



OZARKS
Food Harvest

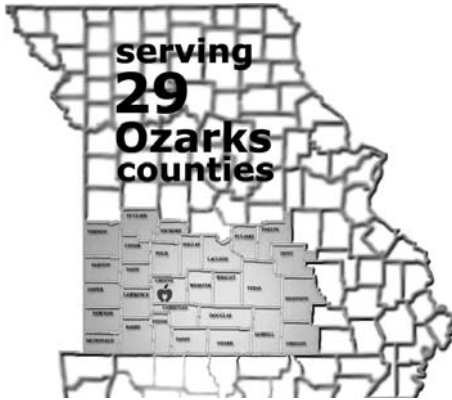
The Food Bank

Harvest A Member of **FEEDING AMERICA** Time

Celebrating 25 Years in the Ozarks

2009 Spring Edition, May 2009

For a list of member charities, visit:
ozarksfoodharvet.org



Food Bank readies for move

Next phase of hunger relief will begin in June

The harsh winter winds have given way to spring showers and when the summer heat moves into Ozarks, a new season will be in bloom for Ozarks Food Harvest.

On June 15, construction is scheduled to be completed on The Food Bank's new \$4.8 million warehouse. When Ozarks Food Harvest employees leave the current warehouse for the last time, it will mark the end of a 20 year era of fighting hunger from the

North Glenstone location.

The move also signifies a chance for the distribution of more hope throughout southwest Missouri. The minute the new warehouse becomes operational, The Food Bank will have access to five times the amount of cold storage and twice as much space for dry storage.

With the added storage capacity, Ozarks Food Harvest is hoping that in three years, it can distribute as much as 10 million pounds of food each year. That number would be double what is being accomplished today and possibly signify helping feed more than 100,000 food insecure people each month.

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James Young, Bus Andrews Equipment, Inc.

Stay tuned for upcoming info about the new warehouse's Grand Opening celebration.

HUNGERTHON 2009

Hungerthon 2009 may be the most important fundraiser in The Food Bank's history.

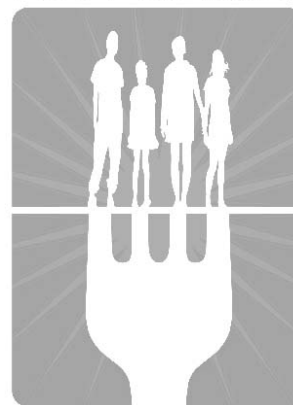
With America, and the Ozarks, stuck in what some say is the worst economic era since the Great Depression, more people than ever need help making ends meet.

However, Ozarks Food Harvest will count on the generosity of community members to make a difference during this time of need.

"While people could have forgotten about The Food Bank during the past few months, donations have

actually been at an all time high," says Bart Brown, Executive Director at Ozarks Food Harvest. "We're counting on the community

FEEDING HOPE



HUNGERTHON • 2009

to make the same commitment to help their neighbors in need with this year's Hungerthon."

As in years past, Hungerthon will feature Alice 95.5 FM personalities Kevin Howard, Liz Delany and Tony Matteo. Starting June 5th, these three will again bring Hungerthon to life for four days outside of the historic Tower Theater in Springfield.

This year's theme is "Feeding Hope" and will focus on raising money for the Weekend Backpack Program, which helped feed 840 kids during the 2008-2009 school year.

Thanks for Transforming Hunger into Hope™



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA

Again, local Boy Scouts and community members helped make Scouting for Food a successful food drive.

More than a dozen local troops collected food and made donations to Ozarks Food Harvest, with others taking their collections to local area food pantries.

Troop 216 collected the most food this year and was awarded with a trip to a Missouri State Bears Baseball game later this spring.



With a little magic from a few Disney characters, KY3 Inc. helped add a little hope to The Food Bank's shelves.

KY3 Inc., which includes KY3 and KSPR, adopted Ozarks Food Harvest as a charity of choice because of its impact on the community. When the company helped bring Disney on Ice to town, they used the popular show to entice food donations before each performance.



The second annual Art of Ending Hunger™ built upon the success of last year's event and offered both The Food Bank and its supporters with a night filled with fun, food and goodwill.

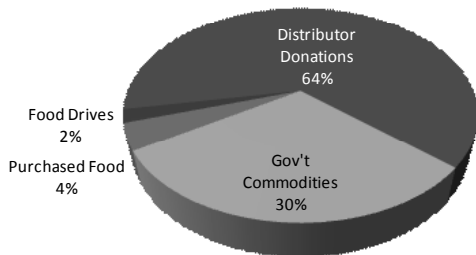
Added to this year's event was a live auction, which featured art from some of the Ozarks most accomplished artists, including Kristi Mashburn and Dr. Nancy O'Reilly. All told, more than \$8,000 was collected for Ozarks Food Harvest.



Year after year, American Family Insurance has stepped to the plate for Ozarks Food Harvest. This spring was no exception and again American Family hit a home run for The Food Bank.

Before the Springfield Cardinal's games on April 25 and 26, the insurance company helped collect 378 pounds of food and \$335 in monetary donations from Cardinals fans.

Where food donations come from:



Mobile Food Pantry program fueled up for a busy summer

Food Bank's second MFP added to fleet

With some local assistance, Ozarks Food Harvest will now be able to offer those in need near Lebanon four more chances to stock their pantries.

The Lelia Heuer Foundation will provide funding to The Food Bank so it can make six Mobile Food Pantry stops in the Lebanon area, once a month, which started in March. Each stop provides more than 7,500 pounds of food assistance.

Five Lebanon organizations will help with the distributions and will pre-qualify applicants for the food assistance. These organizations are COPE, Ministerial Alliance, Crosslines of Lebanon, the American Red Cross and the Salvation Army.

Heuer Foundation board members say they're hoping this partnership with Ozarks Food Harvest will encourage others in the community to step

forward to help meet the needs of the growing unemployed population in Laclede County.

Ozarks Food Harvest leaders echo this request, saying it will take community support to keep this partnership alive after the foundation's funding is gone.

This partnership also marks the beginning of a new strategy for utilizing the Mobile Food Pantry and that's where two other foundations will help out as well.

The Slusher Foundation and the Musgrave Foundation will also help The Food Bank deliver food items with the Mobile Food Pantry to areas where large workforce cuts have been made.

And, because of Springfield Rotary and Ridewell Suspensions, Ozarks Food Harvest will have a second Mobile Food Pantry hitting the highways this month.

With two fully operational trucks, The Food Bank hopes it can reach it's goal of increasing distribution among rural Ozark towns.



Tax credits still available

Ozarks Food Harvest received tax credits to leverage contributions to our Compassion in Action Capital Campaign to build our new distribution warehouse. The Missouri Neighborhood Assistance Program (NAP) state tax credits will be awarded to capital campaign contributors and can be applied directly to your state income tax liability.

These tax credits equal 50% of the value of the contribution and represent payments that donors may then claim (or redeem) when filing state tax returns. The actual "after tax" costs of a contribution qualifying for NAP credits can be just a few cents for each dollar donated.

We have \$73,000 in tax credits remaining that must be utilized by June 30, 2009 or they must be returned to the state of Missouri.

If you have any questions, please call (417) 865-3411. If you have technical questions about the tax credits, please visit the Missouri Department of Economic Development website or speak with your financial planner.

Please take advantage of this important tax credit and make a donation to help fight hunger in the Ozarks.

Hungerthon a tradition of teamwork

Hungerthon has a special place in our hearts. Each year, we anxiously await these four days when we rally with Alice 95.5 FM in anticipation of bringing more hope to the people in the Ozarks.

It is a tradition of teamwork that brings us together each year with the community. It is this tradition that has helped bring thousands of children healthy meals to eat over the weekend.

Although each year is important; this year may be the most crucial in Hungerthon's 11-year history. The shock waves of the nation's economy have rippled throughout the Ozarks, leaving many people without steady work.

The Food Bank is faced with the task of feeding more people than ever before. We're now serving more than 53,000 people each month, up from the 45,000 a month that we served last year. Unfortunately, the statistics

show that this number will increase to 65,000 by the end of 2009.

This year, we truly need your support during this critical time. We ask you to join us this June 5th through the 8th as we challenge the Ozarks to step forward to fight hunger.

Whether you call in to make your pledge or if you visit us at the historic Tower Theater; know that we cannot do this alone, it takes teamwork.

So please, come join our tradition that is making a difference in the lives of the families in our community. We promise that this team is one that you can count on.



Denise Gibson
Development
Director

Jefferson City hosts Hunger Advocacy Day

Led by The Food Bank's Member Services department, Hunger Advocacy Day 2009 was the largest in the event's history.

Nearly 100 hunger advocates from the Ozarks Food Harvest network attended the day long rally, which was held in the capital building in Jefferson City. Dozens of representatives from the other four food banks in Missouri also attended. The group was big enough this year that the capital's rotunda was used to house the meeting throughout the day, a first for Hunger Advocacy Day.

This trip was focused around the advancement and support of hunger assistance legislation. Each attendee was given a chance to sit and speak with their local state representative and senator.

One such representative, Bob Nance from the Kansas City area, requested continued support for House Bill 156, which would increase the food stamp minimum for seniors. This bill has already passed in the House and is awaiting approval from the Senate.



Above: Margaret Lawellin from Crosslines in Joplin meets her state representative, Marilyn Ruestman. Lawellin was just one of more than 90 hunger advocates from the Ozarks Food Harvest network who made the trip to Jefferson City. Ozarks Food Harvest was easily the most represented food bank at Hunger Advocacy Day.

'Chef for a Day' returns for summer programs

With the summer months fast approaching, children are counting the days until the final school bell of the year.

However, for thousands of children in the Ozarks, leaving school for a few months often means leaving consistent meals for the time being.

These are kids who often have nothing to eat at home, receiving their only meals from the free and reduced school breakfast and lunch programs.

On top of the normal summer feeding schedule, the popular "Chef for a Day" program will return from last summer.

Once a week, a local chef will bring his talents to one of the summer feeding sites. But, these chefs come for more than just food preparation. A different

handful of kids get a chance to learn from the chef and help prepare the days meal.

You can help make sure these kids receive the food they need outside of the classroom by making a donation to one of the children's feeding programs offered by Ozarks Food Harvest.



A program of
FEEDING AMERICA

National Hunger Survey Completed

For the past month, Ozarks Food Harvest employees and volunteers have participated in a national hunger study in an attempt to better understand the people they serve.

As part of Feeding America's national hunger survey, 28 member agencies opened their doors to volunteers and food bank employees, who in turn spoke with hundreds of food insecure people. The informa-

tion collected will be tabulated and distributed to food banks across the United States later this year.

Ozarks Food Harvest plans to use information for grant applications to bring more resources to the southwest Missouri.

Plus, with a better understanding of client's needs, The Food Bank can address areas with specific needs and provide appropriate resources.



New warehouse a community accomplishment

Ozarks Food Harvest has seen its 25th birthday come and go.

In those 25 years, a lot has changed in both our community and with our organization.

We've both grown tremendously, almost faster than most expected and probably faster than we all knew how to handle.

But, just like the people of the Ozarks have dealt with the changes a larger community faces, The Food Bank is preparing to face similar challenges.

In the coming month, Ozarks Food Harvest will move into a brand new, state-of-the-art distribution center on the north side of Springfield.

This building was made possible because of you and your support, your trust in what The Food Bank has done and is preparing to do.

And, the completion of this community project couldn't have come at a better time. More than five years ago, when Ozarks Food Harvest embarked on its capital campaign, no one would have envisioned the struggles our country would be fighting through today. Now, there are more people in need than we ever envisioned.

But, because of the community's belief in our organization, we're prepared to handle anything that comes our way.

This new building will truly be a tool for the entire com-

munity to aid its needy neighbors. The space for storage will almost triple, allowing us to store a surplus of food instead of simply shipping it out as fast as it's received.

Ozarks Food Harvest will be able to solicit more resources from local and national corporations. This in turn will help us stock the storage space at a faster pace.

Our new warehouse also represents a new home, one with room to grow. Currently, Ozarks Food Harvest is in a rented warehouse. The new warehouse will be first home for The Food Bank that is truly its own. We plan to utilize this warehouse for many years to come.

Helping us reach this dream come true were some very special people, people who spent their precious time helping Ozarks Food Harvest when there was nothing in it for them. To these honorary campaign leaders, we say thank you.

However, and I'm sure these people would agree, a special thanks should probably be given to the entire community, to the entire Ozarks.

Because, for 25 years, you are the ones who have helped and allowed us to grow into what we are today. We hope we have done you proud.



Bart Brown
Executive Director

Ways to Give...



Supporting a charity of your choice is often an experience that offers instance gratification. A certain group appeals to your beliefs and you decide to offer your support with donations or by volunteering.

However, that feeling of helping others can be expanded for years to come with a little planning and help ensure The Food Bank has support down the road.

Now, it's never easy to discuss planned gifts among family members. But, your families future support of Ozarks Food Harvest is vitally important in the continued fight against hunger.

If a gift or bequest appeals to your family, we encourage you to speak with your accountant and attorney to select an effective way of setting up your will or living trust so that The Food Bank is supported for years to come.

Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

Bart Brown, Executive Director	Matt Petcoff, Communications Coordinator
Denise Gibson, Development Director	Kelly Richard, Public Relations Coordinator
James Thompson, Operations Director	Jacque Neill, Volunteer Coordinator
Jan Tucker, Agency Relations Director	Stephen Roberts, Transportation
Jodi Alcon, Community Nutrition Coordinator	Morris McKee, Warehouse Associate
Cindy Boggs, Office Administrator	Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor	Jane Terry, Creative Information Specialist
Mike Doubleddee, Warehouse Associate	Linda Tinson, Member Services Supervisor
Eddie Hicks, Warehouse Associate	Lucy Indyushkin, Front Desk Receptionist

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:

New Building Fund Backpack Program

Kids Cafe®/Club Fun™ Food Distribution

Mobile Food Pantry™ 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!

Harvest Time is created by the Ozarks Food Harvest's Development and Communications Department:
Denise Gibson, Director • Matt Petcoff, Communications Coordinator • Kelly Richard, Public Relations Coordinator
We welcome your input... If you have any questions or comments, please call us at (417) 865-3411.