



OZARKS Food Harvest

The Food Bank

Harvest *time*

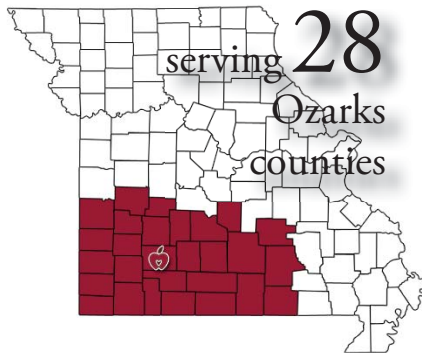


A member of

Your Community Food Bank Newsletter

Holiday Edition, December 2010

Learn about The Food Bank's Network of more than 300 charities at ozarksfoodharvest.org



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Household food insecurity in the Ozarks reaches record high

“There are times I did not eat so that my children could eat,” Jolene said. “I hate to hear my children say they are hungry because there wasn't enough food,” the 36-year-old mother and Nevada client, said.

In Missouri, hunger has grown at a much higher rate than the national average

it feels bad to go to bed hungry but it makes it better knowing your kids dont feel the same

over the past 14 years. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released a new report last month revealing Missouri is seventh in the nation for overall food insecurity at 15 percent, compared to the national average, 13.5 percent.

After the unveiling of the USDA report, the *Springfield Business Journal* published the editorial, “How secure are you in your food?”

They ask, “Have you ever not eaten an entire day because you didn't have money to buy food? Have you skipped a meal in order to feed your child?”

Sadly, more than 366,000 Missouri households have. Right here in Springfield, 10-year-old Cecilia told us,

“Sometimes my family runs out of money, and we hardly have any food.”

“We have to consider that many of these families have never before had to ask for help,” said OFH President/CEO Bart Brown. “They became the new face of hunger when we found ourselves in a recession, but unfortunately, they are still needing our help.”

“Our 2010 Hunger Study told us that of those who had lost their job—those who have worked before or are currently working again—22.3 percent either had or currently have managerial or professional jobs,” he said.

“There's never been a better time to give to The Food Bank. Every \$1 donated provides \$10 worth of food distribution across 28 Ozarks counties, and we have year-end NAP tax credits available for those who qualify.”

Learn more about year-end giving to The Food Bank on page 2.



Food for Thought

High food security: No reported indications of food-access problems or limitations.

Marginal food security: One or two reported indications—typically of anxiety over food sufficiency or shortage of food in the house; little or no indication of changes in diets or food intake.

Low food security: Reports of reduced quality, variety or desirability of diet; little or no indication of reduced food intake.

Very low food security: Reports of multiple indications of disrupted eating patterns and reduced food intake.

Definitions compiled by the *Springfield Business Journal*. Source: USDA Economic Research Service.

CFO awards “Red Flag Response” grant



Ozarks Food Harvest has until February 28 to raise dollar-for-dollar matching funds in order to receive \$15,000 in funding

from the Community Foundation of the Ozarks.

The grant is to be used for OFH’s Weekend Backpack Program™, which provides at-risk students with backpacks full of nutritious food over the weekends.

The award was geared toward sustaining or expanding existing programs that effectively address the “red flag” issues cited in the 2009 Community Focus Report for Greene County.

To match this gift, please designate “CFO Red Flag” on your donation to OFH, P.O. Box 5746, Springfield, MO 65801-5746, or securely online at ozarksfoodharvest.org/money.html.

Take advantage of NAP tax credits before 2011

If you’re looking at year-end giving and wondering what nonprofit organization can give you the biggest impact for your gift, look no further.

Because of Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) tax credits,

you can save more than 50 percent on your donation to Ozarks Food Harvest this year if made before Dec. 31.

A \$5,000 donation may cost you less than \$2,000, and a \$10,000 donation may cost you less than \$3,000.

Your gift to The Food Bank using NAP tax credits maximizes your charitable gift and has a powerful impact on OFH’s ability to Transform Hunger into Hope.

Unlike a direct government grant, this form of state assistance involves no transfer of state dollars. Rather, the project recipient, Ozarks Food Harvest, assumes full responsibility for securing the desired financial (or in-kind) support through direct fundraising efforts.

The state’s role is to approve projects and

to offer tax credits to *eligible* donors who contribute to those projects.

Organizations submit project proposals to the Missouri Department of Economic Development (DED), and once a project is approved, the organization is authorized to offer a certain amount of tax credits to eligible contributors.

Ozarks Food Harvest was approved for \$500,000 in NAP tax credits this year and still have remaining credits available for those who qualify.

The tax credit equals up to 50 percent of the value of the contribution. These tax credits represent vouchers that donors may then claim or redeem when they file their state tax return.

To see if your donation will qualify for credits or to simply learn more, please visit ozarksfoodharvest.org/nap.html or consult your tax advisor.



Seven-year-old Grace sent \$74 to The Food Bank with the enclosed note above. Happy Birthday Grace!

Make your holiday gift go further!



When you give blood at the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks during the *Miracle of Giving* blood drive, Dec. 13–30, you again have the opportunity to forego your participation t-shirt gift. The funding will instead be donated on your behalf to The Food Bank to feed those in need.

Over the past year, CBCO donors have helped give more than \$15,000 to Ozarks Food Harvest, Arkansas food banks,

and national hunger relief organizations. “The joy of the season lies in giving to others and there is no better gift,” said CBCO Executive Director Don Thomson.

Give Blood & Give Hope, Dec. 13–30

Campbell Donor Center 220 W. Plainview Rd. Springfield	Reser Donor Center 2230 S. Glenstone Springfield	Joplin Donor Center Northpark Mall Joplin
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M & F: 8 am - 3 pm T - Th: 11 am - 6 pm Sat.: 7 am - 2 pm	M & F: 8 am - 3 pm T - Th: 11 am - 6 pm	M - F: 11 am - 6 pm
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Learn more at www.cbco.org.

Check Out Hunger continues through Dec. 31

Check Out Hunger in your local hometown grocer now through the end of the year. Simply add your \$1 tax-free donation to your grocery bill at the following participating Ozarks grocers:

AKiN'S	Price Cutter
Bistro Market	Ramey
Country Mart	Smillie's Market
Dillons	Smitty's
Harter House	Summer Fresh
Murfin's Market	Woods Supermarket



Food Bank relies on holiday campaign donors to meet rising need

I'm sure many of you have received one of our holiday mailers by now, whether in your local paper or your home mailbox. I always enjoy reading the messages you enclose with your gift to The Food Bank during this time of year.

Vera writes, "I will soon go to meet my husband. This is the only amount I could give. Thank you for your good work."

How blessed we are to have donors like Vera! What a true reminder of how important it is to do the very best with what is given to us. Every penny of her \$25 donation will count, I can assure you!

Cassie says, "Tonight we opened a letter in the mail from Ozarks Food Harvest... as we ate dinner as a family, we were reminded of the fact that every night we have food on our table while so many others have nothing at all. Our family decided to donate tonight because of the

letter we received."

She continues, "My 5-year-old even prayed for you in his bedtime prayers because of our mealtime discussion. The hearts of my family were touched by the stories of those that are served by Ozarks Food Harvest. Blessings to you in the days ahead and we hope others will give to support the amazing work you all are doing."

I am grateful for those of you, like Cassie, who have stepped up to provide the relief our clients need, in a time they need it most.

It's not too late to give the gift of Hope.

Denise Gibson
Development Director



Support OFH in Downtown Springfield

Bring nonperishable food items with you to **First Night Springfield** on Dec.



31 & your family will receive the pre-sale ticket price! Look for OFH barrels at the Discovery Center, YMCA, Landers Theatre & the Gillioz.

Food for Fines returns Jan. 23-29

Receive a 50-cent credit on your library fine balance for each nonperishable food item you donate at any of the Springfield-Greene County Library branches. There's no limit to the amount you can donate, so pay off all your fines! *Food for Fines* collected 6,261 lbs. last year!



Tyson gives McDonald's Cans for Coffee a boost

For the third consecutive year, Tyson Foods, Inc. supported the McDonald's of the Ozarks *Cans for Coffee* food drive by donating 32,000 pounds of chicken in an effort to fight hunger.

This year, *Cans for Coffee* collected 12,715 lbs. of food items for those in need, and The Food Bank has



Brandon Hurlbut, Tyson Foods; Bart Brown, OFH; Greg Lancelot, Tyson Foods; and Chip McGeehan, McDonald's of the Ozarks, stand next to 1,600 cases of chicken received at OFH's warehouse.

yet to receive more than ten additional stores' donations. Special thanks to Earp Distribution for donating transportation to this annual campaign.

Nearly 49,000 lbs. has been collected through this food drive since 2008.

Cans for Coffee encourages participants to donate a nonperishable food item in exchange for one free small McCafé® coffee or hot chocolate of their choice during the month of Nov. To learn more, visit ozarksfoodharvest.org or tysonhungerrelief.com.

Thank You for Transforming Hunger into Hope™

PaperWise, Inc.



Larry Vernon and Dr. Chris Taylor of PaperWise present the donation to Ozarks Food Harvest.

Employees of local software and technology provider, PaperWise, Inc., encouraged their co-worker, Larry Vernon, to run 100 miles for Ozarks Food Harvest!

The business analyst said, "I was mulling over ideas of a good goal that would surpass anything I'd ever accomplished, and as I began to seriously consider the 100-mile run, the owner of PaperWise, Dan Langhofer, challenged me to do it. Since I felt it was beyond what I was capable of doing, it seemed worthy of trying to do."

Several employees made one dollar per mile pledges, and more than \$2,000 was collected for The Food Bank! Larry completed all 100 miles, finishing in 27 hours. Amongst nearly 80 participants, he placed ninth of the 37 that actually finished!

Few would dare attempt such a feat to help make a difference, but fortunately, supporters like Larry, and you, help Transform Hunger into Hope™.

Farmers Care about Feeding Missouri

The Missouri Beef Industry Council held a state-wide food drive benefitting the six Feeding America® food banks in Missouri. Locally, more than 300 lbs. were collected at Murfin's Market in Ozark during a radio remote with Alice 95.5 FM, and Missouri farmers matched this by purchasing more than 300 lbs. of beef from Murfin's in Ozark.



Ozark Empire Grocers Association supports OFH

Heartfelt thanks to member grocers for raising \$2,000 for The Food Bank! Pictured at Metro Grill are Bill Smillie, OEGA; Randy Richards, Harter House; Lindsey Neddenriep, OFH; Cindy McMillian, OEGA; and John Porter, Porter Supermarkets.

Middle class families face new challenges this Christmas

Marie Lewis used to find it hard to fit in shopping for Christmas, sending holiday cards, and putting up decorations, around her job as a manager for an upscale restaurant. This year, Marie faces very different challenges.



Like Marie's family, this food pantry client's family also faces new challenges this holiday season.

The restaurant she worked at for 13 years closed in February, and Marie has been unable to find work ever since.

“When you apply for retail or fast food, they say, ‘You’re overqualified,’

‘We don’t pay near as much as you were making’ and ‘You wouldn’t want this job,’” Marie says. “At this point, I’m not looking for a job, I’m desperate for one.”

Marie is thankful that she has good health, and that her children are old enough to not expect much for Christmas this year. “We’ll have a nice meal on Christmas day, and will count our blessings we are able to spend it together,” she says. “I’ll put

out our family decorations, but this year, a Christmas tree and presents, are definitely not in the budget.”

I’ve known Marie since we were in high school together 30 years ago. We talk often even though she has lived in another state for most of our adult lives. She has never been without a job since I’ve known her, until now. Marie represents the new face of poverty in our country today, and it’s a face we’re seeing too often.

I remember when a family member of mine was diagnosed with cancer. Many people would tell me that there is not a single family that is not affected by cancer in our country. I think we can also say that about the effects of the Great Recession and long term unemployment. This year, as we make preparations for a busy holiday season, let’s also prepare to help those who are facing more difficult choices and challenges.

You’re reading this because you are an important part of our mission to Transform Hunger into Hope for folks like Marie. Whether you share your time, talent or treasure, we could not do what we do without you.

Thank you for your generous help, and heartfelt wishes for a blessed holiday.



Bart Brown
President/CEO

Behind the barrels

Thank you for hosting food drives for Ozarks Food Harvest! Below are the Top 10 Drives since Oct. 1:

- 1) Park Board/DCO Turkey Trot - 11,897 lbs.
- 2) MSU Homecoming - 5,367 lbs.
- 3) Spokane High School - 5,014 lbs.
- 4) Chase Card Services - 3,711 lbs.
- 5) Crockett Chiropractic - 1,906 lbs.
- 6) Kickapoo High School - 1,680 lbs.
- 7) Fellowship Bible Church - 1,375 lbs.
- 8) Dillons Stores - 1,339 lbs. (thru Dec. 31!)
- 9) Lamda Chi Alpha, Drury - 1,202 lbs.
- 10) HuHot Mongolian Grill - 1,166 lbs.



ozarksfoodharvest.org/fooddrive.html

Ozarks Food Harvest staff

Bart Brown, President/CEO

Administration Department

Cindy Snow, Administration Director
Cindy Boggs, Office Manager
Erin Henderson, Receptionist

Development & Communications Dept.

Denise Gibson, Development Director
Cassie Hanson, Research Development Coord.
Lindsey Neddenniep, Public Relations & Events
Jennifer Sickinger, Resource Recruitment Coord.
Lindsey Taggart, Resource (Vol./Food Drives) Asst.

Member Services Department

Mary Zumwalt, Member Services Director
Lucy Indyushkin, Member Services Assistant
Terra Lamb, Community Outreach Coord.
Traci Nash, Member Services Assistant
Jane Terry, Creative Information Specialist

Operations Department

James Thompson, Operations Director
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor
Adam Crawford, Volunteer Specialist
Justin Crigger, Trans./Warehouse Associate
Mike Doubledee, Warehouse Quality Control
Alexis Harford, Volunteer Specialist
Eddie Hicks, Warehouse Associate
Kyle Horner, Warehouse Associate
Ron Jewell, Transportation Associate
Richard Kelly, Transportation Associate
John Lopez, Warehouse Scheduler
Phil Newton, Volunteer Specialist Team Lead
Stephen Roberts, Transportation Associate
Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator
Adam Stoddard, Volunteer Specialist
Brian Wilson, Warehouse Associate

Thank You for your Donation!

YES, I would like to help Ozarks Food Harvest Transform Hunger into Hope™

FullName(s) _____
 Address _____
 City _____ State _____ Zip _____
 E-mail _____

I would like my gift of:

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

to support:

Feeding Children General Food Distribution
 Feeding Families Purchased Food Program
 Feeding Seniors Unrestricted

To give by credit card please provide:

Mastercard Visa Discover

Account# _____ Exp. Date _____
 Signature _____
 Phone number(s) _____

Please use this form to make your tax-deductible gift, or simply provide your information directly on the enclosed envelope and send to Ozarks Food Harvest, P.O. Box 5746, Springfield, MO 65801-5746.

Transform Hunger into Hope™ at ozarksfoodharvest.org