



JULY 2023

# HARVEST TIME

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



## SUMMER FOOD: MORE THAN JUST A MEAL

Of the people served by Ozarks Food Harvest's hunger-relief network, one-third live in a household with children. So many of these children rely on nutritious school meals that help them learn, grow and play, but what happens when school lets out for the summer?

"Costs are amplified for parents in the summertime," says Jayme Keith, program director at Ann Short Turner Community Center in Mansfield. "Bills get put off to grocery shop. I think they're not buying everything they would like to be purchasing."

Jayme is talking about the tough financial choices many families have to make during the summer. Should rent or food be prioritized? Should parents pay for child care or focus on this week's groceries? Many families worry about how they'll stretch their budgets during the summer to afford children eating at home rather than school. For 1 in 5 southwest Missouri children, they don't know where their next meal is coming from.

This year, economic uncertainty, inflation and high food costs mean families face even more hardships. According to Jayme, many of her children's parents at her summer program

have trouble bridging the gap between their income and higher costs. "All of my parents are working, but half are only just making it," she shares.

That's where Ozarks Food Harvest steps in. From late May to mid-August, children can receive a free meal or snack at any of Ozarks Food Harvest's 11 Summer Food Program partner locations. The Summer Food Program allows kids to stop worrying about food and start enjoying summer.

The Summer Food Program is for families who need a little help making ends meet, but it's also helpful for feeding sites that struggle to afford food when there's a high need in the community. Jayme shares, "I don't think it would be possible to keep up with what we're doing without Ozarks Food Harvest. Before price increases, it would have been difficult, but now we just couldn't do it without you. As a community center, this is truly a place where what money comes in, goes out. It relies on generosity."

Hand-in-hand with proper nutrition, feeling safe is a crucial aspect of a child's development. Not all Summer Food locations offer child

**"I don't think it would be possible to keep up with what we're doing without Ozarks Food Harvest. Before price increases, it would have been difficult, but now we just couldn't do it without you."**

*- Jayme Keith, program director at Ann Short Turner Community Center*

care, but several of them — including Ann Short Turner Community Center — make sure children have a safe space to go when they're not in school. Jayme recalls a single mother and two boys who attended the summer program a few years ago. "They were escaping an unsafe situation. They were completely rebuilding," explains Jayme. "The mom said this program absolutely helped them get through that. She said this was the first place her boys had felt safe." The mother had a lot on her mind, but thanks to the meals served at Ann Short Turner Community Center, she didn't have to worry about when her sons would eat that day.

When hunger-relief organizations don't have to worry about sourcing food, they can focus on making sure kids enjoy meals in a worry-free environment. Children can continue to learn, grow and play when they don't have to think about where their next meal is coming from. That's why Ozarks Food Harvest is committed to keeping kids fed all summer long. Thanks to our supporters, we can keep *Transforming Hunger into Hope* so kids can thrive this summer.

# WALMART FOUNDATION PROVIDES MAJOR GRANT TO OZARKS FOOD HARVEST

Thanks to Feeding America and the Walmart Foundation, Ozarks Food Harvest received a \$55,000 grant to increase access to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) for underserved children, families and seniors in southwest Missouri.

This is important because many households qualify to participate in SNAP in Missouri, but don't apply due to stigma, misinformation or being unaware of the application process. According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, 1 out of 4 working households in Missouri that qualify for SNAP don't participate. Even more shocking, an estimated 3 out of 5 adults over age 60 that qualify don't participate either.

The Food Bank is working to close that gap to

take pressure off our network of hunger-relief charities and get more food into the hands of people that need it. The SNAP program is uniquely positioned because it not only allows families to choose their own food, it also frees up resources for other needs such as paying rent, keeping the lights on or affording prescriptions. One of our SNAP applicants shared, "[SNAP] would help me in many ways. I could pay more to have a place to stay, I could eat healthier, and getting help with food would allow me to get my meds and go to the doctor."

Ozarks Food Harvest's SNAP program was able to generate nearly 900,000 meals for families facing hunger in fiscal year 2022, but as you've read, there's still plenty of people that can use our help. This grant allows us to hire an additional

part-time employee and implement scheduling software to serve more neighbors in less time. That means kids can eat dinner consistently, parents don't have to skip meals and seniors can afford medical care.

As The Food Bank continues to see an increased demand for food, access to SNAP will be a key solution to meet the needs of families facing hunger. For every meal a Feeding America food bank provides, SNAP provides nine, making it the most effective federal nutrition program for helping end hunger in Missouri. Thank you to Feeding America and the Walmart Foundation for providing grant funding to improve food access for more children, families and seniors across the Ozarks.

## SPRINGFIELD STUDENTS AND STAFF COLLECT RECORD-BREAKING 77,000 MEALS DURING 2023 FOOD FIGHT

Springfield Public Schools students and partnering organizations collected a record-breaking 77,000 meals in March as part of the 12th annual Food Fight competition to benefit Ozarks Food Harvest.

Participants of this year's Food Fight included 40 Springfield Public Schools and two administrative offices with support from partnering organizations. They spent two weeks competing to collect the most food and fund donations for The Food Bank. The food donations will be distributed across Ozarks Food Harvest's 28-county service area, and funds collected will sponsor more than 40 children for a full school year of Weekend Backpack Program meals.

The winners of this year's Food Fight were Study High School, Reed Academy, Pleasant

View, Bowerman Elementary, Cowden Elementary, Horace Mann Elementary, Rountree Elementary, York Elementary and Mallory ECC.

"I'm thrilled at how hard SPS students and staff worked to provide meals for families facing hunger here in southwest Missouri," said Dr. Ron Woodard, director of family support services for Springfield Public Schools. "Food Fight brings out the best in our community, and I'm glad we get to share it with Ozarks Food Harvest."

Since the competition began in 2011, SPS students and partners have provided more than 437,000 meals for children, families and seniors served by The Food Bank.

"We're so proud to work with Springfield Public Schools, presenting sponsor Rapid

Roberts and other partnering organizations across Springfield for Food Fight," said Bart Brown, president/CEO at Ozarks Food Harvest. "These meals will go a long way towards helping the 1 in 5 children and 1 in 6 adults who face hunger here in the Ozarks."

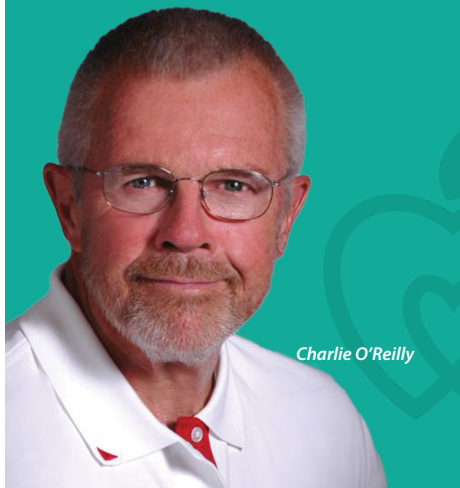
Area businesses and nonprofits partnered with schools to serve as collection points. Partners included Alamo Drafthouse, Battlefield Fire Protection, Craig Lehman Shelter Insurance, Culver's Custard, Doubletree by Hilton Inn, Joe's Tire Shop, Little Caesars, Mid-Missouri Bank, Oasis Hotel and Convention Center, Penmac Staffing, RNR Tire on North Glenstone, The Sandwich Scene and Starbucks. Presenting sponsor, Rapid Roberts, raised funds all month long.



Winning school celebrates record-breaking Food Fight competition benefitting Ozarks Food Harvest.



# Charlie's CORNER



Charlie O'Reilly



Farm Bill decision will impact hunger-relief efforts.

## USDA PARTNERS WITH OZARKS FOOD HARVEST TO FEED LOCAL COMMUNITIES

Did you know the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) partners with, and depends on, Ozarks Food Harvest to be the largest food supplier to our neighbors facing hunger in southwest Missouri? Its long and trusted partnership with the USDA has made a huge impact on the number of nutritious meals provided through its network of 270 community and faith-based charities. That dramatic impact is what makes this year's Farm Bill so important for families served by Ozarks Food Harvest.

Revisited by Congress every five years, the Farm Bill is legislation that governs an array of farming and food programs for the United States. The bill is vital to Ozarks Food Harvest because nearly 80 percent of the Farm Bill's funding goes to nutrition programs such as The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP); two of the most effective programs to help end hunger in southwest Missouri.

TEFAP helps food banks bridge the food gap for working families who need immediate nutrition assistance. Ozarks Food Harvest distributed 6.3 million pounds of TEFAP food last fiscal year across a third of the state to help families get back on their feet. This represents more than 5.2 million meals on our neighbor's tables just last year. All TEFAP food is sourced from American farmers and manufacturers, which helps provide much needed monetary support to producers across the U.S.

SNAP is another essential feeding program because it helps working families afford food while providing an economic stimulus to the community. Bart tells me this program provides 9 meals for every 1 meal distributed by food

banks like Ozarks Food Harvest. For example, SNAP provided food assistance to nearly 325,000 families in Missouri in 2022. Please keep in mind, the majority of SNAP recipients are hard-working people whose income level just doesn't cover all their basic needs. Thanks to the SNAP program, these families were able to stay in the workforce during record high food, energy and housing costs. On top of that, \$1.4 billion was injected into our economy through families using their SNAP benefits at local retailers. Those benefits helped keep our local economy strong and provided jobs to farmers, truck drivers and grocery store workers across the state.

Now more than ever, it's important to remember that people who struggle with hunger are not just a statistic; they're our neighbors, friends and family members. They just need a little help to get back on their feet when life brings unexpected events.

"You have to do what is needed to take care of your family; food stamps [SNAP] helps a lot," shared seventy-four-year-old Violet, a recipient of SNAP in southwest Missouri. "Sometimes people need help. Please don't keep a family from eating."

Please join me in contacting your Congressional representatives today through their websites. Ask them to make hunger relief a priority in your community by supporting a strong Farm Bill that provides renewed investment in these efficient and impactful programs.

Sen. Josh Hawley, [hawley.senate.gov](mailto:hawley.senate.gov);

Sen. Eric Schmitt, [schmitt.senate.gov](mailto:schmitt.senate.gov);

Rep. Eric Burlison, [burlison.house.gov](mailto:burlison.house.gov).

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### SPLASH AND SIZZLE

Now - September 4th

Enjoy some fun in the sun while supporting Ozarks Food Harvest at Springfield-Greene County pools. Admission to all outdoor pools is \$1 or free with one canned food item per person every day between 5:30 pm and 6:30 pm. Visit the Springfield-Greene County Park Board website for details.

### 4 BY 4 BREWING COMPANY BINGO

July 13th

Join us for Good in the Hood Bingo at 4 By 4 Brewing Company Fremont Hills on July 13th and enjoy the specially selected beer that benefits Ozarks Food Harvest! Paul Mueller Company is a proud sponsor of this event.

### LUCAS OIL SPEEDWAY

July 22nd

Get your motor runnin' at Lucas Oil Speedway's annual food drive, presented by KY3. The evening will feature exhilarating dirt track racing for the whole family to enjoy. Bring four nonperishable food items to donate for free admission. These donations will support The Food Bank and Hickory County C.A.R.E.S.

Gates open at 4 p.m., hot laps start at 6:30 p.m. and racing begins at 7:05 p.m.

### HUNGER ACTION MONTH

September 2023

Ozarks Food Harvest's annual advocacy and education campaign rallies the community to raise support for the Weekend Backpack Program. You can help us fight hunger this September by hosting a fundraiser, becoming a community partner, or participating in Hungerthon, Empty Bowls or the Go Orange Auction!

Visit [HungerActionMonth.info](https://HungerActionMonth.info) to learn more.

# MORE WORKING FAMILIES SEEK FOOD ASSISTANCE FROM THE FOOD BANK AMID PERFECT STORM

Ozarks Food Harvest is experiencing a higher demand for food assistance than during the height of the pandemic. In the past six months, we've served an average 60,000 individuals each month; 10,000 more than during the same period in 2020 and 2021. As many working families struggle to get back on their feet, they've encountered a perfect storm of increased childcare costs, high housing prices and rising food expenses.

At Ozarks Food Harvest, our goal is to ensure families don't have to make trade-offs for food during hard times like these. We're not just providing food; we're providing hope for a better future. One of our neighbors receiving food from a partner charity said, "I have not had enough money to go around. The pantry food allows me to have more money to buy my medicine and pay for gas. It really helps financially and helps keep us going so we can make it through to the next paycheck."

There's still more work to be done, but ensuring we get folks on the road to recovery is our top priority. The Food Bank has responded in the past year by purchasing more than

\$2 million worth of food and investing \$500,000 in grant funds to our hunger-relief network to ensure more food can be distributed as demand continues to rise. We also remain committed to distributing food, door-to-door, absolutely free to our network of charities, so all they have to worry about is how to get food in the hands of families facing hunger.

We're able to make investments like this in our community because we're good stewards of every dollar donated from supporters like you. Through thoughtful planning and community partnerships, we've been able to become one of the highest rated food banks in the country. We ensure we're doing the most with the gifts you entrust to us as 96 cents of every dollar you donate goes directly towards food distribution for individuals facing hunger. When you work with Ozarks Food Harvest, you know your dollar is making an impact for your community.

We need your support for the coming months to ensure no one has to worry about when they will have their next meal. Every dollar you donate helps provide \$10 worth of groceries to someone experiencing hunger.



Bart Brown,  
President/CEO

## BART'S *Hope Note*

Thank you to all our donors that help us provide food and hope to our network of 270 community and faith-based charities!

## 25TH ANNUAL HUNGERTHON

When the school bell rings on Friday afternoon, 1 in 5 children in southwest Missouri are not looking forward to a break – they're dreading a weekend without food. Through the Weekend Backpack Program, children can rest assured that they will have meals to last the weekend.

For this year's 25th annual Hungerthon, hosted by iHeartRadio's Springfield stations, we've set a goal to sponsor 700 children with a full school year of weekend meals. Here's how you can help: We're looking for matching sponsors to inspire listeners when they tune into Alice 95.5, 105.9 KGBX, 100.5 The Wolf and US97 during the on-air event on September 8-11. For more information, contact Jennifer Sickinger at 417-865-3411 ext. 110.

A donation of \$360, or \$30 per month, will help provide weekend meals for one child for an entire school year. Your contribution will help ensure kids have easy access to nutritious, child-friendly meals each and every weekend. To learn more, visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org/hungerthon](https://ozarksfoodharvest.org/hungerthon).



Weekends can be hard for children facing hunger.



# SPECIAL THANKS

## JOHN DEERE FOUNDATION HELPS PROVIDE MORE THAN 113,000 MEALS

Huge thanks to the John Deere Foundation for their generous gift of nearly \$29,000 to assist with food distribution across southwest Missouri! This gift comes at a critical time as food donations are down and the demand for food assistance has surpassed pandemic-level highs. The John Deere Foundation is directing its work to help end hunger for families and youth who live, work and learn in the communities they call home. Since 2016, The Foundation has provided over 500,000 meals for our southwest Missouri neighbors.



John Deere employees also volunteered at our gardens.

## OPAL FOODS PROVIDES PROTEIN FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Thanks to a donation of 300,000 eggs from Opal Foods, a franchisee of Eggland's Best, families in the Ozarks will receive fresh eggs this spring. Eggs are frequently requested items at Ozarks Food Harvest because they contain important nutrients, are easy to cook and can be prepared many different ways. Since 2008, Opal Foods has donated 4.3 million eggs!



The Easter Bunny and Bart Brown are grateful for Opal Foods egg donation.

## SLUSHER FOUNDATION PROVIDES MORE THAN 7,000 WEEKEND MEALS FOR HOLLISTER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS

Since 2002, the Slusher Foundation has been a committed partner in supporting the Weekend Backpack Program for students in Taney County. Thanks to generous partners like the Slusher Foundation, students facing hunger can rely on weekend meals throughout the school year. Deepest thanks to the Slusher Foundation and their support of children facing hunger in Taney County.

## GENERAL MILLS PROVIDES MEALS FOR CHILDREN IN SOUTHWEST MISSOURI

Thank you to the General Mills Foundation for awarding a grant to Ozarks Food Harvest of \$15,000 to provide meals to students through our Weekend Backpack Program. This grant will provide more than 10,500 weekend meals to students in Jasper County who may otherwise go hungry over the weekend.

## SCOUTING FOR FOOD PROVIDES MORE THAN 1,500 MEALS

Thank you to everyone who donated to this year's Scouting for Food drive. Boy Scouts of America Ozarks Trail Council held the 34th annual food and fund drive, collecting 974 pounds of food and \$580 to provide more than 1,500 meals to our neighbors in need!



Local Scouts provided more than 1,500 meals.

## AMERICAN EAGLE & AERIE STORES RAISE FUNDS FOR HUNGER-RELIEF

Local American Eagle and Aerie stores raised \$4,351 to provide 17,400 meals for our neighbors in need across the Ozarks. These local stores worked with Feeding America to collect donations during the holiday months to help fight hunger in communities where customers and employees live. Big thanks to American Eagle, Aerie and Feeding America for their support in the fight against hunger!

### 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  
**Dana Ausburn**—Community Volunteer  
**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.  
**Krystal Russell**—Spectrum Accounting and Payroll Vault

### OZARKS FOOD HARVEST STAFF

**Bart Brown, President/CEO**

#### ADMINISTRATION

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

#### DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

**Cassie Hanson**, Director of Development  
**Sarah Green**, Marketing & Events Manager  
**Jennifer Sickinger**, Development Manager  
**Kylee Compton**, Graphic Designer  
**Rhown Cramer**, Development Assistant  
**Holly Fox**, Development & Grants Coordinator  
**Allie Smith**, Corporate Development Coordinator

**Jordan Browning**, Director of Communications  
**Sarah Byrd**, Volunteer Program Manager  
**Heather Haloupek**, Communications Coordinator

#### MEMBER SERVICES

**Mary Zumwalt**, Director of Programs & Member Services  
**Terra Baum**, Agency Capacity & Compliance Manager  
**Jalen Doss**, Mobile Food Pantry Coordinator  
**Deidra McBride**, CSFP/Senior Box Coordinator  
**Brent Nichols**, Agency Outreach Coordinator  
**Jane Terry**, Creative Information Specialist  
**Melanie Toler**, Agency Resource & Training Coordinator  
**Shada Travis**, Agency Support Specialist/Weekend Backpack Coordinator  
**Jessica Wallace**, Agency Outreach Coordinator  
**Sarah Waterman**, Child Nutrition Programs Coordinator  
**Julie Woodiel**, Food Sourcing Coordinator

#### OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

**Scott Boggs**, Vice President of Operations  
**Steve Roberts**, Director of Operations  
**Trisha Heflin**, Distribution Center Manager  
**Mike Hesebeck**, Transportation Manager  
**Eddie Hicks**, Building Maintenance & Compliance Specialist

**Marcus Seal**, Senior Operations Manager  
**Lydia DeWeese**, Volunteer Center Supervisor  
**Andrew Magnus**, Volunteer Systems Specialist  
**Kevin Richardson**, Instructional Materials Designer  
**Dillon Smith**, Volunteer Recruitment Coordinator/Volunteer Coach

**Alexa Poindexter**, Director of Full Circle Gardens  
**Cady Goble**, Field Operations Manager  
**Jessica Allen**, Full Circle Gardens Outreach Coordinator  
**Rachel Breckling**, Full Circle Gardens Coordinator

To view a full staff listing please visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org).

# HUNGER HERO NEWS

FEEDING FAMILIES ACROSS THE OZARKS

**“Volunteering makes me feel good, like I’m giving back. We provide access to food to people who need it. I know that I’m helping someone in the community even if I’ve never met them.”**

*-Jessie Lucero, MSU Student and Ozarks Food Harvest Volunteer*



*Join students like Jessie in the fight to end hunger.*

## MSU STUDENT JESSIE LUCERO HELPS NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Jessie Lucero is a prime example of young adults’ desire to get involved where they live. He’s a college student and ROTC member who’s eager to make a difference, but he’s not waiting until he finishes school. He’s impacting his community right now with just a few hours of volunteering each week.

At Missouri State University, Jessie is pursuing a degree in exercise and movement science, and when he graduates, will be a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He extends his training and motivation to volunteering at Ozarks Food Harvest. “I try to be efficient here because I can get more done and help more people,” he shares.

Jessie’s day starts at 5:00 a.m. for workouts or ROTC physical training and homework, followed by a volunteer session at Ozarks Food Harvest a few mornings each week. Then, he’s off to class for the afternoon. Although his schedule is full, Jessie says volunteering is something he enjoys.

“Volunteering makes me feel good, like I’m giving back,” he explains. “We provide access to food to people who need it. I know that I’m helping someone in the community even if I’ve never met them.”

Volunteering is beneficial to everyone involved. For neighbors facing hunger, Ozarks

Food Harvest volunteers provide 105 meals for every hour of their time. For Jessie, it helps him improve communication skills and find a sense of fulfillment. That’s why he advises other young people to volunteer. “It’s important to be a part of the community you have opinions about. You can make it better,” he urges.

Volunteers like Jessie certainly do make it better by helping us get food into the hands of neighbors who need it. To get involved at Ozarks Food Harvest, visit [ozarksfoodharvest.org/how-to-help/volunteer](https://ozarksfoodharvest.org/how-to-help/volunteer).

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

**Thank you to our community partners who helped provide more than 100 meals from March 15 – June 15, 2023.**

National Association of Letter Carriers Branch 203 — 60,000  
Next Level Solutions — 20,381  
Chicken Salad Chick — 17,742  
American Eagle, thanks to Feeding America — 17,406  
BoxLunch, thanks to Feeding America — 11,745  
TJX Companies and TJX Foundation, thanks to Feeding America — 7,569  
Flora Farms — 7,335  
Missouri State University Greek Life — 7,081  
South Street Christian Church — 4,198  
MSU Greek Week Committee — 4,000  
Joel Gott Wines, thanks to Feeding America — 4,000  
Walmart Foundation, thanks to Feeding America — 4,000

Study Alternative Education Center — 3,824  
Catholic Campus Ministries — 2,166  
Target, thanks to Feeding America — 2,111  
Missouri Eye Institute — 2,000  
Alpha Omicron Pi & Theta Chi — 2,000  
Central Christian Church — 1,869  
Crane R III — 1,860  
Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church — 1,840  
The Summit Preparatory School — 1,304  
Asbury United Methodist Church — 960  
MSU, Lambda Chi Alpha — 928  
Natural Grocers — 647  
BMW Insurance Agency, LLC — 600  
Department of Corrections — 500  
4 By 4 Brewing Company — 392  
Strafford United Methodist Church — 298

Boy Scouts of America Ozark Trails Council — 240  
Seminole Baptist Temple — 225  
Continental Title Company — 200  
You Give Goods, LLC — 182  
Trinity Lutheran Church — 157  
SIMEK’S, thanks to Feeding America — 151  
Air Services and All Services — 142  
Drury University - Lambda Chi Alpha — 126  
Southern Glazer’s Wine & Spirits — 120  
**Food Fight 2023 with SPS – 78,000**  
*Winning schools and partners*  
Early Childhood Center – Mallory ECC Elementary Schools  
Central Feeder – York Elementary with support from Rapid Robert’s (E. Kearney)

Kickapoo Feeder – Horace Mann Elementary with support from Starbucks (S. Campbell)  
Hillcrest Feeder – Bowerman Elementary with support from Craig Lehman Shelter Insurance  
Parkview Feeder – Rountree Elementary with support from Starbucks (S. Glenstone)  
Glendale Feeder – Cowden Elementary with support from Starbucks (E. Battlefield)  
K-8 Schools – Pleasant View K-8 with support from Culver’s Custard Middle School – Reed Academy with support from Penmac Staffing  
High School – Study Alternative School with support from Rapid Robert’s (S. Campbell)





Community gardens open up new food streams in under-resourced communities.

## OZARKS FOOD HARVEST HOLDS REGIONAL GARDENING SEMINAR FOR ITS NETWORK

Ozarks Food Harvest held a regional gardening seminar in April to help train more than 30 community and faith-based charities from our network on a variety of gardening best practices to help feed families facing hunger.

The Food Bank's Full Circle Gardens staff offered hands-on instruction on gardening, growing, gleaning, composting and how vegetables contribute to a healthy diet.

"We're teaching the concept of community gardening, so our network can take those concepts back to their own communities to start community gardens," said Bart Brown, president/CEO of Ozarks Food Harvest. "Right now, we

have less food and more people facing hunger. So, we're trying to get more food streams in our community and this is a great way to do it."

Ozarks Food Harvest continually invests in our network of community and faith-based charities to ensure new food streams are being developed as the demand for food grows across our 28-county service area.

Many charities in Ozarks Food Harvest's network have also requested more information about gardening and gleaning as the Full Circle Gardens program has grown to harvest nearly 90,000 pounds of produce per year.

## SUMMER HARVEST: COMING TOGETHER TO REAP BETTER RESULTS

The weather is warm and school is out for the summer. This is the time of year many of us look forward to making the most out of long, sunny days, but for children facing hunger in the Ozarks, summer is not a season of excitement. Without the meals they receive at school, kids may not know where their next meal is coming from. This summer, you can help Ozarks Food Harvest provide meals to kids and families through our Summer Harvest effort, presented by Pinegar Honda with support from KPM and Missouri Eye Institute.

There are many ways to participate in Summer Harvest! Join us at the local pools for the Splash and Sizzle food drive or at the Lucas

Oil Speedway. You can also host your own fundraiser, plant a row in your garden for The Food Bank or support one of our community partners. There are so many ways you can fight hunger this summer, and you can find them all at [ozarksfoodharvest.org/events](http://ozarksfoodharvest.org/events).

As costs at grocery stores remain high, families need help this summer to keep kids fed. With your generous support, we can help ensure children in the Ozarks have the food they need for a worry-free summer vacation.

Join us as we come together with our community to make sure families enjoy summer as it should be. Your compassion can help Ozarks Food Harvest *Transform Hunger into Hope*.

## VOLUNTEERS

Below is a list of individuals and groups who have donated 20+ hours of time from March 1 – May 31, 2023.

### INDIVIDUALS

James Blackwell	Spencer Mende
Linda Brown	Danielle Meruelo
Doug Burgeson	Lillianna Moralez
Jade Cantrell	Matt Nelson
Tom Carson	Elida Orozco-Sanchez
Alexis Cheek	Grace Pahic
Lynn Cline	Sunthosh Parvathaneni
Gale Clithero	Derek Peacock
Marilyn Corson	Craig Peterson
Dewayne Cossey	Debbie Peterson
Kerry Curran	Matthew Price
Joshua Davis	Lauren Pyle
Gary DeHaven	Daniel Regier
Izabella Dennis	Susan Reichert
Addison Denton	Terry Reichert
Desiree Dixon	Rachana Rimal
Mitchell Eddings	David Roberts
Myra Evans	Jaden Roberts
Teresa Fairbanks	Alexander Scranton
Ed Ferris	Andrew Shaw
Cameryn Gonzalez	Brianna Shea
Gerald Green	Kenneth Simons
Mark Greenwalt	Harley Snyder
Janice Grimes	Margene Terrill
Wil Hardiman	Hollis Thomas
Matthew Harmer	Darry Thornton
Ilcel Hernandez	Sanjay Vikash Vasidhar
Susan Hunn	Amy Viets-Cooper
Zechariah Hutter	Anaelin Vilches
Jerri Ilkiw	Kathy Vinson
Makayla Job	Kevin Wagner
Ben Johnson	Lona Wait
Susan Johnson	Abigail Watkins
Joe Jones	Jake Welly
Jesse Lafferty	Julia White
Don Landon	Jack Williams
Dave Lappin	Kitty Williams
George Lawrence	Martina Wilson
Mary Magnus	Donna Zeitz
Cindy McDonough	

### GROUPS

American National Insurance	Mercy MTS
Ameriprise Financial Services	MICU Nurses
Antioch UMC	MSU Alpha Sigma Alpha
Arvest Bank	MSU Campus Recreation
Ash Grove HS FFA	Pro Staff
Astra Zeneca Springfield District	MSU Care
Ava NHS	MSU Fraternity and Sorority Life
Bois D'Arc UMC	MSU Multicultural Program
Branson HS FFA	MSU Religious Studies Club 2022
Central Bank of the Ozarks	MSU Sigma Phi Epsilon
Central HS Sophomore Service Group	OakStar Bank
Cox Maternal Children Leaders	OTC BASE Program
Cronkrite Homes	Young Presidents' Organization Ozarks
Emmaus Church	Positronic
Evangel Achieve	Sac River Cowboy Church Youth Group
FORVIS, LLP	SGC Foodservice
Gateway Real Estate	SPS Community Liaisons
Glendale HS DECA	MSU BASE Program
Graddy Real Estate	St. Elizabeth Ann Seaton
Guaranty Bank	Walmart Market 357
Healthy Blue MO	Wesley UMC
Masonite	Willard HS FFA
Mercy Credentialing Team	





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