



Media Release

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Ozarks Food Harvest unveils results of nationwide hunger study *Findings show that more than 155,000 in the Ozarks seek food assistance annually*

SPRINGFIELD—Embargoed for Feb. 4, 2010 Release—Ozarks Food Harvest has unveiled its landmark findings from the Hunger in America 2010 study. The study provides comprehensive and statistically valid data on the national charitable response to hunger and the people served by food pantries, soup kitchens, and shelters across the country.

[Hunger in America 2010](#) is the largest study of domestic hunger ever conducted. The study, conducted in the Spring of 2009 across [Feeding America](#)'s network of food banks, provided insights to the trends and conditions of those living in hunger. Approximately 329 clients were interviewed at selected program sites of Ozarks Food Harvest. On a national level, 61,000 individuals offered to share their stories. Client respondents provided information about various demographic characteristics of themselves and their households.

HIA revealed that Ozarks Food Harvest is serving three times as many individuals annually as previously estimated. More than 155,000 unduplicated individuals seek emergency food assistance from The Food Bank each year.

Among several findings, a few of the key highlights revealed:

- 78% of all clients are at or below the federal poverty line.
- Among those who have worked before or are currently working, 22.3% of clients either had or currently have managerial or professional jobs.
- One in three adults in client households did not eat **for a whole day** at least once during the previous 12 months because there was not enough money for food.

“These astounding findings are truly reflective of the increased need that Ozarks Food Harvest has seen,” said Bart Brown, CEO of The Food Bank. “With these results in hand we are even more compelled to meet our [Feeding Hope](#) strategic initiatives to increase food distribution efforts to the people in the 29 counties that we serve.”

The executive summary and complete study may be accessed [online](#) at ozarksfoodharvest.org/hungerstudy.html. For questions or further information about Hunger in America 2010, contact The Food Bank at (417) 865-3411.

Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank in southwest Missouri, serving more than 350 hunger relief organizations across 29 Ozarks counties. The Food Bank distributed seven million pounds of food during its last fiscal year—the highest distribution in its 27-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.

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Transform Hunger into Hope™ at ozarksfoodharvest.org

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