



OZARKS  
Food Harvest

The Food Bank

a member of  
America's  
Second Harvest  
The Nation's  
Food Bank Network  
Ending Hunger.

# time Harvest

Celebrating 25 Years | 2008 Winter Edition

For a list of member agencies, visit us  
online at [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org)



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## 2008: The Food Bank's 25th Anniversary and in the final phases of the *Compassion in Action* campaign

Entering into the final phases of the capital campaign, Ozarks Food Harvest is three quarters of the way to it's \$4.1 million goal for the new distribution center!

The Food Bank hopes to break ground before the end of the year.

"We're asking supporters in our community to come forth and help us make The Kresge Foundation challenge grant," Development Director Denise Gibson said. "We have until October 1 of this year to qualify for these out-of-state matching funds."

If you'd like to make a gift to help meet the increasing need in southwest Missouri, call Denise Gibson at (417) 865-3411 or learn more about the campaign online at [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/capital.html](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/capital.html).



### WHY a campaign?

This campaign is about feeding more people in the Ozarks. With a new building, The Food Bank will no longer be forced to turn away large food donations.

### WHY a new building?

Ozarks Food Harvest leases its current warehouse, which doesn't have enough space, specifically freezer space! It lacks the room required to pull and store agency orders—it has been using aisles for this purpose, which also makes it hard for volunteers to help pack food boxes.

### WHY a new location?

It's extremely difficult for large tractor trailers to deliver donations to the current facility. The Food Bank's delivery trucks face the same challenge.

## Join OFH and discover *The Art of Ending Hunger*™

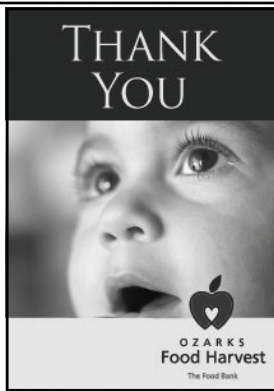
You're invited to see one-of-a-kind hand-painted artwork from artists across the Ozarks on **March 29 at Patton Alley Pub!** Join The Food Bank at **6:30 pm**, and take a look at the unique pieces these artists have been creating, all up for auction! Enjoy hors d'oeuvres, live music, a cash bar, and conversation—not to mention the chance to bid on amazing artwork!

Tickets are only \$25 for this first year event, with all proceeds going to food distribution and programs.

Call Lindsey at 865-3411 by March 14 to make your reservation. Hurry, tickets are limited! (Don't worry about parking - the new College Park garage is just around the corner from The Pub and it's free!)

Special thanks to our friends at Patton Alley Pub, Springfield Pottery, Graif Design, Kirkpatrick Phillips & Miller, Springfield Grocer, Panera Bread, Lathrop & Gage, LLC, Alice@95.5, US Food Service, Traders Printing, Sign Us and more!





### THANK YOU Ozarks for raising more than \$20,000 by adding \$1 to your grocery bills over the holidays!

Please support *Akins, Dillon's, Harter House, Murfin's Markets, Ramey-Price Cutter, Smillie's, Summer Fresh and Woods* for allowing OFH to place holiday fundraising materials in their stores! A special thanks to our new partner, *Cody's Convenience Stores*, and to event sponsors: *Graif Design, McCann Printing, KY3, Clear Channel Communications, and Community Publishers, Inc.*

#### St. John's is a Force for Good

St. John's Clinics physicians and co-workers again raised \$40,000 for The Food Bank. The funds are for OFH's *Compassion in Action* capital campaign.



#### Smart Chicken® donates 7,000 pounds of frozen chicken

MBA Poultry brand, Smart Chicken®, donated individually packaged chickens for the fifth annual *Feed the Hungry* promotion for The Food Bank!

#### Missouri State Employees Charitable Campaign donates nearly \$3,000

Thanks to MSECC, state employees deducted donations to The Food Bank via payroll. Call 865-3411 if you want to add OFH to your charitable giving plan.



#### Presley's Country Jubilee sponsors Kids Cafe® for 9th consecutive year!

We can't thank the Presley family enough for being so instrumental in the growth of the after-school feeding program, Kids Cafe®.

#### Bee Payne Stewart Foundation supports The Food Bank

Thank you BPSF and welcome to our family of supporters!

## Run for food in Panera Bread's 2nd annual HUNGER RUN

Support The Food Bank and run in Panera Bread's 8K or 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk on Saturday, April 26 at 8 am. Registration begins at 7 am in the parking lot in front of Panera on E. Sunshine in the Southern Hills Shopping Center.

Or pre-register by picking up a form at a Panera Bread location. The 8K is \$20 (or \$25 day of race) and the 1 Mile is \$15 (or \$20 day of race). Pre-registration deadline is April 18. Call Mindy Spitz at (417) 889-8282 for more information.

2008 Hunger Run  
Panera 8K | 1 Mile Fun Run/Walk



## Be a part of Ozarks Harvesting Hope

While most gardeners in the Ozarks usually grow more fruits and veggies than they can consume, there are thousands of people across southwest Missouri who could feast on these harvests.

Please become one of the gardeners joining the local **Ozarks Harvesting Hope**—part of the national Plant a Row for the Hungry campaign. This is a people-helping-people program. Everyday people, just like you, who care enough to plant a little extra in your garden and deliver it to Ozarks Food Harvest. We'll see to it that your generous donations reach those who need it most.

There's no money involved. Just you, your garden and some folks in the Ozarks who need fresh food. It's that easy. And immensely rewarding.

Tune in to all the local media outlets for updates!



#### Good choices to plant include:

Peas, beans, corn, tomatoes, potatoes, squash, cucumbers, cabbage, broccoli, Brussels sprouts, carrots, onions, zucchini, eggplant, rhubarb, sweet peppers, garlic, blueberries, strawberries, apples, peaches, and melons.

## Food drives decline after holidays

"We live in a world where food is at our fingertips. The only thing larger than the variety of meals out there is our portion sizes. And while many don't think twice about getting seconds, thousands of people in the Ozarks are going without a first helping," KOLR10's Angie Weidinger reported.

Perhaps it was the media's special town hall meeting on childhood poverty in November that caused this year's successful holiday food drives, we can't be sure, but one thing we do know — Ozarks Food Harvest saw record-breaking food drives during the holiday season (see below drives which raised more than 1,000 pounds).

New supporters hosted holiday parties such as downtown Springfield's 1984 Arcade, which donated its admission costs to The Food Bank. And a generous amount of businesses, organizations, clubs and groups spread their holiday cheer with visits to OFH's

#### These Holiday Food Drives collected more than 1,000 lbs! (Listed are from Nov.-Jan.)

Crockett Chiropractic	Hollywood Video (Kearney)
Gamma Sigma Sigma (MSU)	Imperial Body and Design
Lambda Chi Alpha (Drury)	Meta Games Unlimited
Spfd. Remanufacturing Co.	US Army (561st TC Detach.)
Sodexo (MSU)	

**Shopping for the hungry,** Becky Yeubanks and her women's quilting club skipped out on their holiday gift exchange and purchased food items for OFH instead!

donation drop-off. Unfortunately, donations to Ozarks Food Harvest dramatically decline after the holidays.

"We're supposed to have a full refrigerator but we don't...I don't like it when I'm hungry," one child told us. For every plate or backpack we help fill, we know there's another one of these tiny voices. Please remember your neighbors in need during these slow giving months, and consider holding or participating in a food drive.

For a list of most needed food items or to register your food drive, go to [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/fooddrive.html](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/fooddrive.html).



# Hungry neighbors need a Farm Bill Now



Every day the front page proclaims another devastating piece of news. More home foreclosures and increased unemployment, bankruptcies, higher gas prices and the rising cost of just about everything.

Meanwhile, our staff and agency partners are working on the front lines each day to feed the thousands of hungry moms, grandparents, working poor and children across southwest Missouri. These families are struggling to make ends meet and are forced to make hard choices.

Too often, these difficult decisions are causing families to go hungry. And when these families turn to their local food pantry for assistance, too often the shelves are too bare to provide the help they desperately need.

That's why Ozarks Food Harvest has been urging the enactment of the Farm Bill, and versions of the Farm Bill have already passed the House and Senate.

This month, a House-Senate conference committee will draft and hopefully approve a final Farm Bill conference report.

Once passed by the House and Senate, the conference report will be sent to President Bush for his signature. President Bush has indicated that he may not sign the legislation into law if the final conference report is not to his liking.

Instead of wondering where the next meal will come from, or how the shelves can be replenished, the Farm Bill provides a long term, stable source of help to people whose needs are significant.

It is imperative that Congress advance and the President sign a final Farm Bill so that vulnerable Ozarks families can count on putting food on their table. To learn more please visit [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org).



**Denise Gibson**  
*Director of Development & Communications*

## Parents balance family and school with agency's help

Tucked away in a church basement in a quiet rural Missouri community, a few handfuls of kids eat a hot evening meal and then play games like Connect Four, complete their daily homework or get creative with art supplies.

Meanwhile, the children's parents are in night classes at Drury University's campus in Cabool.

"I had a mother and a father in my class and they both missed class one night because they couldn't find a sitter for their three ill children," Drury instructor Sharon Marler said.

"It's hard for parents to juggle families and school. I understand that sometimes my Drury students' kids get sick or sometimes there aren't financial means to get someone to look after their kids, and this makes it very difficult for them to attend classes".

Marler knew there had to be something that could be done to help parents get an education – and the Drury Daycare was born. Every Monday through Thursday night from five to ten, parents who are students at Drury use the service while they attend their evening college classes.

Seniors at the Cabool Senior Center and other community members donate crayons, markers, paper and other needed supplies. Carol Aldridge and Helen Sharkey look after the children for a fee of \$2 per child per night. The facility and the utilities are provided free of charge by the First United Methodist Church of Cabool for the Spring 2008 semester. And Ozarks Food Harvest provides

much of the food.

But when the program began in Spring 2005, Drury Daycare was not housed in the church's basement; it was renting the senior center for the service it provided. Program costs were provided through a Safe Schools Healthy Students grant written by Cabool's high school principal, Jon Turner.

Unfortunately, once the grant funding was depleted, Drury Daycare was forced to find another home.

"We only had three weeks left at the senior center, and I was asking around town to see if anyone could house the daycare at no cost, when Pastor Art Ellsworth of the First United Methodist Church said they had been looking for a mission to help out Drury University," Marler said. "I thought, this is what we had been praying for."

Providers Carol and Helen usually see six to eight children each night, but there have been as little as three kids, and as many as 15, to look after at once.

The children at Drury Daycare also receive a Big Brothers, Big Sisters-type of mentoring, which is offered

through Drury's education course, "Classroom Management," in which Sharon Marler uses a mentoring model to teach her class.

Angela, a parent of two children, told The Food Bank, "Because of the daycare, I am able to attend college, and be able to obtain a career that will support my family and I without state assistance."

Dorothy said, "I am a single mom of three, and if it was not for the Drury Daycare, I would not be able to attend college. This program has made it possible for me to get off welfare and be able to provide for my kids on my own."

Another parent said, "We have been provided a good childcare where our kids can do homework and are also fed while we attend class. This childcare is very beneficial and is a blessing. Thank you for the wonderful program. God Bless".

*This is the last semester Drury Daycare will receive funding from the Safe Schools Healthy Students grant. If you would like to make a monetary, food or school supply donation, please call Sharon Marler at (417) 741-7318.*



**Malanie May, age 6, sits with caregiver Helen at the Drury Daycare in Cabool.**

# From the Executive Director

I am constantly amazed at the number of people and organizations that work with The Food Bank.

Each week we receive food and product donations from companies like Associated Wholesale Grocers, Kraft Foods, Proctor & Gamble, Kellogg's and General Mills to name just a few.

These donations are distributed to pantries, shelters, churches and residential programs. If you know of a local organization that feeds hungry people in southwest Missouri, chances are the charity is a member of Ozarks Food Harvest's network. OFH's membership has now grown to 325 non-profits across 29 counties.

Most of the people working at our member agencies are volunteers. At our warehouse in Springfield, 1,200 people volunteer each year to prepare food and products for distribution.

Volunteer organizations such as Female Leaders in Philanthropy, St. John's Force for Good and area Rotary Clubs also spend countless hours raising funds for The Food Bank's hunger relief programs every year.

Why do so many people get involved in the fight against hunger? It's because they know a child does not learn on an empty stomach or that a senior should not have to choose between medication and food.

It's because they know hunger should not exist in America. It's because they know that it takes all of us working together to *Transform Hunger into Hope*.

Thank you for your valued partnership.



**Bart Brown**  
*Executive Director*

## Ways to Give

You can help our clients by contacting your state representative today!

Ozarks Food Harvest is joining representatives from hunger relief organizations across the state for the 4th annual Food Bank Advocacy Day in Jefferson City on March 27. For more information, visit [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/advocacy.html](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/advocacy.html).

### Take the Feinstein Challenge this Spring!

For the 11th straight year, The Feinstein Foundation of Rhode Island will divide \$1 million among hunger fighting agencies nationwide to help organizations like The Food Bank to raise funds during a low giving time of the year (March and April).

All donations to The Food Bank in March and April 2008 will qualify for the challenge. The more of a donation you send, the more of the Feinstein \$1 million OFH gets.

Go to [www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/money.html](http://www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/money.html) and click on the "Donate Now" button. To learn more about The Feinstein Challenge Ozarks Food Harvest participates in every year, call (417) 865-3411 or you can visit [www.feinsteinfoundation.org](http://www.feinsteinfoundation.org).

## Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| Bart Brown, Executive Director             | Mike Doubledee, Warehouse Associate      |
| Denise Gibson, Development Director        | Brent Dunn, Warehouse Associate          |
| James Thompson, Operations Director        | Lindsey Neddenriep, Event/PR Coordinator |
| Jan Tucker, Agency Relations Director      | Jacque Neill, Resource Coordinator       |
| Jodi Alcon, Community Outreach Coordinator | Russell Phillips, Transportation         |
| Cindy Boggs, Office Administrator          | Stephen Roberts, Transportation          |
| Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor | Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator       |
| Traci Boyd, Administrative Assistant       | Jane Terry, Information Assistant        |
| James Dodd, Transportation                 | Linda Tinson, Agency Relations Assistant |

### 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:

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Building Fund    | <input type="checkbox"/> Food For Thought™    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kids Cafe®/Club FUN™ | <input type="checkbox"/> Food Distribution    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile Food Pantry™  | <input type="checkbox"/> 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!**