



News Release

Springfield-Greene County Library District

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Swap Food for Fines at the Library Jan. 24 through 30

The Springfield-Greene County Library District has partnered with Ozarks Food Harvest – The Food Bank, to let patrons pay off their overdue fines in exchange for donations of non-perishable food to the region's food bank. "Food For Fines" week is Jan. 24 through Jan. 30, 2010 at any Springfield-Greene County Library branch.

Patrons will receive a 50-cent credit on their fine balance for each item of non-perishable food presented at the checkout desk of any branch library or bookmobile. There's no dollar limit; only overdue materials fines are eligible. The credit will be applied at that time, and patrons can drop their donation in the nearby bin.

Items in undamaged and unexpired boxes or cans may include canned meat, peanut butter, canned fruit, canned vegetables, and boxed meals. Non-nutritional beverages such as soda, and beverages in glass or plastic containers, will not be accepted. The library district will donate all food to Ozarks Food Harvest.

"We're very excited to partner with the Library for its first-ever Food for Fines food drive," said Lindsey Neddenriep, public relations coordinator at Ozarks Food Harvest. "This collaborative effort will allow patrons to pay off fines in the New Year as well as help The Food Bank restock our warehouse following the busy holiday season when we see a major decline in food donations," Neddenriep said. "The need is greater than ever — our member agencies are still seeing up to 50 percent increases in requests for emergency food assistance."

The library district is eager to join the community effort, said Jim Schmidt, library's associate director of public services. "Food for Fines is a partnership that will be sustained by the generosity of the library's customers and the expertise of Ozarks Food Harvest. Library staff anticipate a great event and are extremely happy and proud to participate."

Ozarks Food Harvest, the only food bank in southwest Missouri, serves more than 350 hunger relief organizations, reaching more than 55,000 people each month in 29 Ozarks counties. The Food Bank distributed 7 million lbs. of food in the last fiscal year – the highest distribution in its 25-year history – made possible due to its network of charities and direct-relief programs such as the Weekend Backpack Program™, Kids Cafe® and the Mobile Food Pantry™ program. Learn more at ozarksfoodharvest.org.

For more information, call 417-616-0566.