



OZARKS
Food Harvest

The Food Bank

time Harvest

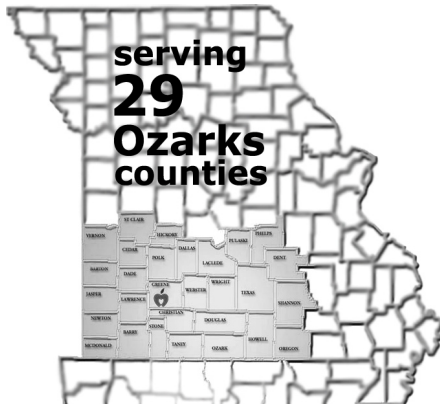
Celebrating 25 years in the Ozarks

Summer Edition, July 2009



A member of

For a list of the more than 350 members, visit ozarksfoodharvest.org



serving
29
Ozarks
counties

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O'Reilly Center for Hunger Relief ready to feed more hungry Ozarks families

Public dedication scheduled for September 15, 2009

The compassion of thousands of supporters is what has ultimately allowed Ozarks Food Harvest's expansion into its new distribution center, officially named the O'Reilly Center for Hunger Relief.

The 46,000-square-foot warehouse at 2810 N. Cedarbrook has the capacity to hold more than three times the food that could be stored at the old location—the coolers and freezers alone are larger than the entire previous leased warehouse on N. Glenstone!

And fortunately for those in need, The Food Bank began planning for this drastic increase in requests for assistance, as you know, approximately five years ago; and this summer, the entire operation was moved into the newly constructed facility that would allow for the distribution that's demanded—currently reaching roughly 54,000 individuals each month.

Proudly, the Board of Directors and staff of Ozarks Food Harvest welcome the public for a dedication event and warehouse tour on Tuesday, September 15. Please join us during National Hunger Action Month to recognize the community's new food bank,

by the
numbers

500,000

Pounds of frozen food the new freezer can hold at one time

275,000

pounds of refrigerated food the new cooler can hold

46,000

number of square feet of the building (and it's also 28 ft high!)

1,720

pallet spaces in the new warehouse

580

pallet spaces at the old location

75

semi-truckloads of food the new warehouse will hold

*as reported by the Springfield News-Leader June 27, 2009

and help "Fill the Bank!"

Come see exactly what it is we do, and how you help us accomplish our mission—plus we look forward to sharing with you how The Food Bank utilizes green technology to help keep its carbon footprint low.

Visit ozarksfoodharvest.org or call (417) 865-3411 for details.

Together, we are *Transforming Hunger into Hope™* across the Ozarks.



Named Charitable Organization of the Year at the *Springfield Business Journal's* 2009 Economic Impact Awards

HUNGERTHON 2009 nets record \$123,315 for The Food Bank

Raises enough to provide more than 400 Weekend Backpacks™

Thanks to generous Ozarks Food Harvest supporters and loyal Alice@95.5 FM listeners, 411 children across the Ozarks won't be forced to go hungry over the weekends during the 2009-2010 school year.

Four days of fundraising, including nearly 30 hours of air-time with Alice personalities Kevin Howard and Liz Delany, collected a total of \$123,315 for The Food Bank.

While \$120,000, may have seemed like an ambitious goal in the current down economy, recent statistics have shown that one in five children in Missouri—more than 279,000—are at risk of going hungry each day. And these findings reveal that children in Missouri, and in the Ozarks, are at the eighth highest rate of food insecurity among all 50 states.

"We must not close our eyes to this problem," Dr. Nancy O'Reilly, long-time supporter, told listeners as she volunteered at the phone bank. "We may not end child hunger, but we can surely impact it with this program, one backpack at a time."

A number of other Backpack supporters stopped by Clear Channel to explain to listeners exactly why they give to the program, including Doug Pitt of the Care to Learn Foundation.

Alice@95.5 FM and Ozarks Food Harvest's annual Hungerthon continues to be the most successful food bank radiothon in the nation. Mark your calendars for the 12th annual event next June, and *Transform Hunger into Hope™* for those children who rely on the backpacks they receive every Friday afternoon.



Alice@95.5's Kevin Howard watches as 8-year-old Victoria donates the entire contents of her piggy bank to Hungerthon—money she's been collecting for two years!



Doug Pitt of the Care to Learn Foundation with Kevin and Liz—Doug shared how OFH's Weekend Backpack Program™ is essential to the community.

Please support the 2009 Feeding Hope Power Hour Sponsors

American Family Insurance
Big Whiskey's
Coyote's Adobe Café & Bar
Coyote's Nixa Grille
Family Pharmacy
Galloway Village Veterinary
Hiland Dairy
Hoover Music Company
Johnsonville Brats
Maria's Mexican Restaurant
Mille's Cafe

Ocean Zen
Panera Bread
Patton Alley Pub
QPS Bio-Kinetic
Route 66 Carousel Park (Joplin)
Sonic Drive-In
Springfield Brewing Company
Springfield Independent
Restaurant Association
Valentine's Restaurant
Ziggie's Cafe

Rotary Clubs of Springfield and Nixa dedicate second Mobile Food Pantry™ truck

For the second time in less than three years, local Rotarians help take hunger relief directly to those in need.

In June, the clubs used their combined annual luncheon to dedicate the second donated vehicle for The Food Bank's Mobile Food Pantry™ program, bringing the 53-foot refrigerated tractor/trailer right inside the dining hall at the Oasis!

Since December 2006, the original mobile pantry has delivered more than 1.5 million pounds of food, and will continue its distribution, while the larger truck can carry enough food for three distributions in a single day.

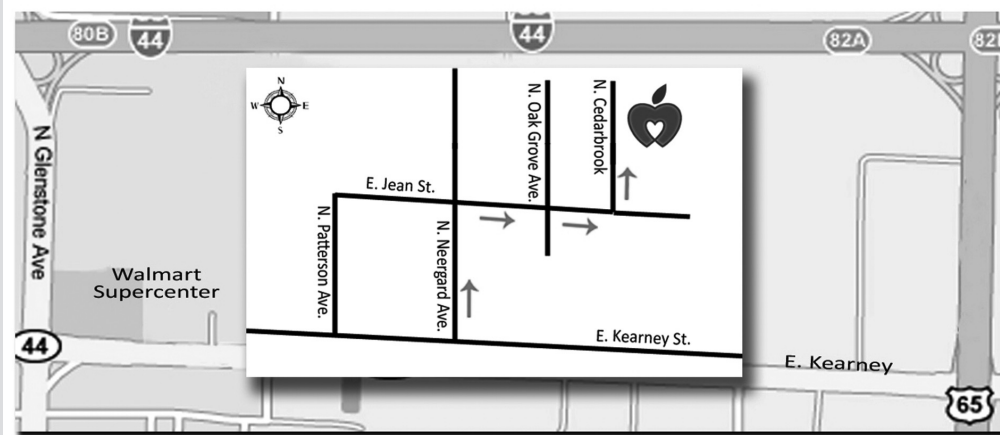
To support the Mobile Food Pantry™ call (417) 865-3411 and make your pledge.

From left to right are Rotary District Governor Steve Montgomery; Ridewell Corporation CEO John Raidel; OFH Executive Director and Rotarian Bart Brown; OFH Board Member and Rotarian Tamara de Wild; Rotary International President Nominee Ray Klinginsmith; and Rotarian Ted Smith.



Join us in celebrating Hunger Action Month this September! Check ozarksfoodharvest.org for details on our Public Grand Opening. Don't worry, if you can't make it, we'll have a set of scheduled tours for you to choose from between September 16-18.

Ozarks Food Harvest has Moved!



Come visit your community food bank to see how we put your dollars to work. Check ozarksfoodharvest.org for our scheduled series of facility tours September 16–18.

The Food Bank's physical location is 2810 N. Cedarbrook Ave. in the North Creek Business Park, a Rankin-O'Reilly Development (See map at left). Please update your records with our new mailing address:

Ozarks Food Harvest
P.O. Box 5746
Springfield, MO 65801-5746

Chase collects nearly six tons of food during slow food drive season

Every summer we remind our supporters that Hunger doesn't take a vacation. And each year we brace ourselves for what we like to call the "perfect storm"—when schools are closed for the break, children go without the free and reduced breakfasts and lunches they rely on, the number of low income families needing help soars, and at the same time, our members may have less food to distribute as food drives slow down over summer vacation.

Luckily, one local business has already stepped up to provide a solution to this sincere problem we witness every summer. Springfield Chase Card Services rallied its employee networking groups including PRIDE, Adalante, the Working Families Network, UJIMA and the Community Relations Department to collaborate together for a food drive. Setting an original goal of 8,000 lbs., the group increased that number to 10,000 lbs. after a challenge was presented.

When 1,245 employees piled into the lobby in their cafeteria, they learned the total weight was 11,878 lbs.—an extraordinary amount for Ozarks Food Harvest!

What's more is that this project earned the employees

a \$1,000 grant that will be donated to The Food Bank to supplement the food drive. The grants program at JPMorgan Chase Foundation allows its employees to turn their time into dollars for the agencies for which they volunteer. (Last year alone, Chase volunteered more than 13,000 hours in the Ozarks!)

Springfield Chase is also one of the Weekend Backpack Program™ company partners who volunteers to pack more than 50 backpacks every week during the school year.

We're grateful for so many outstanding community-minded businesses in our region. Please check with your employer to see if perhaps they offer a grants program or would match a donation from your networking group so you can make a difference during this typically slow collection period.

Thank you, Chase!

Denise Gibson,
Development Director



Chef for a Day program teaches children how to prepare healthy meals and snacks

The local American Culinary Federation, including chefs from area restaurants and foodservice operations, have partnered with OFH's Chef for a Day program for the second year in a row. An ACF chef is visiting one of The Food Bank's Summer Feeding Program sites weekly to teach the children to prepare a variety of foods. The selected kids then share what they've made with the rest of their peers who have a turn the next week.

Sophia, age 6, told OFH about one of the children's feeding programs, "We learn about healthy things, like how we should eat carrots instead of chips."

You can ensure these children have meals on the remaining days of the week by giving to The Food Bank's Childhood Hunger Initiative online at ozarksfoodharvest.org.



One of the Kids Cafe® Summer Feeding Program participants plates salad and fresh fruit on July 1, when Chef Strichfield of Twin Oaks visited the Springfield Community Center.

Transforming Hunger into Hope™

The **Branson/Lakes Area Chamber of Commerce's Great American Pie Show** brought in a \$635 donation for The Food Bank!

Thanks to the **Chancel Choir of First & Calvary Presbyterian Church** for their monetary donation totaling \$1,018.55 for distributing food to those who need it most.

Local **Macy's** department store gave a kind gift of \$1,900 to The Food Bank and those it serves.

For the fifth straight year, **MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger** granted \$7,000 to help offset general operating expenses associated with food distribution, as The Food Bank has doubled its distribution to nearly seven million pounds of food annually—the highest distribution in its 25-year history!

Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation awarded \$7,500 to OFH's Mobile Food Pantry™ program. The press conference was held July 23 at The Food Bank—the first public event at the new facility.

From your Executive Director

New facility is truly the community's food bank, built by the communities we serve

After five years of many talented and tenacious individuals' diligent fundraising and the community's extraordinary support, we're proud that Ozarks Food Harvest, after 25 years, has a home to call its very own.

The community's state-of-the-art food banking warehouse is flawlessly designed for how we work, and the actual move could not have occurred at a better time, as we process and distribute record amounts of food in response to the increased demand due to the current economic storm.

Many thanks to our *Compassion in Action* Campaign Leadership Committee, including Mike Mattson, Jim Lewis, James Young, Michael Pinkston, Bob Lawson, and Denise Gibson. We thank Charlie & Mary Beth O'Reilly, and Pat, Tim and Brooke, and Ryan O'Reilly, as well as Tom & Paige Rankin who donated the property. Sincere thanks to Rosalie O'Reilly Wooten, Larry and Dr. Nancy O'Reilly and David O'Reilly who also supported the campaign so generously.

We truly wouldn't be here without the hundreds of giving individuals, businesses and foundations who came together to make this project a reality. Some of these charitable organizations and individuals include William and Virginia Darr, Gaynell and Jim Magers, Mike and Debbie Zimmerman, The Daily Events, Empire Electric, St. John's Force for Good, The Herschend Foundation, The Pearl Foundation and The

Sunderland Foundation. The local Sam's Club has also stepped up, contributing the pallet racking system for our warehouse, a \$100,000 value.

There are actually far too many supporters to recognize here, but I highly encourage you to look for all those *Transforming Hunger into Hope™* on our Wall of Honor in the lobby of the new facility when you come to visit your community food bank.

This move marks the beginning of a new journey for The Food Bank. We are challenged with the task of meeting unprecedented need in unprecedented economic times. In order to meet the demand, Ozarks Food Harvest is embarking on an ambitious Three-Year Strategic Initiative that will allow us to increase our food distribution to 12 million pounds of food annually by 2012.

Only your support will make this important goal of effectively meeting the needs of today's at-risk children, the working poor, families, and seniors possible.

Every single dollar, donated food item, volunteer hour or advocacy support counts, and makes all the difference.

We thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Bart Brown,
Executive Director



Ways to give



Returning this November is the "Cans for Coffee" partnership between Ozarks Food Harvest and McDonald's of the Ozarks!

Simply bring in a nonperishable food item to any of the region's McDonald's and receive one small McCafe® coffee.

Last year's inaugural food drive brought in more than 22,500 lbs. of food, enough to provide more than 18,000 meals for those in need over the Thanksgiving season, and we're hoping to increase that number this year to meet the higher demand for food assistance.

Thank you for remembering the families in the southwest Missouri who are struggling to put food on their tables during this critical time.

Ozarks Food Harvest's Staff

Bart Brown, Executive Director

Development & Communications Dept.
Denise Gibson, Development Director
Lindsey Neddenriep, PR & Events Coordinator
Kelly Richard, PR & Events Coordinator

Operations Department
James Thompson, Operations Director
Scott Boggs, Warehouse Facility Supervisor
Mike Doubledde, Warehouse Associate
Eddie Hicks, Warehouse Associate
Morris McKee, Warehouse Associate
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Linda Smith, Inventory Coordinator

Member Services Department
Jan Tucker, Member Services Director
Jodi Alcon, Community Nutrition Coordinator
Lucy Indyushkin, Member Services Assistant
Terra Lamb, Member Outreach Assistant
Jane Terry, Creative Information Specialist

Administrative Department
Cindy Snow, Business Manager
Cindy Boggs, Office Manager
Jennifer Sickinger, 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:

Backpack Program™ Food Distribution

Kids Cafe®/Club FUN™ Senior Programs

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 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.