



OZARKS Food Harvest

The Food Bank

time Harvest



A member of

Celebrating more than 25 years in the Ozarks

Spring Edition, May 2010

Learn about The Food Bank's Network of 350 charities at ozarksfoodharvest.org



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HUNGERTHON™ 2010 is a community-wide event



"One Monday morning during recess, I sat visiting with one of my students about her weekend," a teacher wrote to The Food Bank.

"We discussed what we had done over the weekend, and I asked the child what she had for dinner. 'We shared an apple,' she said, meaning that the six siblings in the family had one apple to share for their meal! As we talked more, I learned that the last meal for the children had been at school on Friday."

Thanks to HUNGERTHON™ and Ozarks Food Harvest's Weekend Backpack Program™, these children will no longer go hungry over the weekends. Tune in to Alice 95.5 FM between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m. on Friday, June 4 through the morning of Monday, June 7, to hear more heartfelt stories of hungry children right here in southwest Missouri.

It's because of OFH's annual HUNGERTHON™ four-day radio-thon with Clear Channel's Alice@95.5 FM that many of these kids don't go



hungry over the weekends. The Weekend Backpack Program™ provides at-risk children with a backpack filled with nutritious child-friendly foods.

Thanks to the generosity of the Ozarks, the program currently reaches more than 840 students in 28 area elementary schools. Unfortunately, the need is now greater than ever before. That's why The Food Bank needs your help.



Learn how you can do your part in this community-wide 12-year tradition by listening to Kevin and Liz and the gang, June 4-7, at the Historic Tower Theatre on the corner of Glenstone and Sunshine in Springfield. Alice's sister stations, KGBX, the Wolf and US97, are also stepping up during the month of June to support HUNGERTHON™.

Call 1-800-757-9550 beginning June 4 to sponsor a student for an entire school year! Or give online at ozarksfoodharvest.org or alice955.com.

This year's logo was kindly designed by Martha Hartley of Running Horse Design.

Help Feed Hope and receive NAP tax credits

Now there is an even more compelling reason to make a gift to The Food Bank's Feeding Hope Initiatives.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development recently approved Ozarks Food Harvest for \$500,000 in Neighborhood Assistance Program tax credits, which means qualifying food bank donors can receive tax credits of 50 percent of their donation.

Because of the Federal Charitable Tax Deduction, the State of Missouri Charitable Tax Deduction and the 50-50 NAP Tax Credit, many donors are learning that their 50-50 credit is actually worth much more.

See how a \$10,000 gift may only cost you \$2,650 and how this program can help benefit your bottom line at www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/nap.html.



*Welcome New Board Members—Matt Miller, Kenny Ross & Joy Ward!

Ozarks Food Harvest Member Agency Spotlight— People Helping People serves more with OFH membership

Twenty-five years ago, Chuck and Marcella Garner established a service out of their own home in Republic, Missouri, to meet the needs of hungry school children.

Soon after the couple passed away in 2002, the people of Republic came together to take over Marcella and Chuck's mission of serving the community by meeting the physical needs of those in need. Today, the Ozarks Food Harvest member is known as People Helping People—an emergency food and clothing pantry.

"I had no idea what I was doing; none of us really did since Marcella had done it all," Kathy Keller, a board member at People Helping People, said. "That first year we kind of just jumped in with both feet, figured it out and ran with it."

People Helping People serves Republic clients through multiple programs, including Tiger Totes—their own version of The Food Bank's Weekend Backpack Program™, a Christmas family adoption and distribution program, a school supplies drive and Thanksgiving meals for the elderly.

The pantry provides food and clothing items to those seeking assistance in People Helping People's service area of the Republic School District.

Ann Miller, who worked with Marcella from the beginning, described a time

when a family of four needed silverware because they only had one fork. "I fixed a tray and put silverware in it, and it was like giving them gold," she said.

Approximately one year ago, the agency became a member of Ozarks Food Harvest, and its board president, Cindy Crabtree, said the relationship has helped efforts substantially.

"We used to be very limited on what we gave our clients," Crabtree said, "but now thanks to Ozarks Food Harvest, we're able to stock up and provide items we weren't able to offer before."

Keller expressed the excitement of having access to personal hygiene

"I appreciate being able to access Ozarks Food Harvest because it really has made a difference in what we are giving to our families in need," Crabtree said.

Crabtree and Keller say they hope their relationship with OFH will help them continue to grow so they can serve more people in their community—including individuals like those affected by an apartment fire in Republic this spring.

"The greatest joy any of us get is



Above: People Helping People's facility in Republic, named "Marcie's Place" in honor of founder Marcella Garner. At left: Cindy Crabtree, People Helping People Board President, with Ann Miller and Kathy Keller.

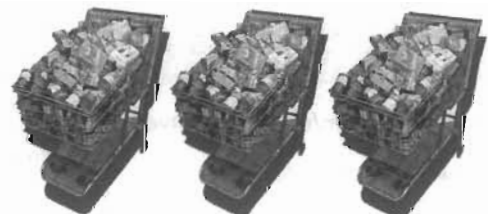
items such as dental floss as well as healthier food options such as bread, meat, fresh produce and cheese. Both women agreed that when they went shopping at Ozarks Food Harvest they were "like kids in a candy store."

when we are simply helping people," Crabtree said. "We thrive on that—that and Christmas! As stressful as weeks are, like the one preceding Christmas, we love it because that's when we get to see what it's all about, and we feel like we are really *people helping people*."

What YOUR Dollars Do

Your \$100 donation to Ozarks Food Harvest's Feeding Families Initiative provides 12 families with 3 meals per day for 3 days!

There have been several times I have gone hungry so my family can eat. I try to find something in my cabinets to fix so my children do not go hungry.



Can you help us feed families like Marcella's who are requesting our Network's help? Give money, food or time at ozarksfoodharvest.org.

Ozarks Food Harvest's volunteers *Make it Happen!*

One of my favorite things about Ozarks Food Harvest's new warehouse is the Volunteer Services Center. We are so fortunate to receive the valuable gift of time from countless community members who truly care about making the Ozarks the best place to live.

Just in the first quarter of the year, our volunteers alone processed 584,285 lbs. of food items and supplies! Last month, we honored the individuals who served during National Volunteer Appreciation Week, and I'd like to bring a few of these kind people to your attention.

Heartfelt thanks to Charles Foltz who has been serving since 2002, and in just the last year alone, has given more than 260 hours of time in our shopping room! Ama Hai

joined us last fall and has become a regular volunteer in our shopping room as well. You can listen to Ama talk about why she volunteers at OFH on our Facebook and YouTube pages.

Finally, a BIG thank you to our Tuesday crew—Larry Blades, Julie Edmondson, Jim Gentry, Joiceann Goodwin, Erin Lurvey, Diane Richarson, Helen Rittenhouse, Paul Simpson, Darlene Spitzer and Micki Williams.

If you too would like to *make it happen*, I encourage you to show your support at HUNGERTHON™, June 4–7. We'll see you there!

Denise Gibson
Development Director



The Food Bank expands CSFP program to reach more seniors in need

CSFP stands for Commodity Supplemental Food Program, or commonly referred to as The Food Bank's Senior Food Box Program.

Pictured at left is a sample food box distributed to low-income Ozarks seniors. While the boxes do not provide a complete diet, they are good sources of the nutrients typically lacking in the diets of the target population. They're also an essential supplement to the food stamp program for seniors whose benefits are too small to allow them to buy the foods they need to meet their special dietary conditions.

Your community food bank is pleased to announce it is increasing the distribution of senior food boxes from 500 each month to 2,000 monthly. This means big changes for Ozarks Food Harvest, and if your volunteer group would like to commit to regularly building and packing boxes, please call Jennifer at (417) 865-3411, ext. 114. or e-mail jsickinger@ozarksfoodharvest.org.



Springfield/Branson Taste of Elegance honors Food Bank's family of supporters

Thanks to the Missouri Pork Association and local top chefs for hosting the *Springfield/Branson Taste of Elegance* event for friends of OFH!

The Food Bank thanks all those involved in this first-ever complimentary event for Ozarks Food Harvest, including Cargill for the pork donation, Missouri Wines for the event wine, and the Ramada Oasis Convention Center for its in-kind donation.

OFH donors, food donors and volunteers are truly Transforming Hunger into Hope™. Please watch for this event next year!

Pictured at right are chefs representing Fire & Ice in the competition and OFH Board Member Gary Naab and his wife Donna.

View more event photos at 417mag.com.



Transforming Hunger into Hope™

Thank you **Cowboy Classic Pro Rodeo** fans for collecting nearly 700 lbs. of food for OFH's Network!

Springfield New Car Dealer Association presented The Food Bank with a check for \$7,325 thanks to the Get a Jump on Spring Sale.

Thank you to **Drury students** who collected 1,846 lbs. of food items at their Can-Castle competition during Project Panther!

Harvest on Wheels collected 704 lbs. of food for The Food Bank at the Southwest Missouri Democrats annual Jackson Day event. The group also generously donated \$600 to OFH.

Special thanks to **Kickapoo High School Student Council** for 2,798 lbs. of food collected during Kickapoolza.

Daniel Roth and the Ozark Seed Bank kindly donated 5,000 packages of seeds and 5,000 *Basic Gardening in the Ozarks* informational booklets for OFH member agencies.

Weekend Backpack Program™ children thank you for feeding them

I always look forward to the end of the school year. I don't get a summer off anymore, but I do get the joy of reading dozens of thank you notes from our Weekend Backpack Program™ kids.

I'd like to share a few with you. After all, your gifts are making this valuable program possible.

One child writes, "I like all the food. I think that is nice that you give us good food. We are happy to eat what you give us." "The food tastes so good. I love what we always have," another child shares.

Sometimes we get suggestions from our kids, too—a fourth grader writes, "I love my backpack because I love all the food, and sometimes we can't shop for food, so I have food all weekend, but I don't like the grape juice."

Duly noted!

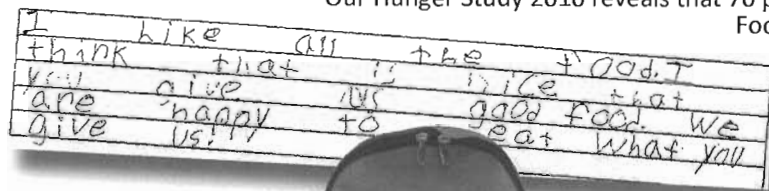
The comments from teachers and principals are equally compelling.

One principal writes, "The most heart touching story comes from two of my kids who used their backpack food as their Thanksgiving dinner. They came back from Thanksgiving and told their teacher that their Mom had been too busy to make dinner, so they got a blanket out and had a picnic on the floor with their backpack food."

It's difficult to believe there are so many children in the Ozarks with stories like these, but the numbers will alarm you.

Our Hunger Study 2010 reveals that 70 percent of Ozarks Food Harvest's client

households with children under age 18 have low or very low food security, meaning that food is not always available to them.



That is why our Feeding Children Initiative is so important. We've pledged to feed more children over the next three years than ever before, and your generous support will make that pledge a reality.

Whether you give through our annual HUNGERTHON™ radiothon with Clear Channel Communications, mail in donations or give online, we thank you for your help. You are truly turning hunger into hope for thousands of children every month.

Bart Brown
President/CEO



Ways to give

The Food Bank's Volunteer Community is currently seeking weekday volunteers! The openings include Monday and Wednesday between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on Friday between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.

Volunteers at The Food Bank accept, sort, clean and repackage food donations for distribution.



Please share these opportunities and visit www.ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.html to apply or call (417) 865-3411 to learn more.

Ama Hai gives her time weekly in the Agency Shopping Room. The Food Bank currently has one opening for this volunteer member relations position stocking shelves in the agency center on Monday between noon and 4 p.m.

Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

Bart Brown, President/CEO

Operations Department Cont.
Stephen Roberts, Transportation Associate
Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator

Development & Communications Dept.

Denise Gibson, Development Director
Lindsey Neddenriep, Public Relations & Events
Bethany Parry, Development & Comm. Intern
Jennifer Sickinger, Resource Recruitment Coord.

Member Services Department
Jan Tucker, Member Services Director
Lucy Indyushkin, Member Services Assistant
Terra Lamb, Member Outreach Coord.
Jane Terry, Creative Information Specialist
Mary Zumwalt, Child & Senior Services Coord.

Operations Department

James Thompson, Operations Director
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor
Josh Brown, Warehouse Associate
Justin Crigger, Driver/Warehouse Assoc.
Mike Doubledee, Warehouse Associate
Eddie Hicks, Warehouse Associate
Juan Lopez, Warehouse Associate

Administrative Department

Cindy Snow, Business Manager
Cindy Boggs, Office Manager
Erin Henderson, Receptionist

Thank You for your Donation!

*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:

Weekend Backpack Program™ General Food Distribution
 Kids Cafe™ Purchased Food Program
 Mobile Food Pantry™ Unrestricted

To give by credit card please provide:

Mastercard Visa Discover

Account# _____ Exp. Date _____

Signature _____

Phone number(s) _____

Please use this form to make your tax-deductible gift, or simply provide your information directly on the enclosed envelope and send to Ozarks Food Harvest, P.O. Box 5746, Springfield, MO 65801-5746.