



time Harvest

The Newsletter of Ozarks Food Harvest
The Food Bank of the Ozarks

2006 Spring Edition

615 N. Glenstone Ave. Springfield, MO ♦ (417) 865-3411 ♦ fax (417) 865-0504 ♦ www.ozarksfoodharvest.org

Ozarks Food Harvest's Service Area



Call us for a list of member agencies near you!

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National Hunger Awareness Week and Hungerthon 2006

We are excited to tell you about three very special events planned for this June to spread awareness about hunger in the Ozarks, and raise funds for our food distribution and programs.

Hungerthon 2006

Hungerthon, Ozark's Food Harvest's biggest annual fundraiser, is less than a month away! Every year we team up with Clear Channel station Alice @ 95.5 for this important event! Ozarks Food Harvest will be at Alice 95.5 from June 2 to June 5 to raise funds for our food distribution and programs



such as the Food for Thought weekend backpack feeding program. This very important radiothon helps us educate our community about hunger in the Ozarks. We know people in the Ozarks are outraged when they hear about the 164,000 people in our area that live in poverty, which includes children, elderly, homeless, and working poor families. Hungerthon 2005 was a HUGE success, with over \$77,000 in pledges. We'd like to thank everyone who supported Ozarks Food Harvest during Hungerthon last year!

Anyone can sponsor a backpack and food for a child for one semester for \$132 or an entire year for \$264. They can also supplement the diet of a senior with nutrition that is especially important to the health of the elderly.

To support Ozarks Food Harvest, and ensure the success of Hungerthon 2006, our donors can come by the Alice @ 95.5 parking lot while we're on air and meet the Alice @ 95.5 radio personalities and Ozarks Food Harvest staff!

You can also call the Alice Hungerthon Hotline at 417-577-7955 to make a pledge. As in Hungerthon 2005, we will spotlight our "Food for Thought - for Healthier Young Minds" children's weekend feeding program this year. We want our donors to know their generous support has helped area children, so listen for testimonials from school nurses, principals or counselors on the air. Help us help those in need, and raise as much as we can during **Hungerthon 2006.**

National Hunger Awareness Week

June 6, 2006, is **National Hunger Awareness Day** and Mayor Tom Carlson of Springfield will proclaim June 5-9 as National Hunger Awareness Week. We want to increase awareness of the terrible hunger issues that plague our community. This national week of recognition illuminates the increase of people in desperate need of food assistance, and the ways we as a community can fight this needless suffering. We are also sending letters to our hunger-relief partners encouraging them to approach their mayor or Chamber of Commerce about proclaiming the week of June 5th as National Hunger Awareness Week.

American Family Insurance and the Springfield Cardinals

We'd like to thank American Family Insurance for sponsoring the Springfield Cardinals



weekend home games during National Hunger Awareness week. On Saturday, June 10th and Sunday, June 11th, American Family Insurance will have donation collection barrels on behalf of Ozarks Food Harvest at the Springfield Cardinals' games. American Family and the Springfield Cardinals would like to ask the baseball fans to bring non-perishable food items or monetary donations for Ozarks Food Harvest to the game. American Family Insurance plans to give away 10,000 free items to attending fans that weekend. There will also be donation barrels at each participating American Family Insurance



agent's office in May so clients may drop off food for Ozarks Food Harvest. If you would like more information about this event, contact Denise Gibson at Ozarks Food Harvest. Please come out to the Springfield Cardinals game on June 10 or 11 and help Ozarks Food Harvest strike out hunger!

Thank You!

We really appreciate our community partners who help **stop suffering from hunger and food insecurity in the Ozarks**. We'd like to thank the following organizations who've generously helped us feed the hungry in the Ozarks.

All Feinstein Challenge Donors

A big thanks to everyone who generously donated food and money during March and April. March and April donations counted for more because of our **Feinstein Challenge!** We will announce our total portion of the Feinstein Challenge money in our next issue.

Boy Scouts

Area Boy Scouts conducted their 17th annual "Scouting for Food" drive this spring to help fight hunger in the Ozarks. The Boy Scouts collected 9,400 pounds of food in Greene County alone. They should be proud of their efforts, because we sure are!

Check Out Hunger Stores

We really appreciate the following local grocers who participated in the 2005 "Check Out Hunger" fundraiser: Akins Natural Foods, Dillons, Glen's Supermarket, Harter House, Mama Jeans Natural Market, Murfin's Market, Rameys Price-Cutter, Smillie's IGA, Summer Fresh, and Wood's Supermarket. "Check Out Hunger" is home-town grocers helping end home-town hunger, and we really appreciate all their efforts.

Curves for Women

In March, Curves for Women waived their \$179 membership signup fee for any woman that brought in non-perishable foods for their local food bank. Springfield Curves locations collected 2,268 pounds for the Ozarks Food Harvest. Thank you Curves for Women.

Garden Donations

Several organizations have contributed to our Full Circle Garden program. We would like to thank: Alex Young's Eagle Project with Boy Scout Troop 1, Salvation Army Harbor House in Springfield, Seed Savers Exchange in Decorah, IA, Stokes Seeds Inc. in Buffalo, NY, SO MO Agri Supply Inc. of Springfield, MO, Hummerts International in Springfield, MO, Mary Zoller in Billings, MO, Mr. and Mrs. Cox Springfield, MO.

MSU Greek Life

Missouri State University Greek Community donated 794 pounds of food thanks to the "Greek Night with the Bears" food drive. Greek Life holds several "Greek Night with the Bears" events throughout the year, and we are glad they chose Ozarks Food Harvest this February.

MSU Woods House

In a March Madness competitive food drive, the residents of the Woods House donated 656 pounds of high quality, protein rich food to Ozarks Food Harvest. Thank you to the residents of the Woods House, and especially to Danielle Reed for her extra efforts to make the food drive a success.

The Pampered Chef

The Pampered Chef presented a check for \$1,496.87 to Ozarks Food Harvest in March. This is the first of two checks that will be provided to the Ozarks Food Harvest in 2006. We appreciate all the dedication that The Pampered Chef's consultants and customers offer our cause.

Ozarks Food Harvest Board of Directors

Welcome Larry Hayward and Robert Keyes

Ozarks Food Harvest would like to formally welcome Robert Keyes, Public Information Officer with Springfield Public Schools, and Larry Hayward, Director of Member Services with Associated Wholesale Grocers, to our Board of Directors. We are very proud to have representatives from such valuable neighborhood partners as Associated Wholesale Grocers and Springfield Public Schools serving on our board.

Jump on Board

If you, or someone you know, would like to join efforts to support and guide the food bank, we are currently accepting applications for membership on our Board of Directors.

Food banking is a multi-faceted operation that needs support from many different industries and organizations-chances are you're in one of them!

Contact Bart Brown, Executive Director, at bbrown@ozarksfoodharvest.org for more information!

Terms to Know

There are many organizations that help end hunger, and different types of hunger. Below are some terms to know.

Food Insecurity: The USDA's measure of lack of access, at all times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members; limited or uncertain availability of nutritious foods.

Food Insecurity with Hunger: An involuntary state that results from not being able to afford enough food.

Food Bank: A charitable organization that solicits, receives, inventories and distributes donated food and grocery products pursuant to grocery industry and appropriate regulatory standards. The products are distributed to charitable human-service agencies, which provide the products directly to needy clients.

Ozarks Food Harvest is the only Food Bank serving agencies in 35 counties in Southwest Missouri and North Central Arkansas.

Agency: The charitable organization that provides the food supplied by a food bank directly to clients in need through various types of programs. Ozarks Food Harvest serves over 320 agencies, including: food pantries, homeless shelters, abused women's shelters, children's after school feeding sites, and soup kitchens, etc.

Food Pantry: A charitable distribution agency that provides its clients food and other grocery products for home preparation and consumption.

Shelter: A charitable program whose primary purpose is to provide shelter or housing on a short-term or temporary basis to needy clients and typically serves one or more meals a day.



Hunger Advocacy Day

On March 29, 2006 Ozarks Food Harvest brought 35 representatives from our member charities together to visit with their respective elected officials in Jefferson City. The event was part of Hunger Advocacy Day, a statewide effort to benefit food assistance organizations and their clients, organized by the Missouri Food Bank Association.

Over 100 hunger relief volunteers convened at the capital to talk with representatives about hunger issues

facing Missouri citizens.

There is some very positive legislation moving forward, which, if passed, will offer additional food stamp benefits to senior citizens. There is also a bill that would offer tax credits for donations to Missouri food pantries.

Please write to your representative about your concerns about hunger, or go to our website at ozarksfoodharvest.org for more information about hunger advocacy. Together we can transform hunger into hope.

Presleys' Jubilee



Made possible by
PRESLEYS
Country Jubilee

Thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Presley family of Presleys' Jubilee in Branson, our Kids Cafe® after school feeding program is growing by leaps and bounds. Last year Kids Cafe® served over 184,000 meals to children, a 20% increase over meals served in 2004. The Presleys have sponsored the program since 1999, allowing us to triple the size of the program since that time. We really appreciate their continued support.

Why Hungerthon is Important

With the 7th annual Hungerthon fast approaching, it gives us reason to pause and remember why we do what we do to help our community. In the simplest of terms, it's the feeling you get when you know your hard work has helped someone who really needed it, someone who had no where to turn, and is thankful for a helping hand offered at the right time.

Some of the most important help we offer is to children. According to the *Community Focus 2005 – A Report for Springfield and Greene County*, "Too many children suffer from the effects of poverty in the Ozarks. The statistics are alarming, and the number of children growing up in poverty is increasing". Many schools in our community have 80% to 100% of children enrolled in free or reduced school meal program. These children have no choice but to rely on school meals for nutrition, and often don't have access to healthy meals on weekends.

That is why we have focused on our *Food for Thought – for Healthier Young Minds* Backpack Program during the past two Hungerthon radiothon events. We are proud to say that with your support we are fighting this problem in 12 schools. We provide over 240 backpacks to schools for children every Friday afternoon.

We all want our future leaders to have every opportunity, and they need proper nutrition in order to have productive lives. With your support during Hungerthon 2006 and throughout the year, we can work to help every child in our community gain that opportunity. Thank you for all you do to help our community and our area children.

Denise Gibson, Director of
Development and Communications



Food for Thought Backpack Program



The 2005-2006 school year is almost over, and we would like to share some information about the impact our *Food For Thought™* program has had on children in our area schools. We have spoken with school nurses,

counselors, and principals from participating schools to find out about the 240 kids that receive backpacks each week.

One school nurse from Ozark county told us a touching story about a child in her school who moved away for three months. "When she came back, the first thing she did was bring her backpack into my office and ask for it to be filled," the nurse told us, "Apparently the school she transferred to didn't offer a backpack program, and she really missed the extra food."

A counselor from Polk county told us that one of her kindergarten student's parents can't be home to give him an afternoon snack when he gets home, so "he saves the food from his weekend backpack to have as after school snacks for the whole week".

Over 1/2 of the schools in our service area have 50% or more of their kids enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, with some schools showing 100% of students enrolled. That is why the *Food for Thought™* program is so important; it is the best way we have to help children who rely on school meals gain access to proper nutrition.

According to America's Second Harvest's National Hunger Study *Hunger in America 2006*, "Scientific evidence suggests that hungry children are less likely to become productive citizens. Statistically, a child who is unequipped to learn because of hunger and poverty is more likely to be poor as an adult." Childhood hunger is a vicious cycle that threatens these children's futures and the prosperity and wellbeing of our entire community. Our *Food for Thought™* program helps combat the brutal effects of childhood hunger and food insecurity. Thank you to everyone who helps support our area children through the *Food for Thought™* program.



From the Executive Director

The staff and volunteers of Ozarks Food Harvest have been busy this Spring. During the week following the devastating storms that struck much of our service area, we distributed more than 5 tons of food to our local disaster response partners. The Monday after the storms hit, food bank staff quickly packed 1.5 tons of food into emergency food boxes for distribution at the American Red Cross Service Center in Nixa. Throughout the remainder of the week, the food bank worked overtime to schedule additional truckloads of food to agencies in Billings, Clever, Verona, Webster, Hickory, and Lawrence counties. These disaster response efforts were accomplished on top of Ozarks Food Harvest’s regularly scheduled distribution of 118,000 pounds of food per week to our member charities.

Ending hunger in our communities is always a daunting task, even when we aren’t helping our disaster relief partners with Tornado recovery. That’s why it requires the partnership of friends like you. We have come a long way in the 23 years that Ozarks Food Harvest has been fighting hunger, but we realize we have a long way to go. Each month Ozarks Food Harvest serves 37,000 people through our network of member charities. The most heartbreaking part of this statistic is that over 14,000 of them are children – more than one in every three people we serve. For the fifth straight year, the number of hungry people in the Ozarks has increased.

As a special partner of Ozarks Food Harvest, you know that hunger in our community is a problem that requires the teamwork of many people committed to the cause. You are an important part of our team, and we thank you for your support of our hunger relief initiatives and efforts. Working together, we can transform Hunger into Hope!

Bob Braun



Our Wish List

- Canned Meats – chicken, tuna, chili, canned pasta meals, beef stew, hearty soups
- Boxed cereal and oatmeal
- Canned fruits and fruit cocktail
- Peanut Butter
- Canned beans, canned vegetables
- Boxed dinners, mac-n- cheese, pasta, rice, dry beans

Ramey Price Cutter Community Bucks



Price Cutter created the Community Bucks program to help you contribute to your favorite charity such as Ozarks Food Harvest. All you have to do

is buy your groceries at a Price Cutter location in Ozark, Nixa, or Republic, and for every \$25 you spend, you earn one Community Buck! Just think how much money you can earn for Ozarks Food Harvest by shopping at one of these stores! Just drop off or send the Community Bucks that you collect directly to Ozarks Food Harvest. For every \$1 we can distribute 7 pounds of food.

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 Kids Cafe Food For Thought

Full Circle Garden

\$25 \$35 \$50 \$100 \$Other _____

To _____ give _____ by _____
 Mastercard Visa Discover credit card, please provide:

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!**

Would your school or organization like to be a fundraiser for Ozarks Food Harvest?

For more information on having a food drive, visit us on the web at ozarksfoodharvest.org.