



HARVEST TIME

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



BACK TO SCHOOL ADDS UP TO HUNGER FOR SOME KIDS

This school year, a great benefit available to all students for the past two years isn't there – free breakfast and lunch. As COVID-19 relief measures end, including school meals, and food prices increase, more families struggle to feed their children. And, students feel the effects of this change, "I feel angry because when I'm hungry my stomach feels like a million cramps in one spot," a 5th grader named Kaylee shared.

Some families will still qualify for free school meals if they meet income requirements. Unfortunately, there are far too many making too much money to qualify for school-provided meals but not quite enough to provide a nutritious lunch for their children.

"They make too much to get support, but they don't really have enough to make ends meet, and usually there are multiple children in the home. Kids we are serving this year have families that have, like, 3 kids, 4 kids," Springfield Public School nurse, Liesl King, shared. "Both parents work and it's not quite enough to make ends meet. They obviously can't do two jobs because then nobody is home."

Jean Grabeel, recent Director of Health and Human Services for Springfield Public Schools, hears the concerns. "Everyone is concerned about rising costs for food and everything— just balancing out what income you have and making choices about it. Asking yourself, 'Do I put gas in the car, or I do I buy food, or do I pay rent?' There are economic challenges to our families."

Inflation can be devastating to low-income families. In many schools, the cost of school lunch has nearly doubled in the past five years; it is nearly \$900 per child for the school year. This is an additional expense many families can't absorb.

Changes to school-provided meals, alongside record-breaking price increases, are why the *Weekend Backpack Program* is crucial to nearly 1,600 school children. The program is intended to reach children who need nourishment and connect them with healthy food.

"It has an impact," King said, "They look forward to it. The kids say that's what they had for the weekend. It makes a difference. They're more prepared to learn. They don't have that hungry tummy or they aren't feeling sick."

"I have seen firsthand how the food bags have been a huge blessing to students and families in need. With food prices increasing and grocery bills going up at alarming rates, families are struggling more than ever to make ends meet."

- Mrs. Jackson, Counselor at Hubble Elementary

Mrs. Jackson, a counselor at Hubble Elementary School, shared, "I have seen firsthand how the food bags have been a huge blessing to students and families in need. With food prices increasing and grocery bills going up at alarming rates, families are struggling more than ever to make ends meet." She shared how she was especially touched by 5-year-old Cassandra, whose face brightened with a big smile when she walked into her classroom. Cassandra said, "Thank you so much for the food! My family really needs it."

We can solve this problem for so many local students. Will you help Ozarks Food Harvest work to ensure children experiencing hunger in southwest Missouri don't have to worry about their next meal? Think of five-year-old Aria, who told Ozarks Food Harvest, "When I'm hungry I feel sad. I'm really thankful for what you do."

Help make a difference in local children's lives by donating or volunteering today. Your compassion creates smiles on the faces of the children you help.



Clint "Girlye" Gerlek, Bart Brown and Jennifer "Hemmy" Hemmer at this year's record-breaking Hungerthon.

HUNGERTHON WRAP UP

Ozarks Food Harvest is grateful to each individual and community partner who contributed during the 24th annual Hungerthon. We cannot help children facing hunger without you.

From September 9th through the 12th, The Food Bank and iHeartRadio Springfield teamed up with the community to raise funds for the *Weekend Backpack Program*. The four-day radiothon raised \$260,422. Since 1999, hunger heroes have donated more than \$2.8 million through Hungerthon.

When we began the *Weekend Backpack Program*, it provided weekend meals for children in one rural community. But soon, it was requested in other rural schools. Ultimately, Springfield schools asked to be involved as well. There was a greater need than anticipated. In response, Ozarks Food Harvest immediately increased fundraising efforts for

the program; it is now in over 60 schools in southwest Missouri.

One counselor shared, "As an educator that has been in the rural setting for over 20 years, I am so thankful for Ozarks Food Harvest's *Weekend Backpack Program*. I have seen firsthand the blessing it has been, and currently is."

Hungerthon listeners tuned in to Alice 95.5, US97, 100.5 The Wolf, and 105.9 KGBX throughout the four-day event. The Food Bank accepted donations by phone, online and in person.

"It's always such an honor to work with Ozarks Food Harvest to help feed children facing hunger in our community," said Clint "Girlye" Gerlek, vice president of programming for iHeartRadio and Hungerthon co-host. "Thank you to everyone who made a donation and helped ensure that more than 723 children will have meals over the weekend for an entire school year."

Event donations were matched by individuals and businesses including, A-1 Guarantee Roofing, Inc., Animal Health Center Hospital and Clinic, Associated Electric Cooperative, Inc., CoxHealth, Cronkhite Homes, Harter House, Heart of America Beverage Company, Kum & Go, McDonald's, Ron and Janice Penney, Pick-N-Pull, Positronic Industries, Ross Construction, SRC Community Relations Committee, Dr. Daryl Steen, Keith and Sandra Stover, Yahweh's Place at Cedarville and Youngblood Auto Group. Event sponsors included Air Services All Services, Hy-Vee and Wonders of Wildlife.

You can help support children through the *Weekend Backpack Program* all year long. To contribute, visit ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate, and select "*Weekend Backpack Program*" from the dropdown menu.

SENIOR PRODUCE PANTRY TARGETS RURAL AREAS

"This is such a blessing. We don't get much help out here," a woman named June shared from the food distribution drive-thru line at the Hartville Senior Center. She came with two of her friends, Geri and Jean. It was a girls' day out. They look forward to the first Tuesday of the month when 'the fruit truck' comes to distribute food at the senior center. "I need this. We need this," Geri said, "You know it's 60 miles to the store. Who can afford that with gas? Of the three of us girls, I'm the only one with a car, so we try to run our errands together. Plus, everything costs so much now." Jean spoke up, echoing her friends, "This really is a blessing."

Nearly every senior in the distribution line says the same thing: the Senior Produce Pantry is a blessing. Many mention how difficult it is to get produce out where they are. They note how

far the stores are and how expensive groceries are because of inflation. Some seniors lack transportation or the ability to drive. Delivering food to their communities is important, and it's one of the ways Ozarks Food Harvest addresses the inequities in food access.

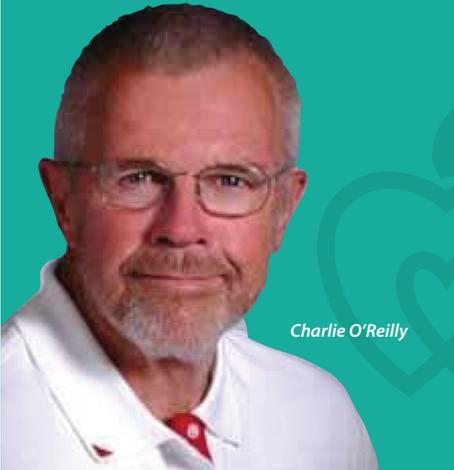
"This helps us. We're on a fixed income," Bill, a retired cabinetmaker said, "The cost of groceries is so high, and this really does help." Many seniors live on a fixed income, and the cost of food is the fastest rising expense in their budget.

Thanks to Feeding America, Ozarks Food Harvest's new initiative – The Senior Produce Pantry – provides fresh fruit and other food items that may be hard to get to seniors living in rural areas.

The distributions take place at senior centers and senior housing authority sites. They are delivered in a highly-visible, dedicated produce truck. The truck acts as a traveling billboard in the hopes that more people become aware of the regular distributions and take advantage of them.

Back in the distribution line, everyone was excited about the pineapples and eggplant. "To be able to get produce around here, to have it right in the community! It's such a boost to the morale," a woman named Margret shared, "It keeps people going. It's encouragement. It can be a reason to get out of bed in the morning, to have conversations, to meet people you don't know. It's a blessing."

Charlie's CORNER



Charlie O'Reilly



Every dollar you donate provides meals to families facing hunger.

AN UNSUSTAINABLE SITUATION

For the first time in two years, the need for food assistance has spiked back to pandemic level highs because of the lingering effects of COVID-19. Now, families, businesses, and charities across the Ozarks suffer from inflation, high food prices, and the increased cost of living.

"Inflation is devastating to the budgets of families, seniors, and people just barely getting by: driving more and more of them to food banks and food pantries," said Katie Fitzgerald, president and COO of Feeding America.

Ozarks Food Harvest is not immune from the pressures of inflation either. The Food Bank, and our network of community and faith-based charities, is experiencing an increased demand for services, similar to the peak demand experienced during the height of COVID-19. Despite working, many individuals and families struggle to put food on their tables.

While the need for food assistance has increased, Ozarks Food Harvest has simultaneously experienced declines in both revenue and food.

All COVID-19 donations and grant cycles have run their course, as well as Federal Programs such as CRSSA and Build Back Better funding. Even without this funding, we continue to provide pandemic-level relief.

Additionally, The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) commodities — a USDA program that purchases nutritious foods and gives them to states for distribution through charities — have rapidly declined. They have decreased overall by 41% or 4 million pounds year-over-year at Ozarks Food Harvest.

The Food Bank is working tirelessly to mitigate this TEFAP decrease by increasing food rescue efforts and purchasing additional pounds of food. Last year, Ozarks Food Harvest provided

nearly 3.5 million pounds of purchased product to its network of community and faith-based charities to help supplement food inventory.

As you may recall, the break in supply chains meant that many food items were unavailable, too expensive, and/or had extremely long lead times. SGC Foodservice and Associated Wholesale Grocers, two of the largest grocery suppliers in the area, were forced to place items on "allocation", which meant The Food Bank wasn't able to purchase them in the quantities previously available.

Operating expenses have also increased. The overall cost to distribute food increased by 57% in the past three years alone.

This is not a long-term, sustainable situation. And it means that Ozarks Food Harvest's work is more important now than ever. There are far too many hungry people in the Ozarks, and we need everyone to come to the table. If you are an individual or corporation, continue to support Ozarks Food Harvest; volunteer or donate, but get involved today. For the community of southwest Missouri, it is important to continue this good work.



Volunteers carefully sort and pack food donations.

Give time, food or funds at ozarksfoodharvest.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOP FOR OUR CAUSE

October-December

Do good while you shop for the holidays! Shop with our community partners for opportunities to support The Food Bank with your purchases. You can see a full list of our participating partners at ozarksfoodharvest.org/community-partnerships.



CHECK OUT HUNGER

November 1-December 31

You can make a difference for families facing hunger while you shop for groceries. Support The Food Bank in November and December at local grocers in southwest Missouri by adding a \$1, \$3 or \$5 tax-free donation to your grocery bill. A list of participating grocers will be available later this month at ozarksfoodharvest.org/community-partnerships.

TURKEY TROT

November 24

Get movin' on Thanksgiving morning during the 28th annual Turkey Trot with Springfield - Greene County Park Board. Be sure to bring five non-perishable food items to donate to Ozarks Food Harvest. Since 2001 Turkey Trot donations have helped provide nearly 150,000 meals for our neighbors in need. Happy Trotting!

GIVING TUESDAY

November 29

After Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, take a moment to give back to the community during Giving Tuesday. One in five children and one in six adults in the Ozarks are food insecure, and they need your help to put food on the table this holiday season. Take advantage of match opportunities and make a donation this #GivingTuesday, visit ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate.

INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Ozarks Food Harvest took several opportunities to invest in our community over the past fiscal year, which ran from July 2021 through June 2022. I want to take a moment to reflect on what we were able to accomplish with your partnership:

- Provided 20 million meals through our network of community and faith-based charities across a third of the state of Missouri
- Served 50,000 unduplicated children, families and seniors each month
- Distributed more than 900,000 meals through *Mobile Food Pantries* to help feed individuals in rural areas facing hunger
- Distributed more than 23 million pounds of food, including 4.2 million pounds of fresh produce



Mobile Food Pantries deliver to rural areas.

- Rescued 7 million pounds of edible food from being wasted through the *Retail Pick-Up* program
- Awarded \$1 million in grants to our network to help sustain and expand hunger-relief efforts across Southwest Missouri

As we press through the rest of 2022, we remain focused on making the additional investments needed to fix our community's food system so that children, families and seniors know where they'll get their next meal. It's a responsibility that falls to Ozarks Food Harvest as we now supply seven out of every ten meals distributed by our network of hunger-relief charities spread across a 28-county service area.

Our work is more important than ever as folks continue to deal with inflation and increased prices for food. There are still too many people without enough to eat. Ozarks Food Harvest is responding to this need with determination. Here's what we are doing:

- Increasing food deliveries through our *Mobile Food Pantry* program to assist families and seniors living in underserved and rural areas of southwest Missouri.
- Growing our *Retail Pick-Up* program. The Food Bank coordinates with more than 140 grocers every week to rescue fresh produce, frozen meat, dairy and other goods that might otherwise go to waste.



Bart Brown, President/CEO

BART'S Hope Note

- Increasing production and distribution of locally grown, nutrient-dense food through our *Full Circle Gardens* program. Focusing on sustainability, composting and volunteer education.

Ozarks Food Harvest is here to provide hope to the communities we serve, but we can't do it alone. We need your help to continue investing in our community's food system so folks in the Ozarks don't have to struggle just to put a meal on the table. Please consider donating today and be a part of our efforts to strengthen our community and end hunger in the Ozarks.



Denise Gibson, Development Director

From DENISE'S DESK

PARTNERSHIPS FIGHT HUNGER AND RAISE AWARENESS FOR HUNGER ACTION MONTH

Hunger Action Month is one of the most exciting times of the year at Ozarks Food Harvest. Each September, we work together with local businesses and organizations and ask them to take action against hunger and support the *Weekend Backpack Program*. Whether they choose to host fund drives, offer special promotions, or raise awareness through social media, our community demonstrates a passion for *Transforming Hunger into Hope* for those in southwest Missouri.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of local businesses and organizations. Hunger Action Month 2022 was presented by Mercy and we also received support from 4 By 4 Brewing Company, 417 Aerial, 5 Pound Apparel, A Beautiful Mess, Best of Luck Beer Hall, BigShots Golf, BoxLunch, The Coffee Ethic, Dance Mission, Mama Jean's Natural Market, Neighbor's Mill Bakery and Cafe, and The Sandwich Scene.

Throughout the month, Central Bank of the Ozarks, Gold Mountain Communication, Smithfield Foods, St. John's Episcopal Church and Wesley United Methodist Church hosted fund drives across Springfield. Tea Bar and Bites Café hosted the Apron Fashion Show and Panera Bread hosted Empty Bowls.

I'm proud of this community, its generosity, and its belief in our mission. I want to thank the many businesses, organizations, employees, and customers who recognized the continued need in the community for food assistance and participated in this year's Hunger Action Month.

You don't have to wait until next September, we fight to end hunger all year long. Please consider joining our mission to feed our neighbors. For information about how you or your business can be involved, give us a call at 417-865-3411.

SPECIAL THANKS TO THESE FRIENDS OF THE FOOD BANK

SUMMER HARVEST PARTNERS HELP FIGHT SUMMER HUNGER

Thank you to our Summer Harvest partners who joined Ozarks Food Harvest in raising awareness and funds to stop summer hunger when school-provided meals were unavailable. We're grateful for their partnership! Thank you, Missouri Eye Institute and all of our partners – Ameriprise Financial, Biblical Life Assembly, BigShots Golf, First Christian Church, Georgia Mac's, KPM CPAs, Lucas Oil Speedway, Midwest Mavericks, O'Reilly Automotive, O'Reilly Hospitality, Pick-N-Pull, Pinegar Honda, Rosalie O'Reilly Wooten, Stomp the Blues Out of Homelessness and Tremendicon.



Summer Harvest meets it's goal.

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST IS HONORED TO RECEIVE OUR SECOND INSTALLMENT FROM THE MUSGRAVE FOUNDATION

We're grateful to the Jeanette L. Musgrave Foundation and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks for the second installment of the "Change for Children" grant of \$25,000. This gift will support the *Weekend Backpack Program* and provide over 100,000 meals to children facing hunger.

COMMUNITY BLOOD CENTER OF THE OZARKS AWARDS A \$2,000 BONUS TO THE FOOD BANK

Special thanks to Community Blood Center of the Ozarks for naming Ozarks Food Harvest winner of the LifePoints Lift for 2022. We received a \$2,000 bonus in addition to the \$2,014 donation from blood donors donating their LifePoints. Since 2015, CBCO's LifePoints Lift program has raised \$54,566 to help provide more than 218,000 meals.

PRODUCE FOR KIDS PROVIDES 14,000 MEALS

In a partnership with Feeding America and Associated Wholesale Grocers, Produce for Kids recently donated \$3,500 to Ozarks Food Harvest. Associated Wholesale Grocers is the only retailer that hosts a year-round Produce for Kids campaign. Shoppers can look for the Produce for Kids logo on participating items, and a portion of their purchase will support the Produce for Kids fund. Thank you so much to Produce for Kids, Feeding America, and Associated Wholesale Grocers.



Produce For Kids supports The Food Bank.

CHICK-FIL-A AND FEEDING AMERICA AWARDS \$25,000 TO THE FOOD BANK

A big thank you to Chick-fil-A and Feeding America for the generous grant that we received when they opened their new Joplin location. This grant supports the *Weekend Backpack Program* and will provide more than 18,600 meals during the 2022-2023 school year to children at Irving Elementary school.

SPLASH AND SIZZLE COLLECTS 4,731 POUNDS

Thank you to Springfield-Greene County Park Board for offering free admission to several area pools when swimmers donated non-perishable food items from Memorial Day through Labor Day. The food drive collected 4,731 pounds of food, which will help provide nearly 4,000 meals to our neighbors facing hunger.



Splash & Sizzle annual food drive feeds nearly 4,000.

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Kenny Ross, President**—Ross Construction Group
- Dr. Meera Scarrow, President Elect**—Mercy Hospital-Springfield
- Tommy Wohlgenuth, Treasurer**—SGC™ Foodservice
- Ashley Kimberling-Casad, Secretary**—CoxHealth
- Jim Admire**—Kraft Heinz
- Clayton Brown**—Prime Inc.
- Genevieve Carvel**—Positronic Industries, Inc.
- Tamara Conn**—O'Reilly Auto Parts
- Jason England**—Arvest Bank
- Holly Gray**—Heim Young & Associates
- Mike Pinkston**—Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith, Inc.
- Jill Reynolds**—Commerce Trust Company
- Krystal Russell**—Spectrum Accounting and Payroll Vault

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST STAFF

Bart Brown, President/CEO

ADMINISTRATION

- Cindy Snow**, Director of Administration
- Cindy Boggs**, Administrative & Inventory Support Supervisor
- Kimberly Hanson**, Administrative Services Coordinator
- Terry Keller**, Human Resource & Administrative Services Manager
- Matt Koenig**, IT Manager
- Zetta Graves**, Receptionist

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATION

- Denise Gibson**, Director of Development & Communication
- Jordan Browning**, Public Information Officer
- Sarah Byrd**, Community Engagement Coordinator
- Rhown Cramer**, Development Assistant
- Jordan Dykstra**, Art Director
- Holly Fox**, Development & Grant Coordinator
- Cassie Hanson**, Development & Grants Sr. Manager
- Micah Rudd**, Donor Relations Coordinator
- Jennifer Sickinger**, Community Engagement Manager
- Allie Smith**, Community Engagement Administrative Assistant
- Kristina Smotherman**, Communication Specialist

MEMBER SERVICES

- Mary Zumwalt**, Director of Programs & Member Services
- Terra Baum**, Agency Capacity & Compliance Manager
- Heather Haloupek**, Child Nutrition Programs Coordinator
- Deidra McBride**, CSFP/Senior Box Coordinator
- Brent Nichols**, Agency Outreach Coordinator
- Maddy Scarlett**, SNAP Coordinator
- Jane Terry**, Creative Information Specialist
- Melanie Toler**, Agency Resource & Training Coordinator
- Shada Travis**, Agency Support Specialist
- Julie Woodiel**, Food Sourcing Coordinator

OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

- Scott Boggs**, Vice President of Operations
- Steve Roberts**, Director of Operations
- Trisha Heflin**, Warehouse Manager
- Mike Hesebeck**, Transportation Manager
- Eddie Hicks**, Building Maintenance & Compliance Specialist
- Marcus Seal**, Inventory & Process Manager

- Stephanie Miller**, Director of Community Resources
- Lydia DeWeese**, Warehouse Lead/Volunteer Center
- Cady Goble**, Full Circle Gardens Farm Coordinator
- Alexa Poindexter**, Full Circle Gardens Manager
- Kevin Richardson**, Instructional Materials Designer/Volunteer Coach
- Dillon Smith**, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator/Volunteer Coach

To view a full staff listing please visit ozarksfoodharvest.org.

HUNGER HERO NEWS

FEEDING FAMILIES ACROSS THE OZARKS

“You feel like you’re doing something worthwhile. I’ve met seniors who get the senior boxes. It’s very personal to the volunteers. More personal than writing a check.”

- Terry White, Wesley United Methodist Volunteer Coordinator



Thank you Wesley UMC volunteers!

WESLEY UNITED METHODIST CHURCH: CHEERFUL GIVERS

This summer, Wesley United Methodist Church reached a 4,000 volunteer-hours milestone. It is the largest amount of volunteer time a group has ever given at Ozarks Food Harvest. Their generous service helped provide more than 420,000 meals to our neighbors in southwest Missouri.

Terry White, the church’s Volunteer Coordinator for The Food Bank, says they volunteer because they want to feed people in need. “We realized hunger was the number

one problem in our community. When you volunteer, you feel like you’re doing something worthwhile,” White said, “I’ve met seniors who get the senior boxes. It’s very personal to us. More personal than writing a check.”

Service is important to volunteers from Wesley. They volunteer at many pantries and feeding sites in the area and enjoy their time at Ozarks Food Harvest. “The volunteer coaches are great and they always bend over backward for us. We’re a big church, and one of

the benefits of volunteering is that it helps you get to know more people in the congregation. You work side by side and get to talk more. We look forward to it!”

We look forward to the time they spend with us, too. Thank you so much to Wesley United Methodist Church. We’re humbled by their commitment to service and their dedication to our community.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Check out our community partners who helped provide meals from June 9–August 31, 2022.

Pyramid Foods - Putting the Ozarks First with KOLR10 — 22,908
Crocs, thanks to Feeding America — 21,159
Pyramid Foods - Feeding Our Neighbors — 19,227
Arvest Bank - Arvest Million Meals — 18,586
Hot Topic & BoxLunch, thanks to Feeding America — 18,092
Associated Wholesale Grocers - Produce for Kids — 14,000
Pick-n-Pull Auto Dismantlers — 12,725
Community Blood Center of the Ozarks — 11,347
KPM CPAs & Advisors — 7,304
Midwest Mavericks — 7,000
Pampered Chef, thanks to Feeding America — 6,829
Downtown Springfield Association -

Taste of SoMo — 4,599
Pinegar Honda — 4,023
Springfield-Greene Co. Park Board - Splash & Sizzle — 3,143
Tremendicon — 2,800
Lucas Oil Speedway — 2,619
O'Reilly Auto Parts - Day of Caring — 2,555
Dave, thanks to Feeding America — 1,891
O'Reilly Hospitality Management — 1,800
Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church — 1,220
Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage
Natural Food Markets, Inc. — 853
Ameriprise — 800
Cronkhite Homes — 600
Department of Corrections - Restorative Justice — 500

Sinclair Broadcast Group, Inc, thanks to Feeding America — 400
Cedar Fair, thanks to Feeding America — 314
America's Car-Mart — 268
BigShots Golf — 264
The Table Anglican Mission — 212
Air Services and All Services — 208
O'Reilly Auto Parts — 203
Geico Philanthropic Foundation, thanks to Feeding America — 200
Continental Title Company — 180
Prime Inc. Food Drive — 138
Queen City Sertoma Skirmish — 122
O'Reilly Hospitality Management — 103

Check out our “Shop for our Cause” partners and other community partnerships at ozarksfoodharvest.org/community-partnerships.



Learn about composting with Full Circle Gardens.

Growing Innovations

From the *Full Circle Gardens* program, there's always something new. Maybe it's a record-breaking crop or an innovative composting system. This season it was both.

The garden program produced an astonishing 90,000 pounds of produce this year, beating last year by over 20,000 pounds. The success of the garden program is attributed to its partnerships and sustainability, such as efficient irrigation solutions, seed sharing and composting.

The gardens also completed a grant-funded project for composting aimed at volunteer education, healthy soil creation, and waste diversion. Composting is a great way to improve soil health, texture and moisture retention with materials that are readily available and many people send to the landfill.

Over 50 volunteers of all ages were engaged in creating a useful, growing medium out of

everyday organic materials like garden debris, coffee grounds and kitchen scraps. They diverted nearly a quarter ton of waste from the landfill and used the compost they created in the garden's growing spaces.

"Compost education complements garden education and the community call-to-action to fight hunger. It increases awareness about food, lawn and garden waste, and promotes the discussion about waste diversion," shared Alexa Poindexter, manager of Ozarks Food Harvest's *Full Circle Gardens* program.

This is just one of the many educational opportunities offered through our *Full Circle Gardens* program. Want to learn about other garden projects or volunteer? Visit us at ozarksfoodharvest.org/programs/full-circle-gardens/.

With a Little Help from Our Friends: Thank You Hy-Vee

Our mission to *Transform Hunger into Hope* would not be possible without partners like Hy-Vee, who have helped provide more than 1.3 million meals for our neighbors facing hunger. Through our years of partnership, they have found different ways to support Ozarks Food Harvest and continue to combat food insecurity in southwest Missouri.

One of the ways Hy-Vee has helped provide meals is through their initiative, *Food Bank Friday*. The fundraiser assists Ozarks Food Harvest by helping provide for families who have reduced access to healthy foods and experience food insecurity. They also support The Food Bank by participating in other fundraisers such as:

- The annual holiday register campaign, *Check Out Hunger*, which allows customers to donate at the register,

- *The Giving Tag* program donates \$1 for every bag purchased year-round, and
- *Hungerthon*, which supports the *Weekend Backpack Program*.

In addition to fundraising, Hy-Vee donates food to Ozarks Food Harvest through the *Retail Pick-Up* program. The *Retail Pick-Up* program is a joint effort between The Food Bank and local grocers to rescue food that might otherwise go to waste. The donations include fruits and vegetables, meat, dairy, and more. Over 1.4 million pounds of food has been donated through the *Retail Pick-Up* program.

We rely on generous partners like Hy-Vee to ensure we can increase access to healthy food for children, families and seniors in the Ozarks. We appreciate Hy-Vee's ongoing commitment to its community.

VOLUNTEERS

Below is a list of individuals and groups who have donated 25+ hours of time from June 1– August 31, 2022.

INDIVIDUALS

- | | |
|--------------------|---------------------|
| Margaret Beem | Paul Jones |
| Thomas Bernard | Mary Keidle |
| Katie Bettendorf | Robbie Kirkland |
| James Blackwell | Don Landon |
| Walter Blase | Dave Lappin |
| Linda Brown | George Lawrence |
| Kenneth Carnahan | Mary Magnus |
| Tom Carson | Cindy McDonough |
| Gale Clithero | Jerry Muse |
| Renee' Cook | Daniel Regier |
| Sharon Cook | Terry Reichert |
| Jerry Corson | Caleb Sanders |
| Marilyn Corson | Gibson Schwendinger |
| Dewayne Cossey | Alexander Scranton |
| Zac Cox | Kenneth Simons |
| Gary DeHaven | Margene Terrill |
| Desiree Dixon | Hollis Thomas |
| Kris Dreesen | Amy Viets-Cooper |
| Adriana Fitzgerald | Anaelin Vilches |
| Gracie Gorman | Kathy Vinson |
| Adam Govero | Lona Wait |
| Janice Grimes | Sierra White |
| Wil Hardiman | Jack Williams |
| Ann Hilmo | Kitty Williams |
| Chase Hodges | John Yates |
| Alonzo Ibrahim | Donna Zeitz |
| Jerri Ilkiw | |
| Wyatt Johnston | |

GROUPS

- | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Adventures in Missions | On The Lam Sam's |
| All Together Youth | OTC BASE High School |
| Ameriprise Financial Services | Rotary Club of |
| Bethany First Church | Springfield North |
| of the Nazarene | Sac River Cowboy Church |
| BKD Intern Group | Youth Group |
| Central Bank of the Ozarks | South Tulsa Baptist Church |
| Central Robotics | SPS Leadership Academy |
| Church of Jesus Christ of | Stockton Summer Science |
| Latter Day Saints | United Way Day of Caring |
| Cronkrite Homes | Vecino Group |
| Drury Men's Basketball | Wesley UMC |
| Drury Volleyball | West Missouri Optimist |
| Game Stop | Willard HS FFA |
| Gateway Real Estate | |
| Immanuel Baptist Church | |
| Mercy Clinic Surgical Services | |
| MSU Lady Bears | |

VOLUNTEER WITH US!

We need Hunger Heroes like you to help us feed the Ozarks. Sign up for a volunteer session now by scanning the QR code or visiting ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer



Weekly Sessions:

- Monday–Friday from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.
- Monday–Thursday from 1:00–4:00 p.m.

Evening Sessions:

- Tuesday from 6:00–9:00 p.m.

Weekend Sessions:

- Saturday from 9:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. and 1:00–4:00 p.m.



NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
SPRINGFIELD, MO
PERMIT NO. 1114

O'Reilly Center for Hunger Relief

2810 N. Cedarbrook Ave. | P.O. Box 5746
Springfield, MO 65801-5746

(417) 865-3411
ozarksfoodharvest.org

STAY CONNECTED



Transforming
Hunger into
Hope™



OZARKS
FOOD
HARVEST
THE FOOD BANK

