



OCTOBER 2023

HARVEST TIME

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



"The cost of food is so much right now, but through Ozarks Food Harvest I can get these families meat, eggs, produce and basic ingredients at minimal to no cost to us every month."

*- Jackie Scholfield, Crocker School
Pantry coordinator*

MEETING KIDS WHERE THEY ARE TO PREVENT CHILD HUNGER

Hunger isn't always obvious. In children and teens, hunger disguises itself as behavioral issues, dropping grades and isolation. Perhaps no one knows this better than teachers and school staff, who are often the first to identify when students aren't getting enough to eat at home. Crocker School Pantry coordinator and library aide Jackie Scholfield is all too familiar with the effects of child hunger.

"Last year, I met a high school student who was living by herself. She said she hadn't eaten anything but crackers for a week," recalls Jackie. The student, supporting herself, was dealing with dietary restrictions that made finding food even more difficult, and she looked tired. Jackie continues, "With Ozarks Food Harvest's help, I was able to get her almond milk, juice, turkey. Things she could eat."

This student is part of the 1 in 7 children facing hunger in southwest Missouri. Students like her rely on school meals as a primary source of nutrition, but during weekends and breaks, many kids don't know where their next meal is coming from.

Children who experience hunger on a regular basis are at risk of long-term effects like chronic illness, depression, and developmental and social delays. Even short bouts of hunger

can impact a child's school day. It's hard to focus when you're hungry. That's why Ozarks Food Harvest partners with schools to provide hunger-relief programs – like school pantries – directly to kids.

Jackie shares, "You can tell some kids come back really hungry, when school starts in August, and families feel the need on long weekends. The longer kids are at home, the more the need is. If they're hungry you'll see discipline issues. They're just not with it. When we give them food, it helps them stay in school and get better grades and attendance."

Every month, Jackie sends an announcement to families and students about Crocker School Pantry's open hours, and anyone in need is welcome, no questions asked. The only qualification to receive food is to be a student, or family of a student, at Crocker. "I serve food no matter the circumstance because you just don't always know what someone is going through," Jackie explains.

Right now, rising food, housing and childcare costs are putting a strain on families who want to keep their children fed. Households whose budgets get stretched too thin have to compensate in other ways, sometimes sacrificing food to pay bills. And it's not just the

quantity of food that suffers – it's the quality, too. In recent years, 3 out of 5 of households served by Ozarks Food Harvest's network purchased the least expensive food, even if it wasn't the healthiest option.

The Crocker School Pantry is facing the same economic challenges, but a partnership with Ozarks Food Harvest allows them to provide fresh, nutritious foods to 100 individuals each month. "The cost of food is so much right now," says Jackie, "but through Ozarks Food Harvest I can get these families meat, eggs, produce and basic ingredients at minimal to no cost to us every month. We've received grants for food storage from Ozarks Food Harvest that allows us to stock more fresh food."

The Crocker School Pantry ensures students and families can keep meals on the table when times are tough, but school pantries are just one way Ozarks Food Harvest partners with the community to end child hunger. Thanks to supporters, The Food Bank also provides meals for kids through the *Weekend Backpack Program*, *After-School Programs*, and *Summer Food Programs*. Thank you for investing in the lives of children so they can not just survive but thrive.

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST AWARDS MORE THAN \$500,000 IN FY23 GRANTS

Through our Urgent Need Grant, Ozarks Food Harvest awarded more than \$500,000 to our network of faith-based and community charities in fiscal year 2023. More than 40 charities in our network were awarded a grant to assist with unbudgeted, unforeseen and time-sensitive issues that interfered with their ability to feed children, families and seniors facing hunger.

The Food Bank created this grant due to an increased demand for food across our service area and ongoing infrastructure issues related to food distribution. The Food Assistance and Hunger in the Heartland 2021 report, conducted by the MU Interdisciplinary Center for Food Security, found that 25 percent of charities surveyed from The Food Bank's network could better serve their clients with improved or additional refrigeration and freezer units. It also found that Ozarks Food Harvest provides more than 70 percent of the food distributed by its

network of 270 partners covering a third of the state of Missouri.

Therefore, making these grants available to our network was an easy decision. This grant allowed Ozarks Food Harvest's hunger-relief network to purchase additional food, freezers, coolers and other infrastructure items to help feed more of our neighbors in need across our 28-county service area.

For example, the United Community Health Center in Licking applied for a grant due to the increased demand for food assistance in their community.

"Our families keep increasing every month making it hard to keep up with the demand," reported the Licking United Community Health Center in their grant application. "We are in need of a sidewalk connecting our outside freezer with our main building so we can safely move

food between the two buildings."

In response, The Food Bank awarded the United Community Health Center in Licking more than \$8,000 to purchase a new sidewalk and more food to meet the increased demand.

Ozarks Food Harvest makes investments like these to ensure our network can continue to meet the need in their communities. In addition to awarding grants, Ozarks Food Harvest continues to deliver food, door-to-door, free-of-charge to its network of 270 charities to ensure they can focus strictly on feeding families.

Thank you to our hunger-relief network that helps us *Transform Hunger into Hope* in the Ozarks every day. We couldn't distribute more than 20 million meals each year without their help.

25TH ANNUAL HUNGERTHON RAISES \$252,900 FOR CHILDREN FACING HUNGER

The 25th annual Hungerthon was a success, raising \$252,900, which will provide 703 children with nutritious meals and snacks every weekend of the school year! From September 8-11, Ozarks Food Harvest and iHeartRadio Springfield teamed up with the community to hold one of our biggest annual fundraisers for the Weekend Backpack Program.

Listeners tuned in to Alice 95.5, US97, 100.5 The Wolf, and 105.9 KGBX to raise funds for the program. The Food Bank accepted donations by phone and online.

Event donations were matched by sponsors including A-1 Guarantee Roofing, AECL, BluCurrent Credit Union, Cox Health, Great

Southern Bank, Harter House, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers #453, Kum & Go, McDonald's, Peck's Insurance and Financial Services, Positronic Industries, SRC Community Relations Committee, Stomp the Blues out of Homelessness, Watson Metal Masters Inc. and Yahweh's Place at Cedarville. These generous matches allowed listeners to double their impact. Several local businesses also served as event sponsors including Air Services Heating and Cooling and Hy-Vee.

The Weekend Backpack Program was created to provide weekend meals for children in one rural community, but when word of the program's benefits spread, other rural and even

Springfield schools began asking for assistance. The need was much greater than anticipated, and Ozarks Food Harvest immediately increased fundraising efforts to meet the demand. The Weekend Backpack Program has now grown to serve 1,700 children across more than 60 schools in southwest Missouri.

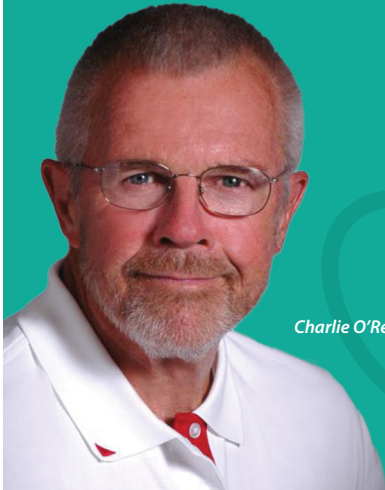
Ozarks Food Harvest is grateful for every individual, foundation and business that contributed to Hungerthon. We couldn't help children facing hunger without you.

If you missed us, you can still sponsor a child this school year by donating at ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate and selecting "Weekend Backpack Program" from the dropdown menu.



Clint "Girlie" Gerlek, Bart Brown and Jennifer "Hemmy" Hemmer hosted the 25th annual Hungerthon.

Charlie's CORNER



Charlie O'Reilly



Ozarks Food Harvest served more than 70,000 individuals in June 2023.

DEMAND FOR FOOD EXCEEDS PANDEMIC HIGH

Right now, we're dealing with an emergency. The demand for food assistance in southwest Missouri continues to increase every month to be higher than it was during the peak of the pandemic. In June 2023, The Food Bank's network of faith-based and community charities served more than 70,000 individuals in a month; that's nearly 20,000 more than during the height of the COVID crisis.

The increased demand for food is the result of a perfect storm of high childcare, housing and food costs that make it difficult for working families to get back on their feet. In Ozarks Food Harvest's service area, 1 in 7 children and adults face hunger. That means you likely know a neighbor, friend or child's classmate that isn't sure when they will be eating their next meal.

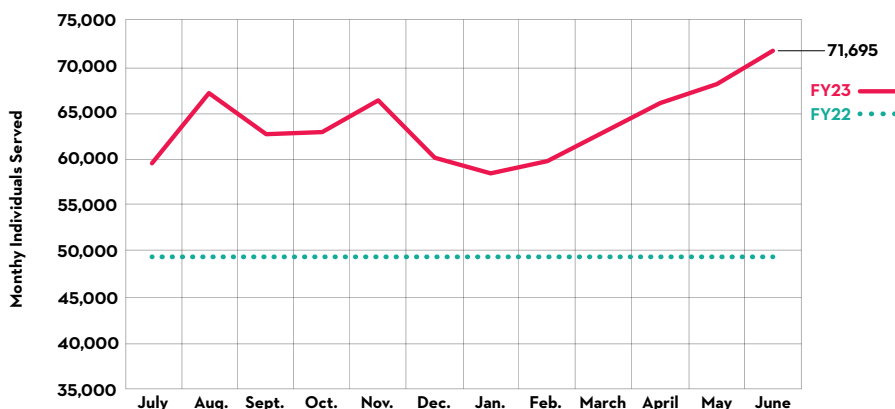
While the demand for food has increased, assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's nutrition programs have decreased. Programs like The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP) help Ozarks Food Harvest bridge the food gap for working families who

need immediate nutrition assistance. Over the past two years, TEFAP food deliveries have decreased by 64 percent at The Food Bank. Emergency benefits to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) have also ended, which makes it difficult for many families to get access to the food they need.

One of the best ways to help is by making a tax-free charitable gift from your Individual Retirement Account (IRA), also known as a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), that may you save you more in taxes than traditional charitable donations. Additionally, consider including Ozarks Food Harvest in your estate planning as Mary Beth and I have done so your gift can give in perpetuity.

If you have questions about donating to Ozarks Food Harvest in these ways, please give Bart a call at 417-865-3411 to walk you through it. You can help working families across the Ozarks put food on the table and have the nutrition they need this holiday season.

DEMAND FOR FOOD ASSISTANCE



Give time, food or funds at ozarksfoodharvest.org

UPCOMING EVENTS

SHOP FOR OUR CAUSE

October to 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 to 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 23

Join us for the 29th annual Thanksgiving Day Turkey Trot with Springfield-Greene County Park Board.

Be sure to bring five non-perishable food items to donate to Ozarks Food Harvest. Register today at parkboard.org/624/29th-Annual-Turkey-Trot.

GIVING TUESDAY

November 28

After Thanksgiving, Black Friday and Cyber Monday, take a moment to give back to your community during Giving Tuesday. One in 7 children and adults in the Ozarks face hunger 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 by visiting ozarksfoodharvest.org/donate.

ENDING HUNGER IN THE OZARKS

Thanks to supporters like you, Ozarks Food Harvest provided 20 million meals through our network of faith-based and community charities across a third of the state of Missouri in the past year.

That's not all; from July 2022 through June 2023, we:

- served more than 60,000 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 5.2 million pounds of fresh produce.
- rescued 7.5 million pounds of edible food from being sent to the landfill through the *Retail Pick-Up program*.
- awarded \$500,000 in grants to our network to help sustain and expand hunger-relief efforts across southwest Missouri.

Unfortunately, families in southwest Missouri are still going hungry. The last year has been a perfect storm as families continue to deal with increased childcare, housing and food costs. According to Feeding America's latest Map the Meal Gap study, 1 in 7 children and adults

experience food insecurity in Ozarks Food Harvest's service area; higher than Missouri's overall average of 1 in 8 people experiencing food insecurity.

That means we still have work to do to end hunger in our area. It's a responsibility that falls to Ozarks Food Harvest as we supply 7 out of every 10 meals distributed by our network of hunger-relief charities spread across a 28-county service area.

As the demand for food increases in the Ozarks, we will continue to invest in our community's food system so that children, families and seniors know where they'll get their next meal.

These investments include:

- distribute more than \$38 million worth of food to our hunger-relief network of 270 faith-based and community partner charities.
- rescue 515 semi-truck loads annually from being wasted via the *Retail Pick-Up program*. These efforts will save nearly \$275,000 in City of Springfield landfill costs.
- distribute more than 900,000 meals to 60,000 neighbors facing hunger through our *Mobile Food Pantry*.
- distribute more than 60,000 backpacks full of food through our *Weekend Backpack*



BART'S *Hope Note*

Program to more than 1,700 children in 61 schools across 17 counties.

Ozarks Food Harvest is here to provide hope to the communities we serve, but we can't do it alone. We need your help so folks in the Ozarks don't have to wonder if they'll be able to put a meal on the table. Please consider donating today and be a part of our efforts to end hunger in the Ozarks.

COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS MAKE HUNGER ACTION MONTH POSSIBLE

Hunger Action Month is one of the busiest and most exciting times at The Food Bank. Each September, Ozarks Food Harvest partners with local businesses and community organizations to take action against hunger. Our generous partners host fund drives, offer special promotions and raise awareness through social media to support the *Weekend Backpack Program*.

Once again, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of our community and its passion for *Transforming Hunger into Hope* in southwest

Missouri. Hunger Action Month 2023 was presented by Mercy with additional support from 417 Aerial, Best of Luck Beer Hall, Central Bank of the Ozarks, Dance Mission, Five Pound Apparel, Gold Mountain Communications, Holmes & Griffeth Financial Planners, MaMa Jean's, Neighbor's Mill, Panera, Smithfield Foods, The Coffee Ethic, The Sandwich Scene, and Woodturners of Southwest Missouri.

Thank you to everyone who donated food and funds, attended the Empty Bowls fundraiser at Panera and visited local businesses running

special promotions to benefit the *Weekend Backpack Program*. Community support is the reason we can provide 1,700 children in southwest Missouri with nutritious foods every weekend on the school year.

If you missed Hunger Action Month, you don't have to wait until next September to join the fight to end hunger. Give us a call at 417-865-3411 to learn how you or your business can help us *Transform Hunger into Hope* all year long.



Wooden and ceramic bowls crafted by local artists for Ozarks Food Harvest's Empty Bowls event.

SPECIAL THANKS

MUSGRAVE FOUNDATION PROVIDES MEALS FOR CHILDREN IN NEED IN GREENE COUNTY

Ozarks Food Harvest received our third and final \$25,000 installment of the "Change for Children" grant from the Jeanette L. Musgrave Foundation and the Community Foundation of the Ozarks. This \$75,000 grant began in 2020 and will have provided nearly 54,000 meals to Springfield students participating in the Weekend Backpack Program by the end of the 2023-2024 school year.

VOLUNTEER HONORED FOR CONTRIBUTION TO FULL CIRCLE GARDENS PROGRAMS

The Food Bank recently presented Kacey Davis with the third annual Golden Gleaners Award – an award given to a volunteer who has shown outstanding contribution to Ozarks Food Harvest's Full Circle Gardens. Kacey was recognized for volunteering more than 200 hours with the Glean Team and at The Food Bank. Her joyful, can-do attitude and dedication to providing fresh produce for our neighbors in need makes her an excellent example of the dedication of Ozarks Food Harvest's volunteers.



Kacey Davis received the third annual Golden Gleaners Award for her service.

SUMMER HARVEST CAMPAIGN CONNECTS CHILDREN TO MEALS

Thank you to everyone who participated in our Summer Harvest campaign, presented by Pinegar Honda! Supporters who brought canned goods to Springfield-Greene County pools, donated LifePoints at Community Blood Center of the Ozarks, attended Taste of SoMo or donated food at Lucas Oil Speedway helped Ozarks Food Harvest fill the gap for children and families facing hunger. Through individual donors and community partners, we were able to provide more than 123,000 meals for local children in need this summer.

STAMP OUT HUNGER PROVIDES MORE THAN 236,000 MEALS TO OUR NEIGHBORS IN THE OZARKS

Last May, neighbors across the Ozarks came together to participate in the 31st annual Stamp Out Hunger drive – the largest single-day food drive in America. Local letter carriers collected more than 139,000 pounds of food placed near mailboxes throughout the day, which were then sorted and delivered to local food pantries. Additionally, \$30,000 was donated thanks to a \$15,000 match from National Association of Letter Carriers – Ozark Mountain Branch 203.



Springfield Mayor Ken McClure signed a proclamation in honor of Stamp Out Hunger.

BOXLUNCH PROVIDES MEALS THROUGH PARTNERSHIP WITH FEEDING AMERICA

Huge thanks to BoxLunch for providing nearly 12,000 meals to our neighbors in need! This specialty retailer located in the Springfield Battlefield Mall provided one meal for every \$10 spent on pop-culture themed products sold as well as customer round ups in store or online. Springfield's local BoxLunch has helped provide more than 147,000 meals since 2018!

CHICKEN SALAD CHICK DONATES SALES TO OZARKS FOOD HARVEST

Chicken Salad Chick's newest location in Springfield continues to support neighbors facing hunger across the Ozarks. Not only have they generously donated all of their soft opening sales, which were matched by the Chicken Salad Chick Foundation, they've continued to donate a portion of sales. Thanks to their donations, more than 18,500 meals were provided to children, families and seniors across the Ozarks.

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.

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, Inventory Office Manager
Alyssa Tapio, Administrative Services Coordinator
Zetta Graves, Receptionist

DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS

Cassie Hanson, Director of Development
Sarah Green, Marketing & Events Manager
Kylee Compton, Graphic Designer
Rhown Cramer, Development Assistant
Holly Fox, Development & Grants Coordinator
Ali Pool, Special Events 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
Kristin Graves, SNAP Outreach 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.

HUNGER HERO NEWS

FEEDING FAMILIES ACROSS THE OZARKS

“It’s powerful to know the impact you’re making because the sum of many can grow into something truly amazing.”

-Melinda Love, director of operations at Graddy Real Estate and Ozarks Food Harvest volunteer



Graddy Real Estate has helped The Food Bank provide more than 11,000 meals.

LOCAL REAL ESTATE COMPANY HAS A PASSION FOR SERVICE

Graddy Real Estate has a team of employees with a heart for helping people. Their team helps people every single day by connecting individuals to homes, but that’s not the only way they’re leaving a lasting impact on the community.

Director of operations Melinda Love shares that their CEO, Adam Graddy, encourages employees to find something they’re passionate about and take time to volunteer. “Our culture is really important to us,” Melinda explains. “If I had to sum it up in one thing: We love helping people.”

The company’s team has served their community in a variety of ways, including

projects through the Victim Center, Harmony House, Stomp the Blues Out of Homelessness and sponsoring families for Christmas. Now, the team is eager to tackle the issue of hunger in the Ozarks.

“It’s sad to think that people in our area are going hungry. We all know people who’ve fallen on hard times. They all deserve to have their needs met,” says Melinda, who remembers what it was like to need assistance as a young mom working two jobs. Fortunately, Melinda had family to support her. “It keeps you from wanting to give up when you have support,” she shares.

Volunteer groups like Graddy Real Estate allow The Food Bank to be that support for

thousands of people facing hunger across the Ozarks. What’s more, they get to do it together. Melinda explains, “When we [volunteer] as a team, we’re not only giving back, but also team building. It’s powerful to know the impact you’re making because the sum of many can grow into something truly amazing.”

Since the company first volunteered at Ozarks Food Harvest in 2022, they’ve helped provide more than 11,000 meals to our neighbors in need. That truly is something amazing. Thank you, Graddy Real Estate, for coming together to help us *Transform Hunger into Hope*.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Thank you to our community partners who helped provide more than 100 meals from June 1 - September 15, 2023.

Casey’s, thanks to Feeding America – 95,995
National Association of Letter Carriers – 60,000
Dave, thanks to Feeding America – 57,313
General Mills, thanks to Feeding America – 45,040
Rapid Robert’s – 35,200
Arvest Bank – 23,951
Paul Mueller Company – 20,096
Midwest Mavericks – 13,508
Pinegar Honda – 12,706
The Clorox Company, thanks to Feeding America – 11,479
Pick-n-Pull Auto Dismantlers – 11,311
Pyramid Foods – 10,451
Tremendicon – 6,588

Downtown Springfield Association – 6,071
4 By 4 Brewing Company – 5,615
Pampered Chef, thanks to Feeding America – 4,655
Springfield-Greene Co. Park Board - Splash & Sizzle – 4,223
Community Blood Center of the Ozarks – 4,067
KPM CPAs, PC – 4,000
Lucas Oil Speedway – 3,163
Barker, Phillips & Jackson – 2,582
Wise Guys Screen Printing – 2,406
Sho-Me Jeeps Jeep Club – 2,000
Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church – 1,900
AT&T, thanks to Feeding America – 1,808
Jersey Mike’s, thanks to Feeding America – 1,521

BMW of North America, LLC, thanks to Feeding America – 1,296
Hour House – 1,175
KOS, thanks to Feeding America – 1,032
America’s Car-Mart - North – 1,021
Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets, Inc. – 959
Department of Corrections – 600
Papa John’s Pizza (Ozark Pizza Company, LLC, DBA) – 370
Continental Title Company – 320
Netsmart – 291
Elite Pain Management and Recovery Centers – 218
Licking United Community Help Center – 180
Air Services and All Services – 131



Full Circle Gardens staff hosted 10 groups across middle school, high school and college in fiscal year 2023.

GARDEN EDUCATION IMPACTS HUNGER RELIEF

The goal of the *Full Circle Gardens* program is to help strengthen local food systems so we can end hunger – and nutrition gaps – for neighbors in our service area, but did you know garden education is an important part of our mission?

Our experienced employees provide hands-on training on a variety of gardening best practices and composting. In fiscal year 2023, *Full Circle Gardens* staff hosted 10 groups across middle school, high school and college-age students at our home garden, as well as 30 faith-based and community charities through our regional gardening seminar.

“Our goal with these events is to create positive experiences and engage our community,” says Alexa Poindexter, director of *Full Circle Gardens*. “Educational field trips are a big way we can

expose people to The Food Bank, food rescue and local agriculture.”

When students and partner charities learn how *Full Circle Gardens* grows and connects locally-grown produce to our neighbors facing hunger, they take these ideas back to their own communities. Garden education promotes local agriculture to open up new food streams in under-resourced communities.

The *Full Circle Gardens* program has become one of Ozarks Food Harvest’s most successful programs for providing fresh produce to our neighbors in need. If your group wants to learn more about gardening and hunger relief, contact *Full Circle Gardens* at fullcirclegardens@ozarksfoodharvest.org.

COSTCO HELPS THE FOOD BANK PROVIDE MEALS FOR CHILDREN AND SENIORS

Thanks to Costco’s generosity, Ozarks Food Harvest was able to provide more than 6,500 snack packs and 19 variety snack boxes to kids, as well as more than 4,000 pounds of food for seniors over the last year.

Food items purchased from Costco were used to build snack packs for children attending Ozarks Food Harvest sponsored *After-School Food Programs*, which were distributed to kids who may not have enough to eat after school and on the weekends. One *After-School Program* director shared, “Thank you from the bottom of my heart to everyone that has made this grant possible. You have put smiles on a lot of little faces and supplied healthy alternatives where else there might not have been any!”

Grant funds also provided easy-to-open

food items for seniors through *Mobile Food Pantry* distributions, which helps overcome barriers experienced by the elderly such as lack of transportation or physical access to food. These single-serve food items are preferred by many seniors for their convenience and easy preparation.

Since the opening of their Springfield location in 2021, Costco has wasted no time in their efforts to support our neighbors facing hunger in southwest Missouri. In the last two years, Costco has awarded Ozarks Food Harvest with two grants totaling \$65,800 and donated nearly a million pounds of food through our *Retail Pick-Up Program*. Thank you, Costco, for your work to help children and seniors facing hunger in the Ozarks.

VOLUNTEERS

Below is a list of individuals and groups who have donated 20+ hours of time from June 1 – September 15, 2023.

INDIVIDUALS

Joanne Adams	Dave Lappin
Stephanie August	George Lawrence
Leslie Blanco	Stephanie Luhm
Walter Blase	Mary Magnus
Linda Brown	Cindy McDonough
Jade Cantrell	Monta Montgomery
Tom Carson	Peter Nester
Lynn Cline	Jennie Ngo
Gale Clithero	Ryan Owrey
Marilyn Corson	Derek Peacock
Dewayne Cossey	Craig Peterson
Kacey Davis	Debbie Peterson
Gary DeHaven	Sabrina Plummer
Kris Dreesen	Matthew Price
Emily Dunn	Lauren Pyle
Elliott Evans	Daniel Regier
Kim Evans	Terry Reichert
Myra Evans	Claire Rhoades
Timothy Fleener	Caleb Sanders
Katherine Frederick-Hudson	Alexander Scranton
Gerald Green	Emerald Sell
Janice Grimes	Harley Snyder
Dennis Grose	Parker Solum
Wil Hardiman	Margene Terrill
Matthew Harmer	Darry Thornton
Mark Hartman	Zabrina Tinsley
Jill Headley	Gowri Sankari Vasidhar
Thomas Headley	Sanjay Vikash Vasidhar
Marcia Hesler	Amy Viets-Cooper
David Hoover	Kathy Vinson
Susan Hunn	Lona Wait
Zechariah Hutter	Karen Walker
Makayla Job	Julia White
Ben Johnson	Jack Williams
Susan Johnson	Kitty Williams
Joe Jones	Judy Willis
Mary Keidle	Donna Zeitz
Don Landon	

GROUPS

417 Magazine	FCS Financial
AECI Accounting & Finance Division	Grainger
Ameriprise Financial Services	Greene County Juvenile Office
Amwins	Husch Blackwell
Antioch United Methodist Church	John Deere Remanufacturing
Be Kind Do Good Summer Camp	Mercer Advisors
Bethany First Church of the Nazarene	Morgan Stanley-Springfield
Boulevard Baptist Church Youth	MSU Delta Zeta
Central Bank of the Ozarks	Netsmart
Civil Air Patrol MO 070	OakStar Bank
CoxHealth Nurses	OTC Middle College
CoxHealth Network	Paddio
CoxHealth Recruitment and Retention	Russell Cellular
Cronkhite Homes	Sac River Cowboy Church Youth Group
Datema House	Serve Springfield
DYS Excel Day Treatment	Simmons Bank
	South Street Christian Church Youth Group
	Wesley UMC



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™**



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FOOD
HARVEST**
THE FOOD BANK