



HARVEST TIME

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FEEDING AMERICA

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST – THE FOOD BANK

NEWSLETTER FROM THE O'REILLY CENTER FOR HUNGER RELIEF

WEEKEND BACKPACKS ENSURE KIDS DON'T GO WITHOUT MEALS

Ten-year-old Kitiana knows what it feels like to be hungry.

"When I was really young I walked in the kitchen thinking, 'What's for breakfast?' But there was nothing in the cabinets," Kitiana said. "My mother caught me digging in the cabinets and said, 'Sorry, we can't have anything for breakfast, lunch or dinner today.' So we just snacked a little. It made me feel so hungry. It felt pretty bad."

One in five children in southwest Missouri have felt the aching pain of hunger. These food insecure children

are completely reliant on others to make sure they don't go without meals.

Thankfully, hunger-relief organizations like Ozarks Food Harvest and its network of 270 pantries and programs are filling in the gap and feeding tens of thousands of kids each year.

Kitiana and her younger brother Thomas receive food through the *Weekend Backpack Program*.

Their school, Delaware Elementary, is one of 59 schools on the program feeding more than 1,600 children every weekend of the school year.

"My favorite thing in the backpack is the spaghetti and chocolate milk," Kitiana said. "It makes me feel fantastic to bring the backpack home."

Kitiana says it helps her family because her grandmother sometimes gets sick and can't cook a lot of food, so the siblings grab something from their backpacks to help.

"It makes me feel good to have the backpack," Kitiana shared. "It makes me feel very grateful."

"One day we could run out of money and run out of food, but at least we'll have things from our bags."

Christy Wall, counselor at Cowden Elementary in Springfield, said the *Weekend Backpack Program* has been a crucial lifeline for her students.

"I've had students come to me and their stories can be heartbreaking."

Being able to say that it's okay, we can help out here, it's huge," she said. "Ozarks Food Harvest has done phenomenal things for our students."

Cowden Elementary has a free and reduced lunch rate of 74 percent.

"One day we could run out of money and run out of food, but at least we'll have things from our bags."

-Kitiana, 10 years old

"Most of our parents are working parents, but one unexpected bill can make a difference if these kids get to eat," Wall said.

Children can't learn when they're distracted by hunger. The side effects can hamper their ability to successfully perform academically and socially, creating significant obstacles for proper development.

"They are more angry than they should be, they are less motivated, they have a very difficult time paying attention," Wall said. "If they don't have the ability to [learn], they are going to miss out."

It costs \$300 to sponsor a child on the *Weekend Backpack Program* for one year. Donations are always needed to sustain and grow the program in Springfield and across southwest Missouri.

For the kids on the program, having the food for the weekend takes the worry away from the gap between school lunch on Friday and breakfast on Monday. Wall said it helps kids come to school ready to learn and make friends.

Wall said, "It's great to see those smiles on their faces when they know they get to eat on the weekends." ■



NEW PROGRAM PROVIDES MILK TO AGENCIES

This summer, Ozarks Food Harvest began a new partnership with Hiland Dairy to provide fresh milk to pantries and feeding sites.

Hiland provides milk at a deep discount to hunger-relief agencies through the Milk to My Plate Program and delivers the milk right to the agencies' doors.

Deanna Monning, president of the Ash Grove Food Pantry board, said before the program, the pantry wasn't able to provide milk to families.

"It was just too expensive to go to the grocery store and get it," she said. "We had an awful lot of cereal, but we never had the milk to go with it. With this program, we can provide cereal and milk or milk, eggs and bacon, and there's your breakfast."



A CLIENT RECEIVES MILK AT THE ASH GROVE FOOD PANTRY THANKS TO HILAND'S NEW PROGRAM.

In the month of August, the Ash Grove Food Pantry distributed 81 half-gallons of milk, yogurt and cottage cheese thanks to the new program.

"We are pleased to support the efforts of Ozarks Food Harvest through this partnership," said Rick Beaman, vice president of Hiland Dairy. "We know there are many families struggling in the nutrition gap — hungry children in our communities that are missing out on milk's nine essential nutrients. The ability to distribute fresh milk at a cost savings to area food pantries will provide fresh food to more families giving them the ability for a healthier and active lifestyle."

Fourteen agencies have signed up for the program, and so far over 500 gallons and 4,400 half-gallons of milk, 200 cases of cottage cheese and 300 cases of yogurt have been distributed to those in need. ■



KEVIN HOWARD AND LIZ DELANY HOSTED THE 19TH ANNUAL HUNGERTHON ON 105.9 KGBX IN SEPTEMBER.

HUNGERTHON DONATIONS SPONSOR 451 CHILDREN

19th annual radio-thon raises over \$135,000 for Weekend Backpacks

Community members and businesses across the Ozarks came together last month to provide 451 at-risk kids with nutritious meals every weekend of the school year.

Ozarks Food Harvest and iHeartMedia's 19th annual Hungerthon collected \$135,209 for The Food Bank's *Weekend Backpack Program*.

The initiative provides more than 1,600 food insecure children with food to take home every Friday after school. One in five children in southwest Missouri struggle with hunger, especially on the weekends when school meals aren't available.

"We've partnered with Kevin and Liz for 19 years to feed kids in our community. We are so thankful for their support and all the community members who stepped up and donated to this crucial program," said Bart Brown, Ozarks Food Harvest's president/CEO.

Kevin Howard and Liz Delany from 105.9 KGBX hosted the radio-thon, spending 30 hours on air raising money for Ozarks Food Harvest.

"It's the best four days of our job," said Liz Delany of The Kevin and Liz Show. "It's our chance to serve the community and it makes us feel really good to help."

Backpacks were matched by individuals,



KEVIN HOWARD, LIZ DELANY AND OFH'S BART BROWN AND DENISE GIBSON ANNOUNCE THE TOTAL RAISED DURING THE 19TH HUNGERTHON.

businesses and foundations including Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., Kathy Copeland, CoxHealth, Don Wessel Honda, Harter House, MassMutual, Midwest Tactical, Inc., The Musgrave Foundation, Peck's Insurance & Financial Services, Ron and Janice Penney and Yahweh's Place at Cedarville. Event sponsorship included Air Services Heating & Cooling, Family Pharmacy and Sonic.

Fifty-nine southwest Missouri schools participate in Ozarks Food Harvest's *Weekend Backpack Program*, which distributes nearly 58,000 backpacks annually. Those bags include meals for two breakfasts, two lunches, two dinners, two snacks and drinks.

Since 1999, community members have donated \$1.77 million through Hungerthon. ■

STORIES OF HUNGER HELP US UNDERSTAND THE NEED

Greetings from the O'Reilly Center for Hunger Relief!

As supporters of Ozarks Food Harvest, we know about the urgent and daily needs of the people in our community who struggle with hunger. It's heartbreaking and oftentimes unimaginable. For those of us who don't have to make hard choices between paying for food and other basic necessities, understanding what this might feel like can be difficult.

The challenges facing the one in five kids and one in seven adults struggling with hunger seem distant, but in reality, these problems are right in our own backyard and truly could happen to any of us with just a slight change of circumstances.

This summer we met Kimberly, a single mother raising three children right here in



KIMBERLY'S CHILDREN BENEFIT FROM THE FOOD FROM LOCAL PANTRIES.

Springfield.

She shared with the staff at Ozarks Food Harvest that a few years ago, she and her children fled an abusive relationship with nothing but the clothes on their backs.

"It was difficult, starting over – but I didn't know things were about to get even worse," Kimberly said.

"After we moved in, my mom lost her job due to illness. I can't work because daycare is too expensive and my youngest is not yet in school. So we all moved in with my sister and live with her now. There are eight of us in the household. When we each contribute a little we can get by."

Thankfully, Ozarks Food Harvest and its network of 270 pantries and programs all across southwest Missouri stand ready to help families just like Kimberly's.

"I'm not sure we could make it work though without the help of the food pantry. It has been a God send. Everyone there is absolutely amazing; they are big-hearted, super caring and make you feel at home. They don't make you feel ashamed to ask for help. The food pantry has helped us put food on the table and ensure

CHARLIE O'REILLY
O'REILLY CENTER

CHARLIE'S CORNER

that my children eat."

Food pantries are able to feed kids, families and seniors all across the Ozarks because of people like you and your generosity.

Kimberly shared that her youngest son started kindergarten this month which means she can start working full time.

"There are better days ahead. In the meantime I want to say thank you, from the bottom of my heart, to the food pantry for helping us get there."

Stories like Kimberly's not only help us understand the challenges of worrying if you'll have something to eat, it also shows in a very tangible way what it means when you hear that your support is giving hope to people in need.

It's clear to me that the key to understanding is taking the time to listen to someone's story.

Thank you for being a part of the mission to solve hunger in the Ozarks. I would encourage you to share this story and help us spread the word and raise support and understanding about our neighbors in need. ■

UPCOMING EVENTS

MCDONALD'S CANS FOR COFFEE - OCT. 30-NOV. 26

McDonald's locations across the Ozarks are hosting the tenth annual *Cans for Coffee* food drive Oct. 30-Nov. 26, offering customers one free small McCafé beverage in exchange for a nonperishable food donation.

Last year, over 27,000 pounds was collected to feed those in need through Ozarks Food Harvest's network of pantries and programs. Patrons can participate by visiting 60 area McDonald's.

Ozarks Food Harvest requests food donations rich in protein like peanut butter, tuna, salmon and other canned meat.

Tyson Foods will donate a truckload of chicken in the name of this food drive for the tenth consecutive year. ■



CHECK OUT HUNGER - NOV. 12 - DEC. 31

Check Out Hunger gives shoppers across the Ozarks the opportunity to add a \$1, \$3 or \$5 tax-free donation to their bill when checking out at area grocers. Join us for this holiday fund drive! Last year's fundraiser collected more than \$44,000 to provide 176,000 meals to children, families and seniors in need. Mark your calendar! ■

TURKEY TROT - NOV. 23

Run or walk with us this year during the 23rd annual Turkey Trot, the largest Thanksgiving Day 5K in Missouri, at 8 a.m. on Nov. 23! Turkey Trot also serves as a food drive for OFH. Racers are encouraged to donate five nonperishable items. Donations in 2016 provided 6,600 meals! Learn more on page 6. ■

BART'S HOPE NOTES



BART BROWN,
PRESIDENT/CEO



For seniors who have worked hard their entire lives to get by, retirement can prove to be an even greater burden.

We recently met Elvin at the Least of These food pantry in Christian County. He worked his entire life and even served as a member of our military. But living on a fixed income and only \$60 per month in retirement benefits, he and his wife struggle to have enough food.

"If you run into some doctor bills or different things, it's a real strain on anyone's budget," Elvin shared. "I've cut down the portions that I consume from time to time, and I'll do it again if I have to."

Elvin is just one of the more than 40,000 seniors that we serve each year through our hunger-relief organizations. Thankfully, your generosity allows him to receive help with groceries each month from the pantry.

NEED STILL GREAT IN OZARKS

"Least of These makes our lives a lot easier because they give us the staples that we need," Elvin shared. "The struggles are coming less and less. There are a lot of things that I'm extremely thankful for. Least of These has encouraged me not to lose faith."

It's hard to imagine seniors going hungry and not having enough nutritious food to stay healthy. These folks often begin to face more and more medical complications with age, and a healthy diet is always a recommendation from doctors.

Another especially vulnerable population that we serve is children. They are still growing and require proper nutrition for social, physical and cognitive development. Each year nearly 73,000 children rely on our network for food.

For children and seniors, having nutritious meals every day is absolutely essential for their well-being. We believe it's up to all of us to make sure they don't go without food. It's only with your support that we're able to feed the Ozarks.

Meeting people like Elvin is the perfect reminder of why we do this work. Elvin was a hard worker and served our country. Now we have a chance to thank him with the simple gift of food.

As you've read on the cover, our *Weekend*



SENIORS LIKE ELVIN GET THE FOOD THEY NEED TO STAY HEALTHY THROUGH THE FOOD BANK'S NETWORK OF 270 HUNGER-RELIEF AGENCIES.

Backpack Program is another way your support is helping the community. Since 2003, this program has helped children get the meals they need on Saturdays and Sundays when school meals aren't available.

In addition to this program, our *After-School Food Program* and our pantries serve kids and their families.

Eight-year-old Josh wrote us to say thanks: "Now my family never runs out of food. Now I can have food to eat for supper, lunch and breakfast and now my family is happy. Thank you!"

We cannot say thank you enough for your donations of time, food and funds. It's because of your compassion that kids like Josh and seniors like Elvin won't go hungry.

Thank you for your continued support in the fight against hunger! ■



DENISE GIBSON,
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR

FROM DENISE'S DESK

TAKING ACTION AGAINST HUNGER

Hunger Action Month is one of the best months of the year here at Ozarks Food Harvest.

The month is all about taking an action to help our neighbors in need, whether that is collecting food or funds, volunteering or advocating for our mission.

We share with you all year about the one in five kids and one in seven adults who struggle with hunger. September affords so many opportunities to help those folks and is a great way for first time donors to get involved in our mission.

The Hungerthon radio-thon with Kevin and Liz, Empty Bowls fundraiser with Panera Bread, Apron Fashion Show with Tea Bar & Bites, Iron Chef competition at Farmers Market of the Ozarks and Go Orange Day were certainly the highlights of the month.

So many of you participated in these events, and we're so grateful for that.

Kids like 10-year-old Zolia will directly



YOUR ACTION IN THE FIGHT AGAINST HUNGER HELPS KIDS LIKE ZOLIA.

benefit because you stepped up and showed you care.

"I am thankful for the food you people gave us because if my family and me didn't have it I would be sad and really hungry. So I am really thankful for the food you guys let us have," Zolia shared.

The only way we'll see progress in the fight against hunger is if you get involved. Your energy, time and talents are so critical.

Thank you for your generosity this Hunger Action Month. Together we can ensure no one goes hungry in the Ozarks. ■

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Mike Hesebeck, Transportation Supervisor
Eddie Hicks, Operations Administration
Steve Roberts, Transportation Manager

Due to growth and limited space in the newsletter, all warehouse and transportation associates on the Operations team are now listed online at ozarksfoodharvest.org.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE FRIENDS OF THE FOOD BANK



OFH'S BART BROWN, CASSIE HANSON, SUSIE DOLLAR FROM OHAF AND OFH'S ABBEY HEDGES.

OHAF AWARDS OFH \$10,000

Heartfelt thanks to the Ozarks Health Advocacy Foundation for its gift of \$10,000 to the *Weekend Backpack Program*! OHAF is dedicated to enhancing the quality of life in southwest Missouri, focusing its support on nonprofits addressing children's physical and mental needs. Within this award, Ozarks Food Harvest was honored to receive the Susie Dollar Legacy for Heathier Lives Grant.

ANNUAL LUCAS OIL DRIVE COLLECTS 7,813 POUNDS

Thanks to Lucas Oil Speedway and KOLR 10 for collecting 7,813 pounds of food donations during a summer food drive. Since 2008, this annual fundraiser with Lucas Oil has collected over 54,200 pounds of food, becoming the largest one-day food drive for The Food Bank. Event-goers were offered free admission to the races when they donated four nonperishable food items.



THE SPLASH & SIZZLE FOOD DRIVE OFFERED FREE ADMISSION TO SELECT POOLS IN EXCHANGE FOR NONPERISHABLE FOOD DONATIONS.

SPLASH & SIZZLE COLLECTS 10K LBS.

The Springfield-Greene County Park Board's Splash & Sizzle food drive collected 10,237 pounds of food for Ozarks Food Harvest. Thanks to everyone in the community who participated and donated, and thanks to the Park Board for supporting our mission to feed the community!

MUSGRAVE FOUNDATION GIVES TO BACKPACK PROGRAM

Ozarks Food Harvest received an \$8,000 grant from the Musgrave Foundation to benefit the *Weekend Backpack Program*! The gift will provide 1,250 food bags to children in need over the weekend in Springfield schools. Since 2006, this generous foundation has donated \$448,500 to hunger-relief in the Ozarks. Heartfelt thanks to the Musgrave Foundation for being a sustaining supporter of The Food Bank!



THE GIFT FROM BAKER CREEK WILL ALLOW FOR A BETTER WATERING SYSTEM FOR THE GARDEN.

BAKER CREEK SUPPORTS GARDEN

Special thanks to Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company for gifting \$16,000 to support hunger relief and The Ozarks Food Harvest Garden in Rogersville! In addition to helping supply tens of thousands of meals, this donation will allow Food Bank staff to construct a sustainable water drainage and irrigation system for our high tunnel and watermelon patch at the garden. Thanks to Baker Creek for its generosity!

MILKPEP GIFTS MILK TO AGENCIES

With a gift of \$2,683 from MilkPEP and Feeding America, Ozarks Food Harvest distributed nearly 10,000 half pints of milk to 18 member agencies including child-feeding sites. This donation was part of the Great American Milk Drive, the first nationwide program to deliver milk to families in need.

AECI DONATES TO FEED KIDS

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. gifted \$3,000 to Ozarks Food Harvest to support children on the *Weekend Backpack Program*! Since 2001, this generous organization has given nearly \$54,800 to help children, families and seniors struggling with hunger. Heartfelt thanks to AECI for its compassion for our neighbors in need across the Ozarks!

HUNGER HERO NEWS

VOLUNTEER & FOOD DRIVE PROGRAMS

OCTOBER 2017

THANKSGIVING RACE HELPS THOSE IN NEED

For the past 22 years, hundreds of people in southwest Missouri have come together on Thanksgiving Day for Turkey Trot.

This fun Thanksgiving tradition doubles as a food drive, and has collected more than 85,500 pounds of food for The Food Bank since 2001. Last year's race alone provided over 6,600 meals! Do your part by donating five nonperishable food items at the 5K starting at 8 a.m. on Nov. 23.

This year is the 23rd annual race, and you can help support nonprofits like Ozarks Food Harvest, Developmental Center of the Ozarks and The Park Board Scholarship Fund.

1) Register to run or walk. It's \$20 through 5 p.m. on Friday, Nov. 17, or \$15 for kids 12 and under. Register at parkboard.org/turkeytrot or download a form to mail in.

2) On-site registration opens Wednesday, Nov. 22, 8 a.m.-5:30 p.m. at the Expo Center and continues 6:15-7 a.m. on race day. On-site registration is \$30 for adults and \$25 for children. Don't forget your food donations on race day!

3) Volunteer to help collect food at the Expo, 635 E. St. Louis St., on Thanksgiving Day. Call Jo at OFH or go to ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.

4) Donate your time the day prior or on race day to Turkey Trot at Packet Pick-Up. Call the Park Board at (417) 864-1049 to help! ■



LAST YEAR'S TURKEY TROT PROVIDED 6,600 MEALS THROUGH DONATIONS.



LIBBEY MCDANIEL SPENT MANY HOURS THIS SUMMER AT THE FOOD BANK'S VOLUNTEER CENTER.

TEACHER DEVOTES SUMMER BREAK TO GIVING BACK

Teachers returned to school this fall after filling their summer days with a variety of activities. Special education teacher Libbey McDaniel used her weeks off in a meaningful way by volunteering at Ozarks Food Harvest.

As a teacher for 21 years, McDaniel has seen firsthand the need for food assistance as some of her students have received help through the *Weekend Backpack Program*.

She wanted to find some way to give back and put her compassion into action outside of the classroom.

Once McDaniel researched her options, she quickly decided that volunteering at The Food Bank was where she wanted to spend her summer giving back to the community.

"When you can do something to help someone, I believe you should do it," McDaniel said.

"I know when I leave one of my shifts at Ozarks Food Harvest I have made a big

impact on a lot of people. Volunteering here is far more important than just sitting at home on my summer off."

So far McDaniel has given nearly 90 hours, and being a volunteer at The Food Bank has taught her how much more of an outreach Ozarks Food Harvest has than she originally thought. Working a few shifts assembling *Senior Food* boxes has shown her the kind of impact she and the other volunteers are making for people of all ages in southwest Missouri.

"One thing I love about each shift is how empowering it is when the volunteer coaches tell you how many meals your volunteer shift has provided," McDaniel said. "Being able to know and understand what all you have done to help bring food to the community, in just your two or three hour shift, is very eye opening to the importance of what we are doing." ■

GIVE GIFT OF TIME DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Each holiday season, we are amazed by the community's desire to give the gift of time by volunteering at Ozarks Food Harvest.

Individual and group volunteer sessions fill-up quickly, so be sure to sign-up early.

Volunteers make it possible to distribute food to 270 hunger-relief agencies.

OFH's Volunteer Center hours:

Monday–Friday: 9 a.m.–12 p.m.

Monday–Thursday: 1–4 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday: 6–9 p.m.

Saturday: 9 a.m.–12 p.m. or 1–4 p.m.

Sessions must be scheduled in advance at ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.

Check with your employer to see if they will allow you or your co-workers to volunteer during business hours, and they might even match your gift of time with a monetary donation.

Need help applying? Email Jo at jothompson@ozarksfoodharvest.org or call 417-865-3411, ext. 114.

Thanks for your help this holiday season! ■

GROUPS 25+ HOURS

3M
American National Insurance
Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Bancsource
The Burks Family
Cash Family Orthodontics
Chase Bank
CoxHealth Business Connections
Creekside at Elfindale
Datema House
Drury University Freshman Service Plunge
Faith for Life – Campbell UMC
First UMC – Hurst, TX
Greene County Youth Academy Evening Program
Great Southern Bank
JCPenney
John Deere Reman Leadership
Junior League New Member Class
King's Way UMC
Laura's Home
Lutheran Women Missionary League
Mantee Baptist Church Youth – Mantee, MS
Marisol International
Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance
MSU Residence Life
MSU Society for Physics Students
Northside Christian Church
Penmac Staffing
Phelps Gifted Education – WINGS
Reinhart Foodservice
Serve Springfield
Springfield-Greene County Office of Emergency Management
Springfield-Greene County Health Department
St. Michael's Parish
The Scranton Family
Union Hill Youth Group
Zion Lutheran Youth Group – Grand Rapids, MN

June 1-Aug. 31, 2017



FOOD DRIVES 75+ POUNDS

Park Board's Splash & Sizzle — 10,237
Lucas Oil Speedway — 7,813
U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners, Feds Feed Families — 2,728
Social Security Office of Disability Adjudication and Review, Feds Feed Families — 1,787
United Way Day of Caring — 1,633
Smithfield Foods — 1,104
Gold Mountain Communications — 997
Social Security Administration, Feds Feed Families — 920
Grant Avenue Freewill Baptist Church — 649
AT&T Offices — 603
Springfield Cardinals — 553
Fort Leonard Wood Commissary — 332
Walmart Supercenter (Independence Ave.) — 270
Harrison Elementary — 244
Greene County Commission — 237
Arvest Bank (Mountain Grove) — 195
CENET: Cultural Exchange Network — 192
Plaza Shoe Store — 191
Tyson Foods, Inc. (Noel) — 125
Mercy Central Patient Access — 124
Boys & Girls Club (Henderson Unit) — 123
Database Systems — 109
Jeffries Elementary School — 109
Watkins Elementary School — 109
CoxHealth Adult Medicine & Endocrinology Specialists — 84
Mercy Technology Services — 76

June 16-Sept. 22, 2017

INDIVIDUALS 20+ HOURS

Danielle Albritton
Ruby Allen
Douglas Balogh
Sharon Bertalott
Jim Blackwell
Margaret Blackwell
Charles Bowen
Trudy Bowen
James Brown
Karla Carroll
Tom Carson
Tiffany Cavin
Gale Clithero
John Cooper
Eddie Currier
Linda Currier
Adam Debacker
Gary Dehaven
Patsy Devine
Kris Dreesen
Arlene Eichler
Ann Gouge
Heather Haloupek
Wil Hardiman
Kirk Hawkins
Ted Heidloff
Ryan Holder
Patti Hudgins
Barbara Hutson
Bob Hutson
Ray Jackson
Julia Jenkins
Don Jessen
Harvey Kaylor
Caitlyn Kieschnick
Freeman Kleier
Michael Lampson
Don Landon

Linda Lange
Larry Lanning
George Lawrence
Cameron Lee
Justin Linebaugh
Teresa Lingerfelt
Stephanie Luhm
Ka Mak
Ann Marsh
Libbey McDaniel
Dave McGee
Kylee Miles
Melvie Mosier
Charlene Nelson
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David Riddle
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Mary Thomas
Hannah Towle
Amy Viets
Christina Vu-Pham
Lona Wait
Larry Woolf
Robert Wullner

June 1-Aug. 31, 2017

THANKS TO COMMUNITY FOR TAKING ACTION THIS SEPTEMBER

September was another successful Hunger Action Month made possible by generous volunteers and community organizations.

From hosting creative food and fund drives to helping events run smoothly, Ozarks Food Harvest couldn't have raised awareness and donations without the support of the community.

Volunteers gave of their time at Hungerthon, Iron Chef and Empty Bowls to help raise money for feeding programs across

the Ozarks.

Even businesses got involved to do their part. The Coffee Ethic, MaMa Jean's Natural Market and Neighbor's Mill Bakery and Café hosted promotions where they donated a portion of the sales of certain items to The Food Bank. Five Pound Apparel held a fundraiser and supported several of the month's events.

Dickerson Park Zoo hosted a fund drive during Labor Day weekend to kick-off Hunger

Action Month.

For Go Orange Day, Springfield Public School students wore orange to spread awareness about the issue of hunger. Employees at Gold Mountain Communications also wore orange and even hosted a food and fund drive at Walmart on South Campbell.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who took action to solve hunger this month! You truly are Hunger Heroes. ■



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