



OZARKS
Food Harvest

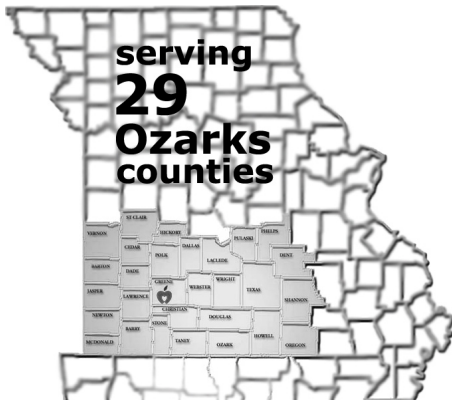
The Food Bank

Harvest A Member of Feeding America **Time**

Celebrating 25 Years in the Ozarks

2008 Holiday Edition

For a list of member charities, visit:
ozarksfoodharvet.org



serving
29
Ozark
counties

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Food Bank Still Needs Help

It's often said it takes a village to raise a child. And, that outlook may hold true now more than ever. So many people have an impact on the life we live and the people we become.

However, you may live each day without a passing thought that any decision you make could affect how someone else lives their life. So, if you knew that you could help more than 150,000 people for decades to come, what would you do?

Ozarks Food Harvest can offer you that opportunity. With The Compassion in Action Capital Campaign nearing a close, your donation could help The Food Bank reach its goal of raising \$4.8 million to build a new warehouse.

When The Food Bank moves in to its new warehouse, hopefully in mid-2009, twice as much space will be available for dry and frozen food. The new facility will also give large distribution trucks easier access to Ozarks Food Harvest headquarters.

Add all of this up, and it's possible Ozarks Food Harvest could more than double its distribution to upwards of 10 million pounds a year.

To put that in perspective, The Food Bank currently feeds 41,000 people each month. With your help and dedication to bettering your community, you can help feed twice as many people... truly leaving your stamp on not just the children of this village, but on the village itself.

Before it moves into its new home, Ozarks Food Harvest is using every nook and cranny it has to safely store and distribute food. For the first time ever, Ozarks

Food Harvest received more than 700,000 pounds of food in the month of November. Go to page four to read more about how local stores have made this possible.

'Check Out Hunger' in the Ozarks

Now that the colder weather has finally blown into the Ozarks, many of us are searching for our winter coats.

No doubt we'll all need to bundle up throughout the coming months when we brave the cold weather during shopping trips in preparation for large family gatherings holiday parties.

Many of those trips will surely be to your local grocery store in the coming weeks to stock the pantry in anticipation of hungry family members.

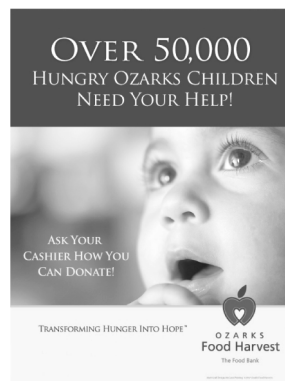
But, while you may be planning a meal for dozens, many of your neighbors can't afford food for themselves, let alone anyone else in their family. Yet, there is something you can do to help those in need and it's very easy.

Kicking off in mid-November, Check Out Hunger will once again provide Ozarkers a chance to add \$1 to their grocery bill

with the proceeds going to The Food Bank. You can make your donation at a local Akin's Natural Food Market, Harter House, Murfin's Market, Ramey Price Cutter, Summer Fresh, Woods Supermarket, Dillons, Cody's or Smillie's.

While Check Out Hunger has been going strong for ten years, the need may never be greater. Since January 1st, our member charities have reported a rise in need over 40 percent. This spike has never been more visible in The Food Bank warehouse, where despite record donations, our shelves are often bare because the food is shipped off just as fast as it's received.

So, when you're stocking your shelves at home this holiday season, remember your neighbor's pantries, too. Your donation while picking up some groceries will mean holiday cheer for all.



Agency Spotlight: Southern Webster County Pantry

New agency offers "Choice" program to cut back waste

Many people believe leaders are born and not made. These are the type of people who stand up and speak out when others may not.

Gail Savage is one of these people. A member of Zion Lutheran Church in Diggins, Mo., Savage grew tired of seeing people who came to her church looking for help be turned away.

"Our pastor had gotten several calls from people needing food," Savage says. "No one did anything."

Frustrated, she decided to take a stand. Savage began looking for ways her faith community could serve those in need and approached

other church members for assistance.

"I started with myself and anyone I could harass," she says, describing her efforts to get what she calls a "coalition" started.

Savage worked tirelessly to bring together many local churches. One offered a small Sunday school room to serve as a pantry space and in March of 2007, the Southern Webster County Food pantry served its first clients. However, that space didn't work for very long. By the second month, they had outgrown the small room, already feeding more than 150 people.

Today, as business continues to increase, the group leases an unused portion of a childhood development center with four large rooms for pantry space and one freezer room.

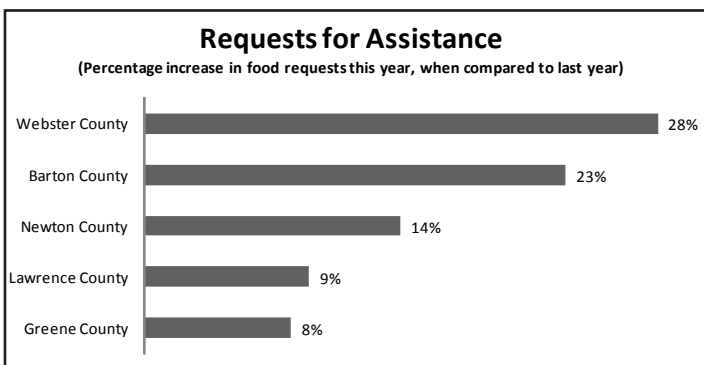
Plus, the group now includes people from seven churches and three local women's groups, totalling more than 60 dedicated volunteers to keep the pantry doors open. And, Savage needs all the help she can find.

"Most of our clients are the working poor and many of our middle aged adult clients are suffering from devastating handicaps," says Savage.

But, what makes this new

agency stand out is their dedication to offering "Choice" to their clients. "Choice" is a method of food distribution that is more tailored to the client's needs. A client is allowed to choose the specific items that are most needed for their family.

Savage says this helps ensure more of the food they receive from Ozarks Food Harvest goes to good use, cutting down on waste.



McDonald's, OFH offer "Cans for Coffee"

What has become a morning ritual for many, turned out to be the perfect food drive for Ozarks Food Harvest.

With some help from McDonald's, southwest Missourians who donated a canned good at a local McDonald's received a free small McCafe Coffee.

KSFJ and KOLR, the local FOX and CBS stations, respectively, helped spread the "Cans for Coffee" message with Public Service Announcement's that ran throughout November.

To cap off the food drive, Tyson Foods donated a truck load of chicken during the final week.

Congressman Blunt headlines 2008 Agency Relations Conference

A record number of member charity representatives gathered to hear Congressman Roy Blunt and others speak during this year's Agency Relations Conference.

Including speakers, 406 people attended the day-long conference which highlighted the challenges facing hunger relief organizations. Many of

the speakers, including representatives from Feeding America, offered ideas and plans to more efficiently serve those in need.

Speakers focused on the expansion of direct service programs like Kids Cafe®, how to better utilize commodities within an agency menu and how to avoid lawsuits involving human service settings.

The conference ended with an exciting discussion about food handling safety led by Agency Relations Director Jan Tucker, which featured numerous props. This was followed by an opportunity for conference attendees to take a trip around the Mobile Food Pantry to collect a number of parting gifts.



Above Left: OFH employees pass out "stuffed germs" while emphasizing a clean working environment.



Center: Congressman Roy Blunt kicks off the 2008 Agency Relations Conference.



Above Right: Representatives from across the OFH service area show their home town pride.

3M

Twice in the past few months, the local 3M manufacturing plant has awarded OFH with grants of \$1,000 and \$1,500. Both grants will be used to offset the rising costs associated with distributing food, specifically the high price of diesel fuel. Even with fuel prices falling, The Food Bank spends upwards of \$4,200 on diesel each month and is searching for ways to fuel its fleet.

**FEEDING
AMERICA**

Feeding America has been extremely kind to the OFH mission of *Transforming Hunger into Hope™* in the past few months. In addition to a Lincy grant given to OFH from Feeding America, the national hunger relief organization also awarded OFH with \$25,000 towards the Kids Café® program. This money was made available to Feeding America through the Mars Corporation.

**TODAY'S
KTTS
94.7FM**

Instead of highlighting the problems caused by hunger in America for just one day, Ozarks Food Harvest opted for a longer educational campaign this year. Across the nation, September was known as Hunger Action Month for Feeding America member food banks.

Ozarks Food Harvest joined forces with local country radio station KTTS and sponsored food drives at both Battlefield Mall in Springfield and Lucas Oil Speedway in Wheatland.

VINO 100

With a little bit of cheese, a few glasses of wine and plenty of friends, Ozarks Food Harvest celebrated the beginning of fall to help raise money for those in need across southwest Missouri.

With some help from Vino 100, located on West Republic Road, The Food Bank hosted Grand Taste II and raised more than \$1,300 on October 16th and 17th.

For those two nights, some of The Food Bank's most consistent supporters had an opportunity to sample the best Vino 100 had to offer. A percentage of ticket sales and wine sales during those two nights were donated to Ozarks Food Harvest.

**The
MAIZE**

Many Ozarkers searching for a good time in late September not only found a fun way to spend a Saturday evening, but a way to help some of southwest Missouri's hungriest individuals.

Opening day for the well-renowned fall attraction, The Maize, located in Verona, was a special one for Ozarks Food Harvest. Every dollar from ticket sales on September 20th was donated to The Food Bank.

The Maize, a corn maze attraction that featured hayrides, movie nights and plenty of edible goodies, has been a fixture in Verona for years. Profits from the Maize go to one of Ozarks Food Harvest's member charities, the GRIP Boy's Home, also located in Verona.

Local Walmart stores increase donations

From middle class families to single mothers or elderly couples, more and more people are in need of food now than ever before. Simply put, 40 percent more people are in need of help in the Ozarks Food Harvest coverage area now when compared to last year.

So, for months, The Food Bank has been searching for answers; different ways it could take in and distribute more food than ever before. Within the past couple of months, The Food Bank may have found that answer.

With some assistance from Feeding America and a Lincy grant, Ozarks Food Harvest will soon be the proud owner of a new distribution truck.

Combine the truck with a new program that Walmart has made available and it's possible Ozarks Food Harvest could greatly increase its distribution in the coming months.

Since mid-October, many local Walmart stores have increased their food donations substantially, with some stores almost doubling their contributions.

The key to Ozarks Food Harvest receiving the Lincy grant was undoubtedly the relationship The Food Bank has with its local Walmart stores, says Ozarks Food Harvest Executive Director Bart Brown.

Meanwhile, Feeding America has asked Ozarks Food Harvest to apply for a new Lincy grant that could further fund this new program.

Walmart 
Save money. Live better.

Tyson honors longtime agency director for continued service



Above: Ethel Shepherd was named a Tyson Hunger All-Star on her 80th birthday at Ozarks Food Harvest.

Ozarks Food Harvest has been helping those in need for 25 years. And, for each of those 25 years, one person has helped Ozarks Food Harvest help those in need.

To honor her hard work, Tyson Foods and The Food Bank celebrated Ethel Shepherd's 25 years of service to the community of Mountain Grove. Shepherd was honored with a special ceremony at The Food Bank warehouse, where Tyson officials presented her with the Hunger All-Star Award.

It was one day, or at least part of one day, that was all about a person who has given thousands of days of service to others.

And, the ceremony was quite fitting, seeing that it was also Shepherd's 80th birthday.

And, while The Food Bank received a

truckload of chicken from Tyson, donated in Shepherd's name, it's the continued service to our neighbors by Shepherd that has been her most rewarding gift to Ozarks Food Harvest.

But, what is even more exciting is Shepherd's eagerness to continue helping her neighbors.

Times are tough for many of us, there's no denying that. But, Shepherd sets an amazing example of how to care for those in need even when it would be easy to just think of ourselves.



**Denise Gibson
Development
Director**

Holiday giving means more when it's the thought that counts

"No one knows how it feels until you are there", the note reads from an elderly food pantry client. While many of us are feeling the pinch of a contracting economy, those of us privileged enough to have never experienced hunger truly can't know how it feels.

Every year we ask people throughout the Ozarks to share their experiences with the issue of hunger with us. Because you are a partner in our efforts to transform hunger into hope, I wanted to share the following excerpt with you.

"When I was a little girl in second grade, my dad lost his job. It was right before the holidays and I remember it being a really dark time for our family. Our church congregation always collected food to fill a Thanksgiving basket for a needy family. Normally, my mother would have filled the basket, but this year was different.

The Sunday before Thanksgiving I watched my mother open our nearly bare cabinets and pull out a single gravy packet. We went to church and I proudly put the package in the basket.

That night our pastor knocked on our door. In his arms was the thanksgiving basket of food. He put it on the kitchen table and hugged me, then was on his way without a word. I was elated at the sight of so much food, until

I saw the gravy package I had donated. I had wanted a needy family to have the package, and it didn't seem right that it had been returned to us. When I told my mother she began to cry. We decided to re-donate the gravy package. Hand in hand my mother and I walked to a nearby grocery store and dropped the gravy package in a donation box by the front door.

That Thanksgiving was so nice. We had such a wonderful meal thanks to the basket of food from our church. As an adult I have a passion for helping feed the hungry. I help with our church food pantry and have coordinated many food drives. These are beautiful experiences, but none will ever match up with the act of donating that gravy package in second grade."

Reading this story brings a quote from another little girl to mind. Her name was Anne Frank. She wrote "No one has ever become poor by giving." What an important thing for those of us who "don't know how it feels" to remember at this time.

Blessed holiday wishes to you and those dear to you.



Bart Brown
Executive Director

Ways to Give...



People of all walks of life will spend countless, stressful hours searching for the perfect holiday gift in the coming weeks. This year, many shoppers will be fighting more than the crowds but also the economy, trying to find a way to fill the space under the tree without breaking the bank.

However, thinking of those in need outside of your family may be the perfect gift to help fill your loved ones stockings. Simply make a donation in the name of anyone on your shopping list.

While simple, this may also be the most meaningful gift you'll give this year. Right now, tens of thousands of your neighbors are searching for answers, searching for help every day. Each month, the Ozark Food Harvest network of member charities is feeding more than 41,000 men, women and children.

So, while the newest mp3 player, purse or TV may sit on the top of many lists, don't forget the easiest gift of all... Hope.

Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

Bart Brown, Executive Director	Matt Petcoff, Communications Coordinator
Denise Gibson, Development Director	Kelly Richard, Public Relations Coordinator
James Thompson, Operations Director	Jacquie Neill, Resource Coordinator
Jan Tucker, Agency Relations Director	Russell Phillips, Transportation
Jodi Alcon, Community Nutrition Coordinator	Stephen Roberts, Transportation
Cindy Boggs, Office Administrator	Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor	Jane Terry, Creative Information Specialist
Mike Doubleddee, Warehouse Associate	Linda Tinson, Member Services Supervisor
Lucy Indyushkin, Front Desk Receptionist	

DONATION FORM

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:

New Building Fund Backpack Program

Kids Cafe®/Club Fun™ Food Distribution

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 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 • Matt Petcoff, Communications Coordinator • Kelly Richard, Public Relations Coordinator
We welcome your input... If you have any questions or comments, please call us at (417) 865-3411.