



Transforming Hunger into HOPE™



Compassion In Action Campaign Case Statement

*A comprehensive campaign to
Transform Hunger into Hope™ in the Ozarks.*

A Moving Mission, Touching Lives

Dear Friends:

I am proud to be a part of the effort that Ozarks Food Harvest, The Food Bank, is planning in order to strengthen our mission to transform hunger into hope across the Ozarks.

We initiated the *Compassion In Action* campaign for many important reasons, but perhaps none more important than the fact that hunger is a rapidly growing problem in the United States, and in the Ozarks, our region of Missouri. Recent poverty statistics show that an alarming number of people are turning to food pantries and congregate feeding sites for hunger assistance.

Too often, these charitable organizations struggle to keep up with the demand from needy individuals and families. It's Ozarks Food Harvest's responsibility to provide those organizations with food from our warehouse. However, it is apparent that our warehouse cannot accommodate all of the donations that are available, especially refrigerated and frozen food items.

Ozarks Food Harvest has been fortunate in receiving the continued support of its community, and we have been able to keep up, in part, with the rising need for hunger assistance. However, in order to continue to meet the growing demand, we must grow as well.

I and the rest of Ozarks Food Harvest's board members and campaign leaders ask that you take time to read this campaign statement and consider joining us in the worthwhile effort of helping Ozarks Food Harvest transform hunger into hope for more people in Southwest Missouri.

We pledge to be good stewards of your gifts, and commit ourselves to helping our friends and neighbors, all right here in the Ozarks. We are grateful for your time and consideration of our campaign.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "James M. Lewis".

Jim Lewis
CPA, Kirkpatrick Phillips & Miller
Campaign Co-Chair

Providing Service Across 40,000 Square Miles

Ozarks Food Harvest is the only food bank serving 29 counties in the Ozarks. As a clearinghouse for donated and salvaged food in Southwest Missouri, The Food Bank receives, stores and distributes between four and five million pounds of food to hunger-relief partner charities every year.

While this may sound like a staggering amount of food, population and poverty statistics for Ozarks Food Harvest's 29 county service area indicate a need for an annual distribution of eight to ten million pounds of food per year:



- Approximately 37,000 people receive food from Ozarks Food Harvest each month. Of those, 14,400 are either children under the age of 18 or older adults over age 65.
- In the Ozarks, there are more than 150,000 people at or below the poverty level, 50,000 of whom are children.
- In Greene County, where Ozarks Food Harvest is located, the poverty rate is 11 percent, and rates in more rural counties are greater than 25 percent. For example, in Ozark County 30% of children live in poverty; that's one in three children who do not have an adequate supply of basic necessities, including food.

Recently, the Springfield Community Focus group put out a study, *Community Focus, A Report Card for Springfield and Greene County*. The report highlighted strengths and weaknesses in the Greene County area. In a section titled "Red Flags" the group reported that:

- The needs of at-risk children are not being met.
- Greater numbers of our children are living in poverty.

A vast number of these children are from families who consist of the *working poor*; families where parents sometimes juggle numerous part-time jobs in an effort to support their children.

Low unemployment rates, in conjunction with double digit poverty rates, verify that the working poor are the fastest growing segment of those needing food assistance.

Where Does the Food Go?

The Food Bank distributed approximately 4.4 million pounds of food to more than 300 partner charities in 2006.

County	2006/2007 Food Dist. in pounds	Food Value in Dollars	County	2006/2007 Food Dist. in pounds	Food Value in Dollars	County	2006/2007 Food Dist. in pounds	Food Value in Dollars
Barry	122,279	\$205,429	Jasper	385,137	\$647,030	St. Clair	34,248	\$57,537
Barton	28,925	\$48,594	Laclede	75,466	\$126,783	Stone	148,544	\$249,554
Cedar	39,309	\$66,039	Lawrence	137,444	\$230,906	Taney	185,088	\$310,948
Christian	163,346	\$274,421	McDonald	79,662	\$133,832	Texas	153,088	\$257,188
Dade	29,995	\$50,392	Newton	98,714	\$165,840	Vernon	46,828	\$78,671
Dallas	60,746	\$102,053	Oregon	124,114	\$208,512	Webster	114,993	\$193,188
Dent	121,482	\$204,090	Ozark	50,201	\$84,338	Wright	87,742	\$147,407
Douglas	39,219	\$65,888	Phelps	97,633	\$164,023	Arkansas Distribution	132,041	\$221,829
Greene	919,052	\$1,544,007	Polk	158,270	\$265,894			
Hickory	29,780	\$50,030	Pulaski	119,390	\$200,575	Disaster Relief	312,558	\$525,097
Howell	166,927	\$280,437	Shannon	229,100	\$384,888			

Additionally, Ozarks Food Harvest offers direct-relief through a number of programs such as:



Why a Campaign?

For over two decades Ozarks Food Harvest has filled the plates of tens of thousands of children and adults throughout 29 counties of the Ozarks. However, in recent years, the warehouse Ozarks Food Harvest has leased since 1989 and used to receive, store, and distribute food has reached its limitations both in size and suitability.

In order to take advantage of as much donated food as possible, it is vital for Ozarks Food Harvest to adapt to changes in the food industry – particularly the prevalence of frozen and refrigerated food. This trend has resulted in a dramatic increase in donations of frozen and perishable food to Ozarks Food Harvest.

Last year, The Food Bank was forced to turn down over a quarter of a million pounds of food because there was simply nowhere to store it prior to distribution. Overflow freezer space at two other locations helps, but is not always available. The majority of frozen food is currently stored at a freezer facility 30 miles away from our warehouse, and more food is housed at the Springfield Underground warehouse. This creates significant inefficiencies for our staff.

In addition to these challenges associated with frozen food handling, we do not currently have space to pull and store orders for delivery. Large orders must be pulled and stacked in aisles ahead of time. Still more food is stored in the aisles awaiting a bin location because the receiving dock cannot support even one full semi-truck load of food. This lack of space also impacts efficient inspection of incoming product.



Clearly, this is a poor situation for inventory control and efficiency. Money spent in leasing

the existing facility and moving frozen food from location to location would be much better spent on moving food directly to the people who need it most.

Last year, The Food Bank was forced to turn down over a quarter of a million pounds of food because there was simply nowhere to store it prior to distribution.

The Answer: A Larger, More Efficient Warehouse

A larger warehouse with adequate freezer and refrigeration space will allow Ozarks Food Harvest to meet its long-range goals to:

- Broaden our food distribution, especially to extremely impoverished rural communities.



- Offer more food assistance to greater numbers of low-income children, families, and older adults.

- Expand our direct-service programs to help meet unmet needs of people in the Ozarks.



Proposed Food Warehouse

A new building with the features described below will allow us to double the amount of food we distribute to impoverished families and children in the Ozarks.



Dry Receiving, Storage and Shipping Areas

These areas will be used to store shelf stable products. The new warehouse design will provide an efficient flow of products from the receiving docks to sorting rooms for inspection. Once inspected, the sorting rooms will flow to storage racks.



Refrigerated and Frozen Receiving and Storage Areas

These separate temperature-controlled receiving docks will accommodate the safe handling and inspection of perishable product. Once inspected these products will flow directly to coolers and freezers. With adequate refrigeration and freezer space designed for forklift traffic, we will be able to accommodate more of this frequently donated type of food.



Docks and Product Sorting Room

Docks will accommodate 6-8 trailers simultaneously for improved receiving and shipping of product, and will be convenient to storage and inspection areas.



Meeting and Training Rooms

Meeting and training rooms will allow for large meetings, workshops and training sessions for our agency partners.

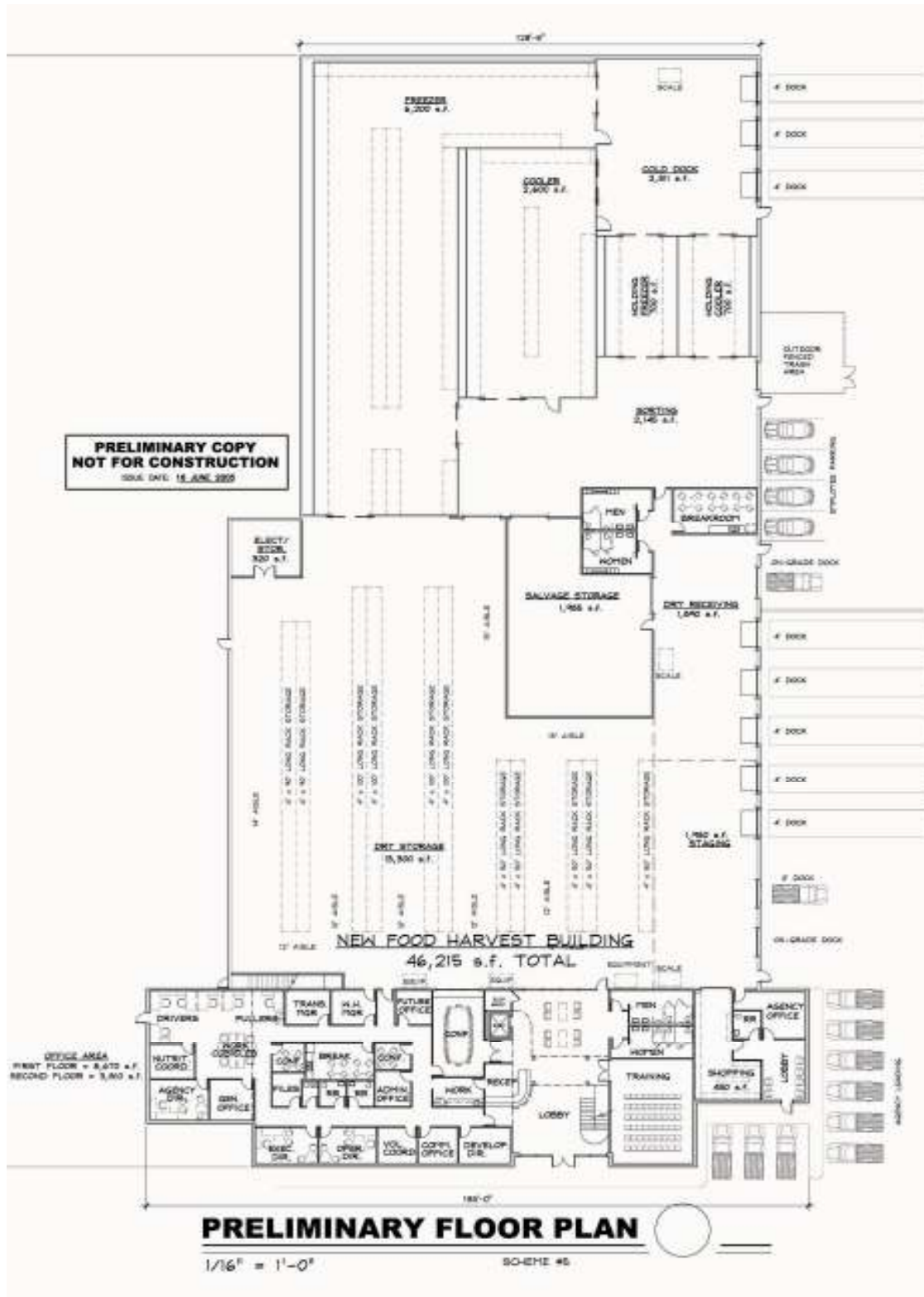


Capital Equipment

Necessary program-related equipment such as fork lifts, delivery vehicles, racks for storage, electric pallet jacks, and warehouse furnishings and administration and operations equipment including a phone system, furnishings and fixtures.

**But what does a new facility really mean?
Donations will reach the right locations in the
most efficient manner possible.
What it means is food on the table.
What it requires is **Compassion in Action.****

Proposed Food Warehouse



Campaign Goals

Construction and Real Estate	\$3,225,000
Distribution & Storage Equipment	450,000
Office, Technology and Communications Equipment	225,000
Professional Fees and Campaign Costs	200,000
Total Project Costs	\$4,100,000

"The size, shape, and design of our facility directly relates to the number of people we need to serve. After 16 years in our current building, it's time for a new home - a home that allows us to serve, with dignity and compassion, the more than 37,000 people depending on us each month." - **Bart Brown, Executive Director**



Ways of Giving

How can I make a gift to the campaign?

Donations to this campaign may be pledged and gifted over several years. Ozarks Food Harvest is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit under the IRS Code. As such, the campaign can accept a variety of gifts, including:

Gifts of cash.

Gifts of securities, including stocks, bonds, mutual funds and IRAs.

Gifts of personal property (i.e. gun collections, antique cars, artwork, etc.).

Gifts of real property, including real estate, homes, business property, farmland, etc.

Gifts of trusts, including charitable remainder trusts, unitrusts, lead trusts, family trusts, annuity trusts, etc.

Gifts of insurance, as long as Ozarks Food Harvest is both owner and beneficiary.

Gifts of bequests (i.e. gifts received at death directed by a will or living trust.)

We encourage you to discuss these various giving methods with your accountant and attorney and select the most effective way for you to support the campaign.

Ozarks Food Harvest

615 N. Glenstone Ave. | Springfield, MO 65802

P 417.865.3411 | F 417.865.0504

Transform Hunger Into Hope at www.ozarksfoodharvest.org

Tax I.D. Number 43-1426384

From The Executive Director

Dear Friends:

This year Ozarks Food Harvest proudly recognizes our twenty-fourth year of service as the only food bank serving 29 counties in Southwest Missouri. One way we measure our success is by pounds of nutritious food distributed to hungry people, however, the weight of gratitude felt by our clients is immeasurable.

Over the past two decades we have distributed 80 million pounds of food. Instead of looking back on our accomplishments, we're looking ahead toward the next 20 years of hunger relief for our community.

We know that there is much more to do to aggressively fight hunger in the communities we serve. Our long range goals include doubling the pounds of food we currently distribute, and offering a better variety of food items for our agency partners. This will allow us to serve more low-income children, families, and older adults who don't have adequate access to nutritious food.

We also know that a larger facility is crucial to achieving these goals. If we are to grow our mission and meet the needs of the Ozarks we must grow our warehouse, distribution fleet, and outreach and education efforts.

As we look to the next twenty years we are excited to embrace our responsibility as the hunger resource for the Ozarks. With the help of our family of supporters, we can break the cycle of hunger and impact the lives of literally tens of thousands of people each year. What better investment can you think of than the return of hope, health, and productivity to our communities?

On behalf of Ozarks Food Harvest and those we serve, thank you for your support and strength. Working together, we can transform hunger into hope!



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bart Brown". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bart Brown
Executive Director

Compassion in Action Campaign Leadership Committee Members

Honorary Campaign Chairs

Charlie and Mary Beth O'Reilly
Tim and Brooke O'Reilly
Pat O'Reilly
Ryan O'Reilly

Campaign Co-Chairs

Jim Lewis Mike Mattson

Committee Members

Mike Briggs	Mike Pinkston
Bob Lawson	Tom Rankin
Denise LeBolt	Mindy Spitz
Gaynell Magers	James Young
Jim Magers	

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Ozarks Food Harvest is a member of America's Second Harvest, the largest domestic hunger relief organization in America.