



OZARKS Food Harvest

The Food Bank



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

time Harvest

2007 Winter Edition ❄️❄️❄️

Our Service Area



Call for a list of member agencies near you!

Board of Directors

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Guaranty Bank

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Food Bank Mobilizes for Disaster Relief

The year 2007 started with the worst ice storms the Ozarks have experienced in more than 50 years.

For the approximately 150,000 people living in poverty in Southwest Missouri the devastation was extreme.

Impoverished families can not afford to purchase alternate lodging or heat sources or replace spoiled food.

Families in poverty may also struggle additionally in the absence of free and reduced school meals due to school closings. In a disaster, childcare is often unavailable as well, which can lead to lost wages.

This type of hardship can compound into desperation. Because people were struggling for shelter and sustenance, the need for food assistance and disaster relief continued to rise.

In response to this urgent situation, Ozarks Food Harvest distributed more than half a million pounds of food in the first three weeks to its partner agencies and emergency shelters – that's ten percent of its annual distribution!

The Food Bank also partnered with other local charities to create a Multi-Agency Resource Center (M.A.R.C.) to assist people affected by the storms. In only three days, Ozarks Food Harvest distributed approximately 27,904

pounds of food to more than 5,000 people.

America's Second Harvest's Disaster Response Team and the Missouri National Guard responded to The Food Bank's requests for assistance with additional truckloads of food and supplies.

Ozarks Food Harvest distributed more than half a million pounds of food in the first three weeks following the storms.

Ozarks Food Harvest's member agencies extended their hours as needed and reported serving twice as many people each day. The Food Bank's Board of Directors, volunteers and staff also worked countless hours in our warehouse and at the M.A.R.C.

Ozarks Food Harvest has been forced to draw on its cash reserves to purchase more food to restock its shelves, because this emergency distribution has depleted the warehouse supply.

Costs of Ozarks Food Harvest's disaster response efforts are estimated to exceed \$250,000.

Ozarks Food Harvest needs the community's financial support through this emergency.

"We are very grateful to our donors who have already responded to this emergency, and anyone fortunate enough to be in a position to help with our recovery efforts," said Denise Gibson, Director of Development and Communications for Ozarks Food Harvest.



The Missouri National Guard distributed eight pallets of food from The Food Bank.

To help supplement the food supplies at pantries, Ozarks Food Harvest distributed MREs, Meals Ready to Eat, directly to individuals from its warehouse and to area shelters.

To make a secure online donation, please go to ozarksfoodharvest.org, or mail your gift to Ozarks Food Harvest, 615 N. Glenstone, Springfield, MO 65802.

Thank You!

These generous partners are helping Transform Hunger Into Hope™ in our part of the heartland.

Program and Operations Supporters



The Presley Family of Presleys' Country Jubilee has sponsored Ozarks Food Harvest's Kids Cafe® after-school feeding program for the 8th consecutive year.

The Presley family has been instrumental in the growth of the Kids Cafe® program.

St. John's Force for Good

St. John's Clinics physicians and co-workers raised more than \$40,000 for The Food Bank's Food for Thought™ program through their Force for Good initiative that harnesses St. John's Clinic's resources for philanthropy.

Smart Chicken®

MBA Poultry brand, Smart Chicken®, donated a record breaking 10,000 pounds of chicken – a \$14,000 value – to The Food Bank for the fourth annual Feed the Hungry promotion!

Local Grocers

The following local grocery stores participated in Check Out Hunger.

- | | |
|-----------------|--------------------|
| Akins Health | Ramey Price Cutter |
| Country Mart | Smillie's IGA |
| Dillons Stores | Summer Fresh |
| Harter House | Town & Country |
| Murfin's Market | Woods |

Recent Food Drives

- Bingham Elementary
- Crocker Chiropractic
- Digital Monitoring Products
- Discovery Center of Springfield
- Edward Jones
- Elizabeth Shelton Family Thanksgiving Food Drive
- Evangel University Music Department
- Field Elementary
- Fox 14 KFJX, Feed the 4 States
- Logan Rogersville Fourth Graders
- McBride Elementary
- Met A Games Unlimited, Inc
- MODOT Employees District 8
- Montclair Residential
- Sonic Drive-In, Commercial Street
- Springfield Greene County Park Board Turkey Trot
- Springfield Remanufacturing Center

Many thanks to the dedicated volunteers and Board Members who helped during our disaster recovery efforts!

Compassion in Action Update

Only seven months remain to qualify for a \$465,000 Challenge Grant

Ozarks Food Harvest needs to raise \$1.1 million by October 1, 2007!

In the last edition of Harvest Time, The Food Bank announced its exciting opportunity to receive \$465,000 of out-of-state funds from the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation.

The funds are a challenge

grant, and if The Food Bank does not raise \$1.1 million for its Compassion in Action campaign to build a larger and more efficient food distribution warehouse then it will lose the grant money.

In 2005, The Food Bank was forced to turn down more than 250,000 pounds of nutritious food, because there was simply nowhere to store it.

Ozarks Food Harvest has also seen a 44 percent

increase in requests for food assistance over the past four years.

The Food Bank must have a larger, more efficient, and customized building with freezer and refrigerator storage and specific sorting areas in order to process, store and distribute more food to meet this growing need.

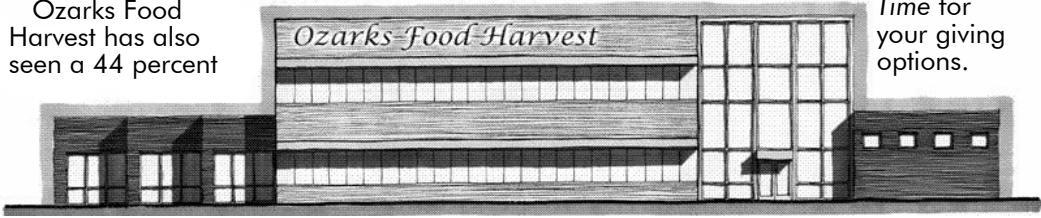
The Compassion in Action

campaign is the only possible way to increase Ozarks Food Harvest's annual distribution to approximately eight million pounds of food, the projected need in the Ozarks.

Check this section throughout the campaign, for updates on Ozarks Food Harvest's Compassion in Action capital campaign, and please see the donation form at the back of this issue of Harvest

Time for your giving options.

The Food Bank has seen a 44 percent increase in requests for food assistance in its 29 county service area over the past four years.



Local Boy Scouts Scout for Food

It's time to Scout for Food with area Boy Scout troops. Area Boy Scout troops will be Scouting for Food in their communities on Saturday, March 3, 2007.

This is the 18th year that Scouts will distribute specially marked grocery bags provided by Price Cutter Supermarkets throughout local neighborhoods.

This year the Scouts are also learning about hunger and its effects. You can help them support Ozarks Food Harvest and other area hunger relief organizations at the same time.

Just fill your bag with non-perishable food items and set it out for Scouts to pick-up on Saturday, March 10, 2007.

All food collected will be donated to Ozarks Food Harvest or an area food assistance charity within its county.

If you don't see Boy Scouts in your neighborhood, you can still participate. Just bring your donation to Ozarks Food Harvest anytime during the week of March 5, or on March 11th from 9:00 am to 2:00 pm.



"Scouting for Food" collects more than 10,000 pounds of food each year.

Feinstein Foundation challenges you!

Annual Feinstein Challenge begins March 1st

The Feinstein Foundation offers \$1 million in funds each year to anti-hunger agencies like Ozarks Food Harvest. This money is allocated between hunger relief organizations across the U.S. based on how much participating charities raise.

The more local money and food donated to The Food Bank between **March 1 and April 29**, the more money Ozarks Food Harvest can get from the Feinstein Foundation.

The Feinstein Foundation challenges every community to work together and raise as much food as possible! You can:

- Conduct a food drive
- Have a contest with other schools or businesses
- Donate food or money

What's the Value of a Dollar?

America is a generous country, and so are the people of Southwest Missouri.

Did you know that **between 70 and 80 percent of Americans donate to at least one charity annually?**

It is only with the generous support of our donors that Ozarks Food Harvest was able to serve more than 37,000 people a month in the Ozarks in 2006.

Those who choose not to donate often hold the misconception that their money won't go very far or that a dollar won't make a difference.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

A dollar donation to Ozarks Food Harvest is enough to provide \$12 worth of food. That's because 95 percent of every

donation goes directly towards programs and distribution.

In 2006, we distributed more than 4.1 million pounds of food to children, families and seniors in need.

Every dollar, or can of food, is one more step towards ending hunger in the Ozarks.

The Food Bank would like to sincerely thank all of those whose donations make our work possible every single day.

Together we can *Transform Hunger into Hope*™ across 29 counties of the Ozarks.

Denise Gibson
Director of Development
and Communications



Mobile Food Pantry Rolls through Oregon County

It was 9:00 in the morning on a crisp 32 degree day when the people of Alton, Missouri and surrounding communities lined up at the Alton Community Worship Center, one of two Oregon County Food Pantry sites.

While the pantry clients waited in organized lines, dozens of volunteers scrambled to set up pallets of food from the Ozarks Food Harvest Mobile Food Pantry.

For the next three hours, 24 volunteers, including more than ten local high school students and four Ozarks Food Harvest staff members, packed boxes of food for 190 families, or 438 individuals, as they came through a line that wrapped around the Mobile Food Pantry truck.

The Oregon County Food Pantry has sites in Alton and Thayer, and serves more than five percent of the county's population – approximately 800 individuals each month.

Oregon County, with a poverty rate of 22 percent, is one of the top three poorest counties in Missouri.

Daisy Simmons, Food Pantry Coordinator said, "We are a small community. We don't have very many jobs in our county. By the time people pay to drive to West Plains or Mountain Home, AR there's not much money left for food."

The Oregon County Food Pantry is the first of The Food Bank's partners to benefit from the new Mobile Food Pantry.

"I overheard one of our clients crying on the phone as she told a friend, 'You know, we are so blessed, 'cause we didn't have any food, and now we got all this food from the food pantry.'"

– Daisy Simmons, Oregon County Food Pantry –

Simmons said the Mobile Food Pantry truck helps supplement their government commodities and donations.

"I overheard one of our clients crying on the phone as she told a friend, 'You know, we are so blessed, 'cause we didn't have any food, and now we got all this food from the food pantry,'" Simmons said.

David Scott, Pastor of the Alton United Methodist Church and St. Paul United Methodist Church said, "We are blessed to have sponsorships for the Mobile Food Pantry in Oregon County through July."

Some counties Ozarks Food Harvest serves have poverty rates of more than 30 percent. To support these impoverished counties, please call 417-865-3411 or visit ozarksfoodharvest.org.



Support the Mobile Food Pantry and grow a row for the hungry!

You can help provide more fresh produce for the *Mobile Food Pantry* by planting a row of vegetables in your home garden and donating the produce to Ozarks Food Harvest!

Ozarks Food Harvest's New Mobile Food Pantry Truck Sponsored by Ridewell Suspensions and Rotary Clubs of Springfield!



Thanks to Ridewell Suspensions and Rotary Clubs of Springfield, The Food Bank has a new program, The Mobile Food Pantry.

Ridewell Suspensions and Rotary Clubs of Springfield purchased a new truck and trailer for Ozarks Food Harvest to use to distribute perishable food to people in rural communities to commemorate their 40th year in business.

The Rotary Clubs of Springfield, are raising funds for the purchase of a second Mobile Food Pantry truck, and dedicated their fundraising support to the success of the program.

Ozarks Food Harvest and its Mobile Food Pantry partners dedicated the new truck in a special ceremony at First Night on New Year's Eve 2007.

Sponsorship of Mobile Food Pantry Day

To encourage giving, Penmac founder Patti Penny gave \$100 to each person at the 2006 Association of Fundraising Professionals' Award ceremony to be used to help someone or a charity.

Two staff members of Ozarks Food Harvest used their combined \$200 to sponsor a Mobile Food Pantry Day for the Oregon County Food Pantry.



❄️ From the Executive Director

At The Food Bank, so much of our attention has been focused on the devastation caused by January's ice storms that I thought you would like to read some good news about our family of supporters!

New Year 2007 started out with a bang, literally, for Ozarks Food Harvest. Our new Mobile Food Pantry truck was dedicated at First Night Springfield, the city's official New Year's Eve celebration.

The truck is made possible by generous gifts from Ridewell Suspensions and the five Rotary Clubs of Springfield.

At the dedication on New Year's Eve, Ridewell Suspensions presented Ozarks Food Harvest with a check for \$100,000 in honor of their 40th year in business. Owners John and Beth Raidell said that they wanted to do something that their employees could be proud of, and that the Mobile Food Pantry was a perfect fit.

Tamera de Wild, Co-Chair of the Rotary Mobile Food Pantry Steering committee, introduced representatives from the five Rotary Clubs of Springfield, who made generous contributions to the project.

The steering committee is now in the process of seeking the support of Rotary clubs from across the Ozarks to finish fundraising for a second Mobile Food Pantry vehicle. Heartfelt thanks go out to everyone involved that has made this project such a success.

We are also sincerely grateful to our partners in the fight to prevent child hunger in our home towns.

St. John's Clinics physicians and co-workers recently raised over \$40,000 for Ozarks Food Harvest's *Food for Thought*[™] backpack program.

Female Leaders In Philanthropy (F.L.I.P.) collected backpacks of food for us at their *Hunger Hurts Children* conference. This dynamic group of women, headed by Dr. Nancy O'Reilly, is focusing on our *Food for Thought*[™] backpack program this year.

A heartfelt thanks also to the Presley family and Presleys' Country Jubilee for their eighth annual sponsorship of our Kids Cafe[®] after-school feeding program. Presleys' Country Jubilee has allowed us to offer hot evening meals to kids who might otherwise go home to an empty house or an empty plate since 1999.

Whether you help with our disaster relief efforts, or the daily disaster of hunger in our communities, on behalf of the Board of Directors and those we are privileged to serve, we thank you for your kindness and generosity.

Bart Brown

Bart Brown,
Executive Director



Other Ways to Give

Don't Wait, Advocate!

Advocating for the 150,000 people living in poverty is as important as emergency food assistance.

That's why Ozarks Food Harvest joins other Missouri food banks and a member agency from each county it serves to visit with elected legislative representatives each year.

This year's key issue is a proposed increase for the monthly food stamp minimum available to seniors. If you would like to lobby on behalf of vulnerable seniors in the Ozarks, go to www.ozarksfoodharvest.org and scroll to click on the *Take Action* link and register to tell your representative that you care about hungry seniors in Southwest Missouri.

A group will be traveling to Jefferson City on Wednesday, March 28. For details, please call Community Outreach Coordinator, Jodi Alcon, at (417) 865-3411.

Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

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

Donation Form

YES—I would like to support Ozarks Food Harvest and Transform Hunger into Hope[™]!

Full Name _____

Spouse's Name _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State ____ Zip _____

I would like my gift of

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

to support: Food Distribution Capital Campaign

Food For Thought[™] Kids Cafe[®] Mobile Food Pantry

Full Circle Garden[™] Beef Up Your Budget

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, Coordinator • Lindsey Neddenriep, Assistant

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