



# HARVEST TIME

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST - THE FOOD BANK | NEWSLETTER FROM THE O'REILLY CENTER FOR HUNGER RELIEF



**"It's important to me to help others who are in similar situations."**

- Marie, volunteer and client at St. Joseph's food pantry

## FOOD PANTRY PROVIDES HOPE DURING THE HOLIDAYS

On the second Saturday of every month, 74-year-old Marie rises before the sun and makes her way to St. Joseph's food pantry in Billings. Distribution days are her favorite—but not because she knows she'll receive a box of food at the end of the morning.

Marie spends these mornings distributing food to hungry families. She helps serve about 85 families each month, and that number increases drastically during the holidays.

Preparation for Saturday distributions starts on Friday afternoons. Some clients arrive at the pantry to get on the list early, so Marie takes down their information and gives them each a number, which saves their spot in line for Saturday morning. She's an essential part of the team at St. Joseph's.

On distribution days, Marie makes sure that every person who needs food receives a number, and she always puts her name last on the list. She also regularly delivers food to individuals who lack transportation or suffer from health issues in nearby towns.

"She is such a selfless lady," said Pat Hutton, president and treasurer of St. Joseph's. "She always puts others before herself."

Marie began receiving food at the pantry six years ago when she couldn't keep up with her bills.

"My house payment takes up half of my [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org)

social security," she shared. "And the rest of the money is spent on other basic bills like utilities and my car. If it was not for the pantry, I wouldn't have food on my table."

She began volunteering at the pantry about four years ago. In her early days, Marie helped simplify the distribution system to make Saturday morning distributions run more efficiently.

"It's important to me to help others who are in similar situations," she expressed.

Distributions in November and December are particularly special at the pantry. Each family receives a turkey, green beans, stuffing, sweet potatoes, a pie and other foods to create a special holiday meal. And thanks to grants from the Musgrave Foundation, these holiday boxes often include hygiene and household products like toothbrushes, shampoo, toilet paper and paper towels.

"Multiple people have told me, 'We wouldn't have had Christmas without you.' The elderly are particularly thankful for what they receive," said Pat.

Around the holidays, Marie is always thankful for the household supplies. Her 13-year-old granddaughter often visits her, and she once asked Marie why she didn't have any toilet paper.

"I told her that after all my bills, I didn't

have enough money left to afford toilet paper. I'm so thankful I can get things like that here," said Marie.

St. Joseph's food pantry has graciously served families in Christian County since 1986. They pick up food from Ozarks Food Harvest once a month.

"Ozarks Food Harvest is important to us because we are able to receive a great amount of nutritious food," said Pat. "Our clients often comment on the variety of foods we offer them on distribution day."

Pat has seen how small acts of kindness can impact the lives of clients in big ways.

"People often cry when they receive their food, especially the first time they visit the pantry," shared Pat.

To many people, St. Joseph's is more than just a place to get food—it's a family.

"It's a good place for people," said Marie. "Everyone takes care of each other. There's so much community and relationship."

Thanks to you, a family will be able to put a special meal on the table this Christmas. Together, we are bringing meals, joy and hope to people struggling with hunger in southwest Missouri.



# CHECK OUT HUNGER FOR FOOD INSECURE FAMILIES THIS MONTH

Make a difference during your next trip to the grocery store now through the end of the year. The Food Bank is partnering with 65 retail partners to raise funds for hungry neighbors this holiday season. Donating is easy—simply add a \$1, \$3 or \$5 tax-free donation to your grocery bill at checkout!

Participating stores include Apple Market, Country Mart, Harter House, Hy-Vee, King Cash Saver, King Food Saver, Murfin's Market, Price Cutter, Ramey, Rhodes Family Price Chopper, Summer Fresh, Town & Country Supermarket and Woods Supermarket.

Pyramid Foods, which manages a handful of these stores, has helped provide nearly 700,000

meals—and raised a great deal of awareness about hunger—during Check Out Hunger over the last ten years.

“With the holidays upon us, we want to make sure every family that Ozark Food Harvest can reach has food to have a great holiday,” said Mike O’Shell, vice president of sales and marketing at Pyramid Foods. “No family or child should go hungry when we all can step up and provide a helping hand.”

The fundraiser wraps up at the end of December, and funds from retailers begin to flow in through the first few months of the year. This is the perfect time for Ozarks Food Harvest to receive a financial boost, as charitable donations

often tend to drop after the holiday season ends.

“It’s incredible that donors have been checking out hunger and providing meals through our retail partners for 21 years,” said Jennifer Sickinger, community engagement manager at Ozarks Food Harvest. “We’re also extremely thankful for our grocery partners, who continue to collect donations and promote the campaign with so much compassion each year.”

Last year, the campaign raised \$51,000 to help provide more than 205,000 meals. Since 1998, the holiday campaign has helped provide more than 2.6 million meals in southwest Missouri.



Customers can Check Out Hunger at local grocery stores through the end of December.

## THE SIGNIFICANCE OF YEAR-END GIVING

Spread good cheer in the community by making a year-end gift to Ozarks Food Harvest. We’re incredibly thankful for the gifts we receive from our generous donors throughout the year, but with 2020 on the horizon, we ask you to consider making one final gift for your hungry neighbors before the year ends.

In the coming weeks, Ozarks Food Harvest will distribute food to 270 pantries and programs in 28 counties across the Ozarks. Day in and day out, these hunger-relief partners help put meals on the table for more than 30,000 children, families and seniors each week.

We recently chatted with one of our food distribution partners about poverty and hunger in Christian County.

“I frequently hear ‘I don’t know what our family would do if you weren’t here each month.’ Many of the elderly women are in tears of joy on pantry day. They appreciate the variety of foods that we offer and really look forward to the times that we have bath tissue, paper towels and laundry soap,” the pantry coordinator shared.

Your gift will provide so much more than just food—it will provide hope for families facing difficult situations. More than one-third of low-income families report challenges affording basic household goods.

Year-end donations also ensure the future of our programs. Because of your gift, a child won’t have to worry about food on the weekend, when school meals aren’t provided; a senior is provided with a box of nutrient-dense items each month; a single mom working hard to make ends meet can receive fresh produce from the Ozarks Food Harvest garden during her next pantry visit.

To stretch your donation further, check to see if your employer offers a matching program, or make a year-end gift as a part of your required minimum distribution from your IRA. You may also benefit from tax deductions when you make a year-end gift.

It’s easy and secure to make a gift through our website at [ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate](https://ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate). Or, send a check by mail. If you have questions

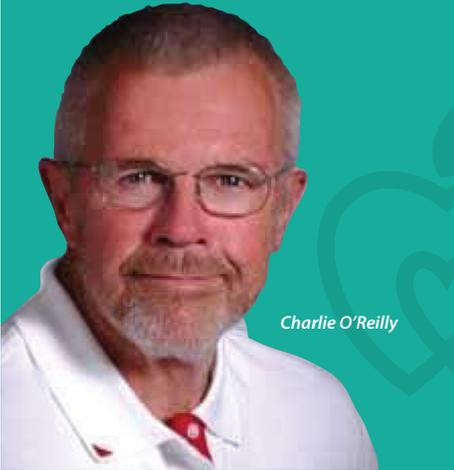
about your donation, give us a call at 417-865-3411.

Thank you for your commitment to ending hunger in the Ozarks—this winter and throughout the year. Because of you, someone will eat today.



Year-end gifts make a difference for so many in the Ozarks.

# Charlie's CORNER



Charlie O'Reilly



The expanded space has allowed The Food Bank to provide more meals than ever before.

## WAREHOUSE EXPANSION INCREASES MEALS PROVIDED

What a year and a half it's been at Ozarks Food Harvest! The Food Bank officially started accepting and processing donations in the 56,000 square-foot warehouse expansion last July, and so much progress has been made in the fight against hunger since then.

The \$4.8 million project was made possible by donations from individual, corporate and foundation donors and the J.E. & L.E. Mabee Foundation Challenge Grant. I am also proud to report that my family (Rosalie Wooten, Larry and Anya O'Reilly, David and Stacey O'Reilly and Mary Beth and I) made a lead gift for this project. I would like to personally thank all of the donors who contributed to the campaign. Because of you, Ozarks Food Harvest has been able to provide more meals than ever before.

In the year leading up to the warehouse expansion, Ozarks Food Harvest provided 17 million meals to its 270 partners and programs. With the expansion, The Food Bank was able to provide an astounding 18.5 million meals in the last fiscal year!

In just one year, we are 1.5 million meals closer to closing the meal gap. Nearly 30 million meals are needed to do this, and through the new space—in collaboration with charitable and governmental partners—Ozarks Food Harvest has the ability to provide those meals in southwest Missouri.

The expansion has created other opportunities for Ozarks Food Harvest, too. In the last year and a half, five drivers and five warehouse associates have been hired to help manage the increase in space and food received. These employees have been essential in providing more meals in the Ozarks.

With the new space, partnerships with area businesses have also been on the rise. Kum & Go has greatly expanded its partnership efforts with The Food Bank. Last fiscal year, local stores provided 253,120 meals for senior centers, emergency shelters, food pantries and more. The Food Bank was able to designate a driver and purchase a truck that's used specifically for Kum & Go pickups and drop-offs. We hope to expand more partnerships and develop new ones as we continue to grow.

All of this—the increase in meals, more partnerships and more employees—was made possible by generous donors like you. I cannot thank you enough for your commitment to ending hunger in the Ozarks.

Consider making a gift this holiday season to help The Food Bank provide even more meals in 2020. Your investment will help reduce the amount of food insecure people in southwest Missouri and get us closer to ending hunger for good. Make a donation at [ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate) or give Bart a call to learn more. Thank you, and happy holidays from my family to yours.



Kum & Go provides fresh meals for area pantries.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### CHECK OUT HUNGER

Through December 31

You can Check Out Hunger at local grocery stores across the Ozarks by adding a \$1, \$3 or \$5 tax-free donation to your grocery bill. More than 60 stores are participating in the annual holiday campaign. See the list of participating retailers and learn more on page 2.

### FOOD FIGHT

January 13-24, 2020

Food Fight 2020 is right around the corner. Food Fight is an annual food and fund drive competition among Springfield Public Schools. This competition raises hunger awareness across the district and stocks community and school pantry shelves following the holiday season. Learn more on page 7.

### DINE OUT FOR HUNGER

January 19-25, 2020

Join Ozarks Food Harvest and SGC Foodservice to show your support for the fight against hunger this January. From January 19-25, participating restaurants in southwest Missouri will offer menu specials, with a portion of proceeds benefiting Ozarks Food Harvest. Learn more on page 7.

### SCOUTING FOR FOOD

March 2020

Boy Scouts will participate in the annual Scouting for Food drive this March as they go door-to-door to collect nonperishable food for Ozarks Food Harvest. You can participate by leaving donations in the grocery sacks left near your door this March. Donations will also be accepted at Ozarks Trail Council headquarters, located at 1616 S. Eastgate Ave. in Springfield. Boy Scouts will also host food drives at area Walmarts on March 28. Reach out to Sarah Byrd at [sbyrd@ozarksfoodharvest.org](mailto:sbyrd@ozarksfoodharvest.org) for more info.



# OZARKS FOOD HARVEST EXCEEDS EXPECTATIONS DURING AIB AUDIT

At Ozarks Food Harvest, we take food safety seriously. To ensure our food is being handled and distributed as safely as possible, we undergo a thorough inspection from the food safety professionals at AIB International every two years.

The process involves an in-depth examination of Ozarks Food Harvest's sanitation practices, documentation processes, pest control criteria and standard operating procedures to guarantee the entire facility meets food safety standards.

We were due for our inspection this year, and I'm so proud to announce that The Food Bank received a rating of 960 out of 1,000! We also earned a perfect score for our sanitation practices.

AIB has been conducting inspections of Ozarks Food Harvest for nearly ten years. Feeding America requires these inspections to confirm we are meeting food safety standards



The Food Bank earned an excellent rating during this year's AIB inspection.

and following proper procedures.

Maintaining excellent conditions in our warehouse and volunteer center has a direct effect on our retail donors, hunger-relief partners and on people who receive our food.

The processes and procedures that go under review with AIB aren't just thrown together when we know the inspector is due—they are meticulously maintained every single day of the year.

AIB also thoroughly inspects Ozarks Food Harvest's inventory. On a day-to-day basis, the inventory allows us to track food from when it's received at our warehouse to when it's dropped off to a partner. This is essential because if product is recalled at any point, we're able to pull it from shelves and refrigerators before it gets to our clients.

When it's time to sort food, our volunteers are briefed on proper food safety procedures and made aware of recalls. Staff members check the temperature of food as it comes out of the cooler or freezer and before it's returned for storage before pickup or distribution. All of these procedures are checked and monitored by AIB during the audit.

Before food is picked up by or dropped at a pantry, Ozarks Food Harvest does one final food safety check. We do absolutely everything we can to make sure food is safe and ready for clients to take home and put on the table.



Bart Brown,  
President/CEO

## BART'S *Hope Note*

Along with food safety, auditors inspect Ozarks Food Harvest's pest control procedures, documentation processes and so much more. The inspection allows us to double check our own processes and certify we are treating food and our facility with the proper care. We are so thankful for the auditors who help ensure food goes from our facility to the hands of our clients as safely as possible!

If you have any questions about AIB or food safety, feel free to give me a call. I would love to walk you through the process on a deeper level and show you how we're doing the best we can to serve our hungry friends in the Ozarks.

# BRINGING HOPE TO CHILDREN DURING THE HOLIDAYS

Many children in the Ozarks are gearing up for a long winter break full of opening presents, traveling and enjoying holiday treats with family and friends. But for food insecure kids, winter break is filled with worry about how they'll manage to eat without the security of school breakfasts and lunches for two weeks.

Thankfully, many of Ozarks Food Harvest's school food pantries step up to meet this need and provide extra meals for kids before the holiday break commences. Central High School in Springfield offers students boxes full of holiday meal ingredients as well as hygiene items for the whole family. Several local elementary schools partner with churches to provide extra meals.

Students who regularly receive *Weekend Backpacks* at school can still count on receiving their bags before the break begins. Lance is thankful that he can rely on getting this food. He shares it with his entire family.

"The food bag helps my family, because we have a lot of people that live with us and so getting extra food for the weekend is great," he shared. "And it also helps for weekdays and to get extras on the holidays."

It breaks my heart to think that children in the Ozarks might not have enough to eat during holiday break—and throughout the rest of the year. Would you consider making a gift to The Food Bank to help these children have food on the table every day of the year?

I'm extremely grateful to each and every one of you for your compassion for children, families and seniors in the Ozarks.

Thank you for making a difference in the lives of your hungry neighbors this winter and throughout the year.



Denise Gibson,  
Development Director

## From DENISE'S DESK

# SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE FRIENDS OF THE FOOD BANK

## DARR FAMILY FOUNDATION HELPS PROVIDE WEEKEND MEALS

The Food Bank is grateful for the Darr Family Foundation's \$20,000 gift toward the *Weekend Backpack Program*. The foundation's mission is to empower at-risk youth to overcome barriers to opportunity. This gift will do just that as children require proper nutrition to grow and learn. Thank you so much to the Darr Foundation for this kind gift.



The Darr Family Foundation's gift will help provide weekend meals for kids.

## O'REILLY AUTO PARTS CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC BENEFITS THE FOOD BANK

This year's O'Reilly Auto Parts golf tournament raised \$10,000 for the *Weekend Backpack Program*! Each year, O'Reilly Auto Parts hosts the Charity Golf Classic to raise money for organizations that help individuals and families struggling with hunger, homelessness, health, poverty, domestic violence and illiteracy. Thank you to O'Reilly Auto Parts for this kind donation.



O'Reilly Auto Parts donated \$10,000 from its Charity Golf Classic this fall.

## ASSOCIATED ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE INC. PROVIDES MORE THAN 42,000 MEALS

Special thanks to Associated Electric Cooperative Inc. (AECI) for its recent donation of 120 pounds of food and \$10,626 to Ozarks Food Harvest. AECI generates affordable, reliable electricity for its members in Missouri, Iowa and Oklahoma. Since 2001, AECI has donated more than \$75,400 to Ozarks Food Harvest. We are so thankful for this wonderful partner and how its employees care for the community.

## KRAFT HEINZ FOUNDATION DONATES \$20,000 FOR HUNGRY CHILDREN

Heartfelt thanks to the Kraft Heinz Company Foundation for its donation of \$20,000 to support the *Weekend Backpack Program*. This donation will provide 2,544 bags of food—over 15,264 meals—to children in the program. Support of the program from organizations and foundations is critical as Ozarks Food Harvest purchases all the food for the program, rather than relying on donations, to ensure the food is consistently nutritious, easy to open and child-friendly. Thank you to Kraft Heinz for showing compassion for food insecure children in the Ozarks.

## GENERAL MILLS FOUNDATION HELPS PROVIDE MEALS FOR KIDS

The General Mills Foundation recently made a \$10,000 gift to the *Weekend Backpack Program* for Jasper and Lawrence Counties. This will help provide 7,632 weekend meals for kids who aren't sure where their next meal will come from. Ozarks Food Harvest is grateful for how General Mills deeply cares for the community, especially where their employees live and work!



The General Mills Foundation supports kids in the Ozarks.

## DARDEN RESTAURANTS PROVIDE 32,000 MEALS THANKS TO FEEDING AMERICA

Thank you so much to Darden restaurants for its donation of \$8,000 to provide 32,000 meals for people facing hunger in the Ozarks! In 2016, the Darden Foundation began partnering with Feeding America with the intention of helping food banks nationwide respond to the growing number of hungry children, families and seniors. Thanks to Darden for its generosity and care for the community. Darden restaurants in the Ozarks include Olive Garden, LongHorn Steakhouse and Cheddar's Scratch Kitchen.

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**Tommy Wohlgenuth**  
SGC™ Foodservice—President Elect  
**Brad Crain**  
Arvest Bank of Springfield—Treasurer  
**James Wilson**  
NewStream Enterprises, a subsidiary of SRC Holdings—Secretary  
**Kurt Bain**  
Kraft Heinz  
**Tim Bellanti**  
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**Clayton Brown**  
Prime Inc.  
**Tamara de Wild**  
O'Reilly Auto Parts—Past President  
**Mike Pinkston**  
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**Jill Reynolds**  
Commerce Trust Company  
**Kenny Ross**  
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Spectrum Accounting and Payroll Vault

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**Cindy Boggs**, Office Manager  
**Melissa Hicks**, Receptionist  
**Terry Keller**, Human Resource & Administrative Services Manager  
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**Jennifer Sickinger**, Community Engagement Manager

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**Kimberly Hansen**, CSFP/Senior Box Coordinator  
**Terra Lamb**, Agency Capacity Manager  
**Rebecca Moore**, Backpack Program Coordinator  
**Natalie Regenold**, SNAP Coordinator  
**Jane Terry**, Creative Information Specialist  
**Melanie Toler**, Member Services Assistant  
**Shada Travis**, Agency Support Specialist

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**Trisha Heflin**, Warehouse/Compliance Supervisor  
**Milke Hesebeck**, Transportation Supervisor  
**Eddie Hicks**, Compliance Manager  
**Steve Roberts**, Transportation Manager  
**Marcus Seal**, Volunteer Center Supervisor

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](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org).

# HUNGER HERO NEWS

VOLUNTEER & FOOD DRIVE PROGRAMS

DECEMBER 2019



Harley reached 1,000 hours of service with Ozarks Food Harvest at the end of November.

## VOLUNTEER VIEWS SERVICE AS PAYBACK TIME DURING RETIREMENT

During his Tuesday morning volunteer shift, Harley Snyder can usually be found breaking down boxes or sorting produce while he jokes around with his friends.

He began volunteering with Ozarks Food Harvest more than eight years ago, and in November, he achieved 1,000 hours of service.

"I started because I felt I needed to do something for the community, and at this point in time, I am very blessed," he shared.

Harley views his volunteer experience as "payback time." For 32 years, he worked in various positions through City Utilities in Springfield. Upon retirement, he developed a passion for giving back to the community in a tangible and meaningful way.

"I leave volunteering happy and proud to have done something to help those who are less fortunate," he said.

Harley is quick to refer to the friends he has made over the years at Ozarks Food Harvest as family—and they're the reason he keeps coming back. On Tuesday mornings, he and his friends chat and deepen their relationships as fruits and veggies are passed down the line and packed for distribution.

When he's not sorting food at Ozarks Food Harvest or teaching people about fish and animals found across the world during his volunteer shifts at Wonders of Wildlife, Harley enjoys spending time with his wife, three children, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren. All live in the Springfield area.

"God has been good to me," he shared. "I'm blessed to still be able to do so many things."

Want to join the fight against hunger and make some friends along the way? Visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer) to apply.

## FULL CIRCLE GARDENS PROGRAM EXPERIENCES RECORD GROWTH

Thanks to our wonderful volunteers and garden partners, Ozarks Food Harvest's Full Circle Garden program had a record-breaking year! The program rescued 45,480 total pounds of fresh, local produce in 2019. That's nearly five tons more than in 2018.

A combination of consistent rainfall and more moderate summer temperatures contributed to the success in our garden and in the gardens of our partners. At the Ozarks Food Harvest Garden, 11,615 pounds of food were harvested and distributed to hunger-relief partners. The remaining 33,865 pounds were rescued at partnering gardens and markets by The Food Bank's Glean Team.

"The program continues to grow thanks to our wildly generous community. Many local growers have reached out to us wanting to help fight hunger with their excess and grade-outs," said Alexa Poindexter, Full Circle Gardens coordinator.

For food-insecure families, produce is often the last thing on the grocery list because of its price. We're so thankful for our volunteers and partners who make it possible for these individuals to fuel their bodies with healthy fresh-from-the-garden fruits and veggies!

Want to volunteer with the Glean Team? Apply up at [ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer).



Glean Team volunteers harvest produce year-round.

6 Transform Hunger into Hope by volunteering to help your neighbors in need. Sign up at [ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer).

# THANK YOU!

## INDIVIDUALS 20+ HOURS

September 1 – October 31, 2019

Brennan Anderson	George Lawrence
Jim Blackwell	Bailey Lourens
Gretta Buttelmann	Melvie Mosier
Karla Carroll	Collin Nyemetz
Tom Carson	Scott Pettit
Sophia Clanton	Melody Pierson
Gale Clithero	Cary Ragan
Sharon Cook	Gay Ragan
Marilyn Corson	Brian Roberts
Jerry Corson	Deborah Rumpf
Amanda Davis	Warren Satterfield
Eileen Deal	John Schvab
Gary DeHaven	Alexander Scranton
Desiree Dixon	Jeffrey Scranton
Kris Dreesen	Ashton Shepard
Richard Dyer	Sarah Siplinger
Arlene Eichler	Logan Steinhour
Mauricio Franco	Russell Turner
Sierra Goslee	Erica Vaughn
Gerald Green	Marilyn Vinson-McAfee
Wil Hardiman	Lona Wait
Cindy Hawdon	Georgeann Warren
Fabio Heredia	Jack Williams
Daniel Kis	Larry Woolf
Donald Landon	

**Thank you to our amazing volunteers  
for their generous gift of time.**

## GROUPS 20+ HOURS

September 1 – October 31, 2019

417 Escape Artist  
Abacus CPAs, LLC  
Arvest Bank  
Associated Wholesale Grocers  
Ava General Baptist Youth Group  
Central Bank Of The Ozarks  
Click Academy @ Logan Rogersville HS  
Community Partnership of the Ozarks  
Cox Hematology Department  
Datema House  
DHL Supply Chain  
Downtown Rotary  
Elk's Lodge  
Expedia  
Forsyth R-III FCCLA  
Greene County Youth Academy -  
Evening Program  
Gold Mountain Communications  
Great Southern Bank  
Health Sciences Academy  
Ivy-Medlock Family  
Logan-Rogersville - FFA  
Missouri Employers Mutual Insurance  
MSU Delta Zeta Sorority  
MSU Society for Physics Students  
MSU Swim & Dive  
MSU Association of Fashion and Design  
On The Lam Sams  
OTC Honors Program  
Ozarks Technical Community College  
"Peritoneal Dialysis Packers" at CoxHealth  
Reinhart Foodservice  
RJ Reynolds Tobacco  
Service Systems Associates  
SPS AIMS - Study Alternative Center  
Central H.S. Key Club  
Parkview H.S. National Honor Society  
Parkview Cares H.S. Group  
The GIVE Squad  
Wesley UMC

## FOOD & FUND DRIVES 50+ MEALS

September 11 – November 11, 2019

Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc. — 42,604  
Gold Mountain Communications — 11,639  
Central Bank of the Ozarks — 9,709  
Spencer Fane — 5,505  
Missouri State University  
Homecoming Committee — 3,544  
Oasis Convention Center — 3,537  
McCormick & Company, Inc. — 3,087  
Kickapoo High School — 2,928  
Mercy Care Management — 2,400  
Smithfield Foods — 1,838  
417 Escape Artist — 1,435  
Fremont Elementary — 1,113  
Parkcrest Dental — 1,100  
American Public Works Association — 1,049  
Horace Mann Elementary — 738  
The Bank of Missouri — 722  
Cherry Bomb Burlesque — 675  
The Waterford at Ironbridge — 593  
3M — 423  
Missouri State University - Residence Life — 408  
Edmonds Dental Prosthetics — 386  
National Weather Service — 361  
Grant Ave. Freewill Baptist Church — 324  
Pat Jones YMCA — 253  
The Greens — 245  
McBride Elementary School — 231  
Jenny Happe — 182  
Mercy Central Patient Access — 178  
SRC logistics — 168  
Temple Israel — 154  
Verla Gregory — 139  
Springfood Podcast & Bookmarx Bookstore — 127  
Wyndham Vacation Ownership — 125  
Ascend Dental Design — 113  
Lindberg's Tavern — 112  
Portland Elementary School — 107  
Culture Flock — 87  
Papa's Discount Furniture — 85

**Thank you so much to our ongoing  
food and fund drive hosts!**

## FOOD FIGHT 2020 WILL HELP PROVIDE MEALS AND RAISE AWARENESS

Food Fight 2020 is right around the corner. Food Fight is an annual food and fund drive competition among Springfield Public Schools. This competition raises hunger awareness across the district and stocks community and school pantry shelves following the holiday season. Funds raised will sponsor students participating

in the Weekend Backpack Program. Since 2011, Food Fight has helped provide more than 204,000 meals for Springfield families. This year's event will take place from January 13-24.

Schools have the opportunity to partner with area businesses or organizations. Partners will collect donations to add to

their partner school's final donation total. If your business or organization is interested in partnering with a school this January, contact Sarah Byrd at sbyrd@ozarksfoodharvest.org, or visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org/foodfight20](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org/foodfight20) for more info. Thank you for your support of food insecure children and families in the Ozarks!

## DINE OUT FOR HUNGER

Turn your table for two into dinner for many. Join Ozarks Food Harvest to show your support for the fight against hunger this January. From January 19-25, participating restaurants in southwest Missouri will offer special menu items, with a portion of proceeds benefiting

Ozarks Food Harvest. For every item purchased, SGC Foodservice will also generously provide a financial match.

Donations tend to slow down for Ozarks Food Harvest in January. By participating in Dine Out for Hunger, you'll help provide meals for families

in need this winter and show your support for local restaurants.

Explore a list of participating restaurants and their specials and get details about the event at [dineoutforhunger.com](http://dineoutforhunger.com).



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