



# OZARKS Food Harvest

The Food Bank



# time Harvest

Celebrating 25 years in the Ozarks

Holiday Edition, December 2009

To learn about The Food Bank's complete network of more than **350 charities**, visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org).



serving **29**  
Ozark  
Counties

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## O'Reilly Center for Hunger Relief formally dedicated & open for business

After five years of fundraising and support from hundreds of individuals, businesses and foundations, The Food Bank was able to celebrate one of its biggest accomplishments in history.

On September 15th, 2009, Ozarks Food Harvest held the formal dedication and open house of its new, 46,000 square-foot distribution facility. It was truly heartwarming to see our family of Food Bank supporters united in celebration for this milestone in history.

We were fortunate to have several of the donors that made this amazing dream come true in attendance.

Thanks to your support, The Food Bank now has the capacity to serve more people in need.

This dream come true couldn't have arrived sooner, as more than 55,000 individuals each month are seeking emergency food assistance. Within its first year in the new facility, Ozarks Food Harvest will have the capacity to distribute 10 million pound of food.



Many thanks to Brooke O'Reilly, Pat O'Reilly, Charlie O'Reilly, Rosalie O'Reilly Wooten, and Tom & Paige Rankin for conducting the official ribbon cutting to unveil the community's new food bank!

## Community Foundation Offering Challenge Grant to The Food Bank

This fall, the Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce unveiled the new 2009 *Community Focus: A Report for Springfield and Greene County*. In this new report, "red flag" issues were identified, including the pressing issue of hunger in the Ozarks.

In response, The Community Foundation of the Ozarks has offered grant opportunities to organizations whose missions correspond to confront these "red flags." Ozarks Food Harvest is honored to announce that the CFO has offered \$40,000 in challenge grant opportunities to The Food Bank.

What this opportunity means is that

the Community Foundation will match your year end gift dollar for dollar.

There is no better time than now to support The Food Bank's Feeding Hope Initiatives.

Ozarks Food Harvest is sincerely grateful to have the opportunity to double its donations in this unprecedented time of need. This grant was made possible due to the

philanthropy of several agencies including The Musgrave Foundation, the Roy W. Slusher Foundation, the Thomas J. Carlson Fund, American Dehydrated Foods, Inc., and The Turner Family Fund.

To double your donation through this special opportunity, see the special insert enclosed or call us at (417) 865-3411.



COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
OF THE OZARKS

# 'Check Out Hunger,' when you shop this holiday season.

*Holiday campaign will run in local grocery stores across the Ozarks*

For many of us, the holiday season is our favorite time of year. Anxiously, we await the cold months that drive us indoors to spend warm, cozy evenings with our loved ones. Yet for many, these approaching winter months mean something much different.

For families facing economic hardship, these cold winter months bring on higher utility bills and other expenses.

With these additional costs, many of our neighbors are forced to sacrifice life's most basic necessity - food. More than 160,000 children, families and seniors are living in hunger in the Ozarks.

This year, more than 60 local grocers are partnering to

fight hunger in The Food Bank's annual *Check Out Hunger™* campaign from November 16 through December 31.

Participating grocers include: Akins, Country Mart, Dillons, Harter House, Murfin's Markets, Price Cutter, Ramey, Smillie's Market, Smitty's, Summer Fresh Supermarkets and Woods Supermarkets.

To *Check Out Hunger™*, simply ask your cashier at one of the participating grocers to add your \$1 tax-free donation to your grocery bill.

For each dollar you donate, The Food Bank provides \$10 worth of food and services to hungry Ozarkers in need. While you might think you may not be making an impact, you truly are making a difference in the fight against hunger in our community.

The need for food assistance is greater than ever and you can make a difference.

So, while you're out shopping for the last few items to make that delicious



Look for this child's face at your local grocer to participate in Check Out Hunger now through December 31. Give online after December 31 at [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org)



holiday dinner, remember the families in our community who are going without. Your donation will bring many of them a bit of holiday cheer.

*Our deepest gratitude to the retailers and sponsors who make Check Out Hunger possible: Akins, Country Mart, Dillons, Harter House, Murfin's Market, Price Cutter, Ramey, Smillie's Market, Smitty's, Summer Fresh Supermarket, Woods Supermarket, Clear Channel Communications, Nowata Printing, McCann Printing, Matt Graif Design, American Dental Solutions, Springfield News-Leader, and KY3, Inc.*

## McDonald's & Tyson team up for 2<sup>nd</sup> annual Cans for Coffee



For the second year, the McDonald's of the Ozarks Cooperative hosted the Cans for Coffee food drive promotion in more than 60 McDonald's locations in the Ozarks.

From November 2-22, customers who brought a food donation for Ozarks Food Harvest received a free McCafe® Coffee or Hot Chocolate in return for their contribution.

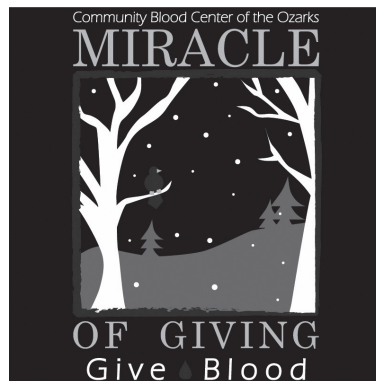
In addition to the thousands of pounds of food collected in this successful food drive, McDonald's & Tyson Foods partnered to donate a truckload of chicken (18 tons to be exact) to The Food Bank!

Ozarks Food Harvest is honored to be the recipient of this wonderful promotion that has brought nutritious food to many families in need.

## CBCO to partner with The Food Bank for Miracle of Giving

This holiday season, when you give blood at the Community Blood Center of the Ozarks in Springfield and Joplin, you'll have the opportunity to do more than donate blood.

Donors that give blood through the *Miracle of Giving Drive* (December 14—January 3), can exchange their participation gift (t-shirt) for a donation to The Food Bank! For each donor that forgoes this gift, CBCO will give a donation to Ozarks Food Harvest to provide a meal for 12 hungry people! Details at [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org)



## Kraft employees Make a Delicious Difference with The Food Bank

Heartfelt thanks to local Kraft employees who donated the gift of time to Ozarks Food Harvest for an entire week during Kraft's *Make a Delicious Difference Week*, October 5-10.

In just one week, Kraft volunteers sorted more than 70,000 pounds of food at The Food Bank. This amount is what volunteers typically sort in one month!

Kraft Foods employees also played an important role in a special Mobile Food Pantry distribution to 200 low-income seniors. We are thankful to have motivated groups of volunteers like our friends at Kraft!



*Congratulations to The Food Bank's Denise Gibson, Director of Development & Communicaitons, for being chosen as one of southwest Missouri's "Twenty Most Influential Women," of 2009 by the Springfield Business Journal.*

## Grant Writing Forum hosted to benefit The Food Bank's member charities

As our nation faces a tough economy, several of our local charities are having to do more with less. Grant writing for funding assistance has become imperative to support many of our member charities' budgets and program expansion.

This October, Ozarks Food Harvest was honored to have the support of the Slusher, Musgrave, and Heuer Foundations to co-host the first free Grant Writing Forum for its member charities.

More than 200 nonprofit representatives from more than 29 southwest Missouri counties were in attendance for the all-day conference at Springfield's Doubletree Hotel.

The forum, titled, "How to Get the Funding You Need in Economic Times Like These," covered an array of topics to assist grant writing newcomers as well as seasoned writers.

In addition to the helpful workshop sessions, local media representatives from KY3, KTTS, and the Springfield News-Leader participated in a media panel discussion on

"How to Generate Successful Press Coverage for Your Non-profit organization."

We are extremely grateful to these foundations for their assistance in helping us to provide such a needed opportunity for our network of hunger relief charities. The attendees were thrilled to learn new concepts as well as the opportunity to connect with other leaders from local nonprofit organizations.

As The Food Bank, our role is not only to provide emergency food assistance, but to advocate for our network of hunger relief organizations through education and empowerment. We look forward to providing more ways to Transform Hunger Into Hope™ for our dedicated partners in hunger relief.



**Denise Gibson,**  
Development Director



### 2009 Thanksgiving Day

**Turkey Trot** collected a whopping 6,856 pounds of food! Many thanks to the DCO, Springfield-Greene Co. Park Board, & all who participated in this year's record breaking event!



### Food for Fines : January 24-30, 2010

Do you have library fines? Fear no more, because with a donation to The Food Bank you can be pardoned! Receive a 50-cent credit on your library fine balance for each donated item of non-perishable food. There's no limit to the amount you can donate, so pay off all your fines.

### Thank You to Girl Scout Troop #70457!

Together, they collected 330 pounds of food for their neighbors in need!



## Inaugural Joe Nakato Memorial Golf Tournament raises more than \$10,500 for Kids Cafe program

In honor of the late Joe Nakato, the Nakato Family hosted the first Joe Nakato Memorial Golf Tournament to benefit Ozarks Food Harvest's Kids Cafe program.

More than 100 players attended the four-man scramble at Millwood Golf Club on October 21. Officials at Millwood stated that the event was the largest golf tournament they have ever hosted.

The tournament raised more than \$10,500 - a success for its inaugural year! We cannot thank Nakato Japanese Steakhouse enough for their generous efforts to plan and coordinate the tournament. Special thanks to Chef Yutaka Oshita for his leadership to support the Kids Cafe program.

It is heartwarming and encouraging to see our friends in the food industry playing such an instrumental role in helping The Food Bank in *Feeding Children* in the Ozarks.



The late Joe Nakato of Nakato Japanese Restaurant supported The Food Bank's Kids Cafe, after-school feeding program.

Transforming Hunger into Hope™

Thanks to **Chase Card Services** for volunteering their time at The Food Bank during the 2009 United Way Day of Caring!

**Houlihan's Restaurant** graciously donated 10% of all dinner sales on October 27 to Ozarks Food Harvest.

**NorthStar Battery** generously gave \$751 to The Food Bank and those it serves.

The annual **Drury Lambda Chi Alpha Food Drive** collected 3,071 pounds of food and \$300 for hunger relief!

A **BIG** thanks to **Great Southern Banking Centers** for hosting the 1st Fill the Food Bank Food Drive during the month of September! The drive collected enough food and funds to provide **4,055 meals** to those that we serve!

# New Feeding Hope initiatives will expand our services to those who need it most

Undoubtedly, these are tough economic times for many of our neighbors in southwest Missouri. Every day, our agencies are seeing new faces at their door asking for help. Our numbers have skyrocketed from the 41,000 individuals served each month in 2008 to presently 55,000 individuals served each month.

In order to confront this unprecedented surge in need we must lay the framework and plan of action to appropriately address the most significant needs of the community. In September we unveiled our new, three-year strategic initiative plan - Feeding Hope.

The Feeding Hope Initiatives, *Feeding Children, Feeding Families, and Feeding Seniors*, is our most aggressive approach to address some of the most directly affected and often underserved groups of individuals in southwest Missouri.

The ultimate goal of these initiatives is to distribute 12 million pounds of food by fiscal year 2012. Achieving this will require \$9.5 million in funding over the next three years.

Of the 12 million pounds of food and supplies overall, 40 percent will go to children. The Food Bank will increase the number of children reached through programs to 2,500 children overall. Additionally, 1,000 children per year will be served by expanding the Weekend Backpack Program™ to 32 locations.

Of the 12 million pounds, 50 percent will go towards Feeding Families. The Food Bank is working to distribute one million pounds of food annually to families through the Mobile Food Pantry™ program. Ozarks Food Harvest will also distribute 3.4 million pounds of food through the Temporary Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP), a program of the federal government.

Finally, 10 percent of the 12 million pounds of food will directly go to Feeding Seniors. In order to reach seniors more adequately, special targeted Mobile Food Pantry™ distributions will be held for approximately 2,000 seniors. The Food Bank will also provide 17,000 supplemental food boxes to low-income seniors in the Ozarks.

As you can see, these initiatives are targeted to touch each of the hungry populations that turn to The Food Bank for help. We have the plans in place and we have the facility to implement them. Now we need the support that you have always supplied to continue in these challenging times to make these initiatives a reality. This is the community's Food Bank and it will take the entire community to keep Transforming Hunger into Hope™ for those in need.

**Bart Brown,**  
President/CEO



## Ways to Give



Looking for a way to spread the word of Ozarks Food Harvest's work in the community? The answer might be much simpler than you think.

Did you know, that The Food Bank has a fully functional conference room facility with kitchen that can be reserved for your meeting, free of charge? You can

help us show the community its new Food Bank by hosting your next event at Ozarks Food Harvest. The Food Bank's conference room seats up to 50 people classroom style and can be reserved upon request.

To find out more about this opportunity, call Ozarks Food Harvest at (417) 865-3411 or visit us at 2810 N. Cedarbrook to see the facility & take a tour! Guests are always welcome.

## Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

**Bart Brown, President/CEO**

**Development & Communications Dept.**  
Denise Gibson, Development Director  
Lindsey Neddenriep, PR & Events Coordinator  
Kelly Richard, PR & Events Coordinator  
Jennifer Sickinger, Resource Recruitment Coordinator

**Member Services Department**  
Jan Tucker, Member Services Director  
Mary Zumwalt, Member Development Rep.  
Lucy Indyushkin, Member Services Assistant  
Terra Lamb, Member Outreach Assistant  
Jane Terry, Creative Information Specialist

**Operations Department**  
James Thompson, Operations Director  
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor  
Mike Doubledee, Warehouse Associate  
Eddie Hicks, Warehouse Associate  
Stephen Roberts, Transportation Associate  
Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator

**Administrative Department**  
Cindy Snow, Business Manager  
Cindy Boggs, Office Manager  
Erin Henderson, Receptionist

## Thank You for your Donation!

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

Full Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

I would like my gift of:

\$25     \$35     \$50     \$100     \$Other \_\_\_\_\_

to support:

Backpack Program™     Food Distribution

Kids Cafe®/Club FUN™     Senior Programs

Mobile Food Pantry™     Beef Up Your Budget™

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.