Pantry



Staff and volunteers work together at TCFP.

The Texas County Food Pantry (TCFP) in Houston, Missouri is proof that community support and successful fundraising can really make a difference.

Sister Clare Reinert of the Texas County Food Pantry explained that, "Folks are honored when you ask them to volunteer. They don't have enough confidence to recognize their skills." That is why TCFP relies heavily on clients as volunteers.

Volunteers at the TCFP do many jobs, such as organizing and distributing food, or running the pantry's thrift store, the proceeds of which provide operating costs for TCFP.

The Texas County Food Pantry offers solutions to problems related to poverty that go beyond hunger. "You give children with no shoes what they need, and then you see them in town, and see the changes that have taken place. They seem happy, and positive," Sister Reinert said. "They know they're important because you care."

Many of those seeking help from the TCFP are homeless or unemployed. Through the Texas County Emergency Assistance and Homeless Prevention or Women Rising programs, TCFP helps many clients with rent and utilities. "If we can keep our clients from being homeless, we can start to help them in other ways," Sister Reinert said.

There are very few job opportunities in Texas County, but TCFP also helps their clients find jobs. "Sometimes it takes three or more tries to find work," Sister Reinert admitted. "Often people come back and say, 'Without your help I would have been so discouraged I wouldn't have tried anymore. You helped me believe in myself.'"

TSFP clients work hard to improve their situations, and some clients even offer to sign an "I owe you" to pay TCFP back before they will accept help.

"Very often people we've helped get good jobs come in and say, 'You helped me... I can't give you all that you gave me, but I want to give something,'" Sister Reinert said proudly.

This is just a sample of the stories that Ozarks Food Harvest's agencies report each month. People in the Ozarks are struggling, and we are very grateful to be here to help.

# Check Out Hunger



Look for this sign to fight hunger when you shop at local grocers!

Check Out Hunger, our 2nd most important annual fundraiser, runs now through December 31, 2006. You can donate \$1, \$3 or \$5 tax-free at the check out counter at local Akin's, Country Mart, Dillons, Harter House, Murfin's

Markets, Ramey-Price Cutter, Smillie's IGA, Summer Fresh, Town & Country, and Woods Super Markets.

We want to thank our community for supporting Ozarks Food Harvest. For every \$1.00 you donate, The Food Bank is able to distribute \$12.00 worth of food to thousands of impoverished people in our 29 county service area. Hunger is often an invisible problem, and by supporting Check out Hunger and Ozarks Food Harvest you can Transform Hunger into Hope™.



*Denise Gibson*  
Director of Development and Communications

# Poverty in America and the Ozarks

Poverty rates are climbing in America and in Missouri. Health care, housing and education costs are rising, but real wages are falling.

The chart at right contains information about poverty in the 29 counties in Southwest Missouri that Ozarks Food Harvest serves.

According to the U.S. Census Missouri's population poverty rate in 2004 was 11.8 percent. The child poverty rate was a considerably higher 16.2 percent.

The rates of many of the counties we serve are even higher than this statewide average. Shannon County has a childhood poverty rate of 35 percent, and Barton County has a population rate of 34 percent.

Forty-six percent of babies born in Greene County are on Medicaid, and 43 percent of Greene County public schools students qualify for free and reduced lunches.

Participation in the free and reduced lunch program is even higher in rural counties where often one in every three children is food insecure.

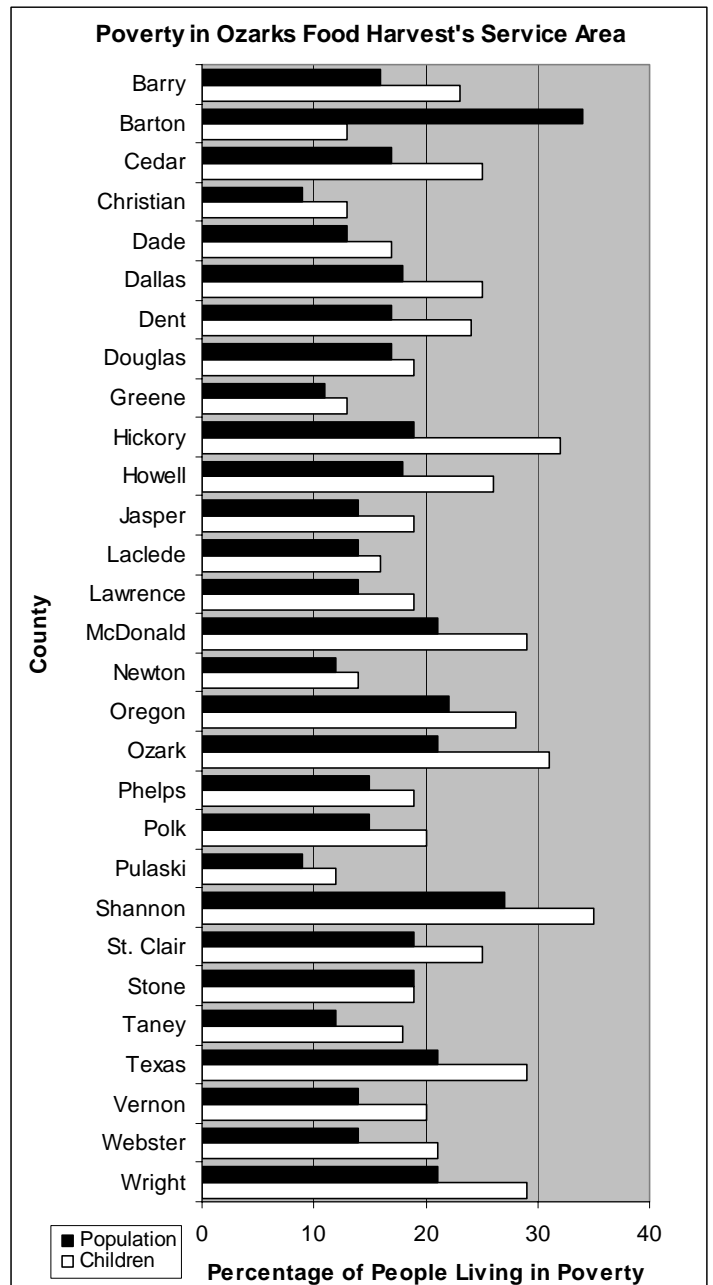


An injured father and his son receive food from a food pantry.

Even periodic hunger creates vitamin and mineral deficiencies that can cause problems such as obesity, decreased cognitive ability, growth retardation, and behavioral and emotional issues for children.

According to the Community Focus 2005: a Report for Springfield and Greene County, "The lingering effects of poverty can be felt in every area of community life; child abuse and neglect, family violence, crime, drug and alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and other societal problems happen in every segment of society, but are most prevalent among the poor."

Poverty leads to suffering, especially for children, the most vulnerable and important members of our community. Children have no choice but to depend completely on adults to protect and care for them. The people of Southwest Missouri can't allow its children to suffer hardships from the solvable problem of hunger.





# Happy Holidays!

Hope is central to the message of Christmas. Hope is also what your generosity makes possible. It's especially important this time of year to stop and think about how your generosity *Transforms Hunger into Hope™*.

Here at The Food Bank, we have the privilege of seeing generosity in many different ways. Recently, a friend of mine called to tell me that instead of preparing the traditional calorie-laden Thanksgiving feast, she and her family were collecting food to donate to Ozarks Food Harvest. I am touched by this, and so many other generous gestures from our family of supporters. The work we do simply would not be possible without gracious, committed people like you who give selflessly to help end hunger in the Ozarks.

As our front page article shows, there is more need than ever for our crucial programs. Our *Compassion In Action* capital campaign will increase our capacity to meet this need, and allow us to grow our food distribution and services to meet the future needs of the communities we serve. This campaign is not just about a new warehouse, it's about our investment in a lasting solution to the

preventable problem of hunger.

Rest assured that we're not waiting until our new warehouse is built to grow our hunger relief programs. Thanks to your generous support, our Kids Cafe®, Club F.U.N.™, Full Circle Garden™, and Food for Thought™ programs reached more children and families in need this year than ever before. In your next issue of *Harvest Time* we'll tell you more about our newest program, the Ozarks Food Harvest Mobile Food Pantry, made possible by gifts from the Rotary Clubs of Springfield and Ridewell Corporation.

As you prepare for another busy holiday season, remember the thousands of lives that have been improved because of your generous giving. Thank you for your continued support of Ozarks Food Harvest.

Happy Holidays to you and those dear to you!


*Bart Brown*

Executive Director



## Other Ways to Give

### The Gift That's Guaranteed to Fit

 Don't agonize over what to give the person on your Holiday list who has everything! Give them a Sponsorship Certificate for one of Ozarks Food Harvest's programs listed on the *Donation Form* at right.

Call Amber Grimes at 417-865-3411 for more details.

### Planned Giving

Ozarks Food Harvest is a qualified recipient of estate gifts such as bequests from wills, remainder interests from charitable remainder trusts and gift annuities. These donations may reduce estate tax liabilities for your loved ones, and will help *Transform Hunger into Hope™* for someone less fortunate.

Please consider asking your attorney, trust officer or financial planner about an estate gift to Ozarks Food Harvest.

## Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

Bart Brown, Executive Director	James Dodd, Warehouse Associate/Driver
Denise Gibson, Director of Development	Amber Grimes, Development Assistant
Jan Tucker, Agency Relations Director	Jay Hemmert, Warehouse Manager
Stephanie Wickerham, Operations Director	Lindsey Neddenriep, Development Intern
Jodi Alcon, Community Outreach Coordinator	Jacque Neill, Resource Coordinator
Jim Bradway, Transportation Coordinator	Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator
Cindy Boggs, Office Administrator	Jane Terry, Information Assistant
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Associate	Linda Tinson, Agency Relations Assistant

## Donation Form

**YES—I would like to give to Ozarks Food Harvest!**

Full Name \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift to support:

- Food Distribution     Capital Campaign  
 Food For Thought™     Kids Cafe®     Mobile Food Pantry  
 Full Circle Garden™     Beef Up Your Budget  
 \$25     \$35     \$50     \$100     \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

To give by credit card please provide:

Mastercard     Visa     Discover  
 Account# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_  
 Telephone# \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Please enclose this form along with your tax-deductible gift in the envelope provided and send to Ozarks Food Harvest, 615 N. Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65802-2115. **THANK YOU!**

Harvest Time is created by the Ozarks Food Harvest's Development and Communications Department:

Denise Gibson, Director • Amber Grimes, Assistant • Lindsey Neddenriep, Intern

We welcome your input! If you have questions or comments regarding *Harvest Time*, please call us at 417-865-3411.