



MEDIA RELEASE

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Next era of hunger relief begins for The Food Bank *Ozarks Food Harvest begins its move into a new food distribution facility*

SPRINGFIELD, Mo – Ozarks Food Harvest, The Food Bank announces the beginning of the move into its new food distribution facility at 2810 N. Cedarbrook this week.

This end to the four-year *Compassion in Action* capital campaign for a new food bank is a significant milestone for Ozarks Food Harvest. At maximum capacity in its current facility, The Food Bank has been forced to turn away food donations due to lack of adequate space.

The new facility, at 46,000 square feet, will allow for greater storage and distribution capabilities. Additionally, the building is equipped with “green,” technology; including cooler & freezer sensors that use 30% less energy than conventional units and features energy-star rated lighting and appliances.

The integral move comes at a critical point for Ozarks Food Harvest, as it is now serving more than 53,000 unduplicated individuals each month. It is projected this may rise to nearly 65,000 individuals a month by year’s end.

The Food Bank is additionally reporting a record distribution total of more than 7 million pounds of food this fiscal year, topping last year’s record of more than 5 million. It is estimated that the new building will allow The Food Bank to distribute nearly 10 million pounds of food in its initial year.

Ozarks Food Harvest will be formally operating in the new location by June 30th. The facility is located in the Rankin-O’Reilly Development just north of East Kearney. The Food Bank will be accepting food donations at the new facility. For detailed directions please call 865-3411 or visit www.ozarksfoodharvest.org.

Ozarks Food Harvest works with more than 350 hunger relief organizations, reaching more than 53,000 people each month in 29 southwest Missouri counties. Ozarks Food Harvest has doubled its distribution to more than seven million pounds of food annually, the highest distribution in The Food Bank’s 25-year history. This is possible because of its network of charities and direct relief programs such as Kids Cafe®, the Weekend Backpack Program™, Club F.U.N.™ and the Mobile Food Pantry™.

For more information about the new Ozarks Food Harvest facility or for special tours, please contact PR & Events Coordinator, Kelly Richard, at 417-865-3411 or krichard@ozarksfoodharvest.org.

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