



HARVEST TIME

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



“There’s no way we could do what we do without Ozarks Food Harvest. Food is our biggest operating cost. And beyond the food support, Ozarks Food Harvest’s mentorship helps us stay prepared and teaches us how to serve better. They make us feel like we’re not just one out of hundreds of pantries in southwest Missouri.”

- Michele Dean, executive director for Christian Action Ministries

HOPE BEGINS WITH FOOD

For one working, single mom of two in Taney County, food assistance was more than just food for her family. It was a doorway to opportunity. The mother worked hard to provide meals, but some months, grocery money was just out of reach, and enrolling her children in extracurricular activities was out of the question. That is, until she found help from local pantry Christian Action Ministries (CAM) who provided the family with groceries to get through the month. Without having to worry about where their next meal was coming from, the woman had enough left in the budget to register her child for the local kids’ soccer league.

“It’s not just food,” said Michele Dean, executive director for CAM. “Sometimes kids don’t get to participate because a family doesn’t have the extra money after groceries. With support from CAM, there’s an opportunity for this child to make new friends, find a new passion and have someone else pour into them.”

This year, CAM is celebrating 40 years of providing food assistance in Taney County, but their mission goes beyond that. They aim to create community and help their neighbors reach new heights – like helping a child explore their passion for soccer. While food

gets neighbors in the door, CAM makes a point to build relationships and connect clients to resources like charitable clinics, mental health care, affordable childcare and more. Food is the basic need that, when met, allows for growth to happen.

Last year, CAM experienced their own major growth when a Stone County food pantry reached out for urgent help. The pantry was closing permanently and needed another charity to maintain service for families in their area. CAM had the people and passion to step in, but would need additional resources to meet the need. Ozarks Food Harvest was able to award a \$10,000 grant for food purchases, and now CAM supplies seven mobile food distributions each month in Stone County with the help of The Food Bank. In addition to their original Taney County service area, CAM’s impact has dramatically increased to serving 6,000 people each month.

“There’s no way we could do what we do without Ozarks Food Harvest,” explained Michele. “Food is our biggest operating cost. And beyond the food support, Ozarks Food Harvest’s mentorship helps us stay prepared and teaches us how to serve better. They make us feel like we’re not just one out of hundreds of pantries in southwest Missouri.”

Collaboration with Ozarks Food Harvest has allowed CAM to grow in more ways than one. Just last year, CAM started their own community garden with the help of The Food Bank’s experienced *Full Circle Gardens* staff. “We started small,” said Michele. “I was going to be happy if we got one thing to grow, but we’ve been able to share a variety of vegetables directly from our garden with clients! We also learned how to compost, which has helped our garden grow and reduces food waste. It’s something we never would’ve started if we hadn’t visited Ozarks Food Harvest’s farm.”

The garden has even become another avenue to educate neighbors in need as CAM provides gardening tips and recipes with produce grown on-site. It’s just one more example of how CAM lifts up their neighbors starting with that basic need – food.

CAM’s story is exactly what it means to *Transform Hunger into Hope*. We’re proud to partner with faith-based and community charities like CAM throughout the Ozarks who know food is the first step to growth for so many of our neighbors. Your support makes stories of hope like these possible. Thank you for investing in the health of our communities.

HELP YOURSELF WHILE HELPING OTHERS

Have you been wondering how to fit exercise, self-care and making a difference into your schedule? With volunteering you don't have to choose; it lets you do all three!

Research shows that volunteering is beneficial for your physical and mental health for several reasons. First, it reduces stress and leads to lower rates of depression and anxiety. By giving time to a cause, volunteers often find a sense of purpose, especially when making a difference in areas they find meaningful. Volunteering also provides a way to meet new people or strengthen existing relationships by working together toward a common goal.

Volunteers report better physical health than non-volunteers thanks to consistent movement

and feel-good hormones like dopamine that reduce stress. That means volunteering can reduce your risk of heart disease, stroke and general illness. These factors are good at any age but are especially beneficial for older adults.

Seniors can combat depression and other health issues by volunteering. After retirement, seniors are more at risk of isolation, but volunteering provides a way to connect to other people. It also keeps the brain and body active, which can improve memory, boost mood and keep you healthy for longer.

For young people, volunteering builds confidence and develops useful skills that can be applied to careers. Donating time to a cause provides a great way to explore areas of interest

and exposes individuals to new opportunities. Creating healthy lifestyles can happen in any phase of life, but establishing those routines as a child or young adult creates habits that can last a lifetime. Volunteering builds a foundation of generosity and drive that benefits the individual and the community for years to come.

No matter your age, volunteering is beneficial for your physical and mental health, making it a great form of self-care that makes a lasting difference for the community. At Ozarks Food Harvest, just one volunteer can provide more than 300 meals for our neighbors in need during a three-hour session. It's a win-win. To volunteer at Ozarks Food Harvest, visit ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer to sign up and learn more.



Volunteering is good for your physical and mental health.

FOOD RESCUE IS CRUCIAL TO HUNGER RELIEF

More food is produced than eaten each year, yet 1 in 7 children and adults in southwest Missouri face hunger. The problem is food waste, which happens at every level of food production from harvesting to table scraps. Nearly 40 percent of all food in the United States ends up in landfills each year – making it both a humanitarian and an environmental issue – and the estimated 80 million tons of food wasted annually is equal to 149 billion meals. With so much edible food being thrown away, no one in the Ozarks should have to wonder where their next meal is coming from.

The solution is food rescue and Ozarks Food Harvest, along with food banks nationwide, has programs in place to do just that. Ozarks Food Harvest works with local manufacturers, retailers and farmers across southwest Missouri

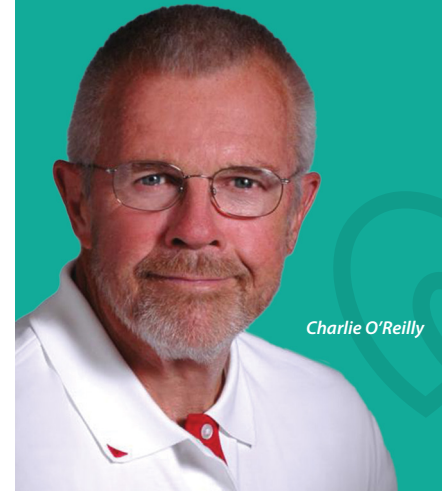
to intercept nutritious food before it's thrown away and distributes it to our neighbors facing hunger.

The *Retail Pick-Up Program* is Ozarks Food Harvest's largest food rescue initiative. The program coordinates pick-ups of donations from local retailers and grocers consisting of food items that often don't meet standards for retail sales but are still safe for consumption. Last year, the *Retail Pick-Up Program* rescued 7.6 million pounds of product that made up more than one-third of the food distributed by The Food Bank. Volunteers check donated items for food safety standards before they're distributed to our neighbors in need, and food that has gone bad is sent to local pig farmers who can still use it as pig food.

Ozarks Food Harvest also utilizes our *Full Circle Gardens* program to rescue fresh produce from local farms and gardens that would otherwise be discarded. Based on harvest and demand, growers sometimes end up with more fruits and vegetables than they can use or sell. Ozarks Food Harvest's Glean Team volunteers can harvest the excess crop and then have The Food Bank's trucks distribute it directly to our network of charities.

Rescuing nutritious food is a priority of Ozarks Food Harvest. There's enough food for everyone when we work together to reduce waste. Thank you to the volunteers, donors and growers who work with us to rescue food, help the planet and feed our neighbors.

Charlie's CORNER



Charlie O'Reilly



Volunteers are key to Transforming Hunger into Hope.

THE IMPACT OF VOLUNTEERISM

Did you know that Ozarks Food Harvest volunteers help sort, pack and harvest more than 100,000 pounds of food each week?

Bart tells me that's just one small piece of what the nearly 3,700 volunteers that visit The Food Bank each year do for our community in southwest Missouri. Volunteers are key to Ozarks Food Harvest's mission to *Transform Hunger into Hope* because they're its biggest champions in raising awareness about hunger, ensuring food reaches families in need and making the most out of every dollar donated.

Volunteers help spread awareness about hunger because The Food Bank treats the volunteer experience with respect and care. They host three-hour sessions with a break and ensure every volunteer knows exactly where they need to be, what they're doing, and how many meals they're helping give to their community. This is important because each time a volunteer tells a friend about their positive experience with The Food Bank, wears an Ozarks Food Harvest T-shirt or posts a photo on social media, they're helping shine a spotlight on hunger.

From a distribution perspective, each volunteer helps provide more than 300 meals on average during a single sort and pack session in The Food Bank's warehouse. They also help harvest produce with Ozarks Food Harvest's *Full Circle Gardens* to ensure families have access to fresh fruits and vegetables. Many even help with the next step by giving out food at local pantries and *Mobile Food Pantries* that they helped sort!

Volunteerism is vital as well to helping Ozarks Food Harvest stretch every dollar donated as far as it can go. Without volunteers, The Food Bank would need to hire 15 full-time employees to ensure food was sorted and packed to

match the incredible demand the community is experiencing. By harnessing the power of volunteerism, they redirect these potential costs towards providing more meals for children, families and seniors facing hunger.

I think Lauren Pyle, a longtime volunteer at Ozarks Food Harvest, captures why volunteers are so important with her comment. "You never know who hunger is affecting. It could be your neighbor, classmate or someone at work. Ozarks Food Harvest has a lot of working parts, and that's why volunteers are so essential...so they can go out and feed people."

I'd like to personally thank all of Ozarks Food Harvest's volunteers for their commitment to helping end hunger in the Ozarks. Your gift of time is invaluable, and I truly appreciate you.

For those who have yet to volunteer with The Food Bank, I encourage you to apply and schedule a session online at ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer. Even a small sacrifice of three hours a month can yield a lifetime of difference for people worrying about how they'll be able to put dinner on the table tonight.



UPCOMING EVENTS

HY-VEE 100 MILLION MEALS

April 1

Hy-Vee is on a mission to help provide 100 million meals to neighbors facing hunger. Shoppers can round up their purchase at the register and all funds collected will go directly to local food banks in their community. Donations can also be made online at feedingamerica.org/hy-vee. Thank you, Hy-Vee, for your continued support since 2012!

WALMART FIGHT HUNGER. SPARK CHANGE.

April 1 - April 29

Walmart and Sam's Club stores are supporting Feeding America food banks across the nation through the annual Fight Hunger. Spark Change. campaign. One hundred percent of the funds donated at area Walmart locations will help feed children, families, and seniors in southwest Missouri. Monetary donations can be made online with any Walmart or Sam's Club order. Shoppers can also contribute by purchasing a specially-marked participating item and the equivalent to one meal will be donated by Walmart or Sam's Club to The Food Bank.

ARVEST MILLION MEALS

April 1 - May 28

This year, the regional bank is collecting donations at arvest.com/go and through drive-up banking portals. Every dollar raised will help provide three meals for our hungry neighbors. We're so thankful for Arvest Bank and its customers who have helped provide more than 380,000 meals since 2011.

STAMP OUT HUNGER

May 11

The 32nd annual Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger event is coming next month. Participate by filling a bag with nonperishable foods and leaving it by your mailbox on Saturday, May 11 or donate online at mightycause.com/StampOutHunger

INVESTING MORE THAN \$258,000 IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES

Ozarks Food Harvest will invest more than \$258,000 this year to provide nutritious food to rural families facing hunger thanks to two recent grants from Feeding America and Tyson Foods.

We're investing in our community because the demand for food continues to be higher than pandemic levels, especially in rural areas of southwest Missouri. To give you an idea, we're serving more than 70,000 individuals each month – nearly 20,000 more than during the height of the COVID-19 crisis.

Many people are surprised when they hear the demand for food has risen, but a perfect storm of high childcare, housing and food costs continue to make food access more difficult for working families facing hunger across our 28-county service area. For individuals living in rural communities, the effect is even worse as these issues compound on top of lack of access to nutritious food, reliable transportation and job opportunities. These communities, already grappling with adversity, need help to get back on their feet.

That's why we're focusing on equitable food access for families living in rural southwest

Missouri. Equitable access for us is about working to ensure a family living in a rural area such as Shannon County has the same access to fresh, nutritious food as a family living in Greene County. Ozarks Food Harvest will use these grant funds to bring truckloads of fresh produce and protein every month for the next year to families living in rural areas most affected by hunger.

One of our neighbors facing hunger, Mary, said, "If it wasn't for Ozarks Food Harvest, there would be a lot of things like vegetables and fruit that I could not afford to get. I appreciate everything you do."

The food we provide, and its delivery, will be completely free for our communities and the families living in them. Our charitable partners won't have to worry about the cost of gas or increased food prices; they will just have to worry about getting food into the hands of families that need it. We're able to make investments like this in our community because we're good stewards of every dollar donated from supporters like you.

Thank you to everyone who supports our mission to *Transform Hunger into Hope*. As



BART'S Hope Note

demand increases, we will continue to serve as the backbone of charitable food giving in southwest Missouri. Please consider donating today and be a part of our efforts to ensure everyone has a seat — and a meal — at the table.

MONTHLY SUSTAINERS HELP END HUNGER

Ozarks Food Harvest's monthly donors play a critical role in meeting the needs of our community. While every donation makes an impact, monthly giving through our Harvest Circle Program allows The Food Bank to plan ahead and respond to needs as they arise.

Monthly giving is an easy way to get involved. When you sign up for Harvest Circle, you save time and postage by setting up automatic payments. It also allows you to plan the amount you give each month if a larger one-time donation doesn't fit your budget, with the option to change or stop at any time.

Monthly commitments give The Food Bank flexibility to plan for both long-term and immediate needs, such as the increased demand for food assistance. Due to a perfect storm of issues, Ozarks Food Harvest is now serving 70,000 people each month – higher than the peak of the pandemic. Harvest Circle donors have allowed The Food Bank to keep pace with demand and ensure families have a meal to put on the table.

Setting your monthly donation is a one-time action that provides continuous support to neighbors like Linda, who shared, "I'm 78-years-

old and The Food Bank makes a big difference in what I'm able to spend for groceries, which isn't a lot. The Food Bank definitely makes a world of difference for me to have healthy food."

By joining Harvest Circle, you're helping end hunger. You can set your monthly commitment knowing that every dollar helps provide three meals to neighbors facing hunger in southwest Missouri. Thank you for helping Ozarks Food Harvest *Transform Hunger into Hope*.



Monthly donors are critical to ending hunger in the Ozarks.

SPECIAL THANKS

THE J.R. ALBERT FOUNDATION HELPS PROVIDE 90,000 MEALS

A recent donation of \$30,000 was made to The Food Bank as the first installment of a three-year pledge which was renewed in 2023. The J.R. Albert Foundation is a private foundation established in 2007 in Kansas City, Missouri, that supports organizations that create and protect local, healthy food systems throughout the Midwest. Their support has helped provide hundreds of thousands of meals across the Ozarks since 2013.

TRAILINER CORPORATION TRUCK RAISES FUNDS FOR NEIGHBORS FACING HUNGER

Last year, Trailiner Corporation, with the help of Wrap-Aholic!, wrapped one of their trailers with Ozarks Food Harvest branding and donated \$150 for every trip it made in a year. The fundraiser raised \$8,850 to help The Food Bank provide meals for families facing hunger across the Ozarks. Thank you to Trailiner Corporation and WrapAholic! for joining us in the fight to end hunger in southwest Missouri!



Trailiner Corporation's truck raised \$8,850 for The Food Bank.

PAPA JOHNS FOUNDATION BUILDING COMMUNITY FUND PROVIDES 22,500 MEALS

A recent gift of \$7,500 from Papa Johns Foundation will help provide 22,500 meals across southwest Missouri. The Building Community Fund provides local Papa Johns restaurants the opportunity to support nonprofit organizations in the communities where they live, work and play. When you order with the code FOODOZ at your local store, you'll receive a 30% discount and Ozarks Food Harvest will receive 10% of the proceeds from your order. Pick up a pizza and support The Food Bank!

SGC FOODSERVICE GIFTS \$25,000 TO SUPPORT HUNGER-RELIEF EFFORTS

This generous gift will help provide 75,000 meals to our neighbors facing hunger. SGC's donation comes at a time of increased need as higher food, housing and childcare costs cause more of our neighbors to seek food assistance. Over the last 15 years, SGC has donated nearly 766,000 pounds of food and more than \$420,000 to help Ozarks Food Harvest end hunger in our community. It's only with the help of committed partners like SGC Foodservice that we can continue to fight hunger across the Ozarks.

VISION COMMUNICATIONS - KADI FM 99.5 HELPS PROVIDE 10,000 MEALS

A recent gift of more than \$3,400 from Vision Communications will help provide nourishing meals to children, families and seniors facing hunger in our community. KADI strives to bring hope, love and entertainment to Springfield and surrounding areas. KADI's 20-year partnership with Ozarks Food Harvest demonstrates their commitment to serving their neighbors in need.

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST HONORS 93-YEAR-OLD VOLUNTEER FOR 2,000 HOURS OF SERVICE

Ozarks Food Harvest honored 93-year-old volunteer Don Landon in March for contributing 2,000 hours of service in nine years to The Food Bank. The Food Bank's staff honored Don with a short ceremony and moved his name to the 2,000 hours volunteered branch on the Charles Foltz Gift of Time Tree. The tree was named in honor of Charles Foltz, a long time OFH volunteer, and is used to honor individuals who have contributed 1,000 or more hours of service.



Thank you, Don, for 2,000 hours of service!

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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 Tommy Wohlgenuth, Treasurer—SGC™ Foodservice
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 Clayton Brown—Prime Inc.
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 Holly Gray—Heim, Young & Associates
 Penny Lacy—Arvest Bank
 Charlie Lynn—Associated Wholesale Grocers
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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

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Cassie Hanson, Director of Development
 Sarah Green, Marketing & Events Manager
 Kylee Compton, Graphic Designer
 Rhoven Renae, Development Assistant
 Holly Fox, Development & Grants Coordinator
 Ali Pool, Special Events Coordinator
 Allie Smith, Corporate Development Coordinator
 Triston Trybus, Development Assistant

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
 Deirdra 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

Alexa Poindexter, Director of Full Circle Gardens
 Cady Wolf, 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

“Our volunteers selflessly give their time, many coming to multiple sessions each month or even each week, so someone they don’t even know can have the basic comfort of food.”

- Sarah Byrd, Ozarks Food Harvest volunteer program manager



Join the Volunteer Appreciation Month festivities!

CELEBRATING OUR VOLUNTEERS THIS APRIL

April is Volunteer Appreciation Month, and we’re taking the opportunity to celebrate our volunteers for their hard work. We love showing our volunteers just how much we value them because we know their time is valuable. Efforts to feed our neighbors facing hunger would not be possible without the thousands of volunteers who give their time to sort donated food, pack *Weekend Backpacks* and *Senior Boxes*, harvest produce with *Full Circle Gardens* and more.

Our volunteers’ impact stretches across all 28 southwest Missouri counties in Ozarks Food Harvest’s service area. Volunteers help sort, pack and harvest more than 100,000 pounds of food

every week that’s distributed to 270 faith-based and community charities across our network. Their efforts help reduce food waste and increase the amount of food on our neighbors’ tables.

“Our volunteers are some of the most incredible people I’ve ever met,” said Sarah Byrd, Ozarks Food Harvest’s volunteer program manager. “They arrive at our sessions ready and willing to do whatever is needed of them to help provide food for our neighbors in need. Our volunteers selflessly give their time, many coming to multiple sessions each month or even each week, so someone they don’t even know can have the basic comfort of food.”

Join us this April as we celebrate the volunteers who make it possible for The Food Bank to serve 70,000 people across the Ozarks each month. All month long, we’ll be making sure our volunteers feel extra special with treats, prizes and celebrations to show our gratitude.

We cannot thank our volunteers enough for the gift of time they give to help our neighbors facing hunger. Thank you for choosing to make a difference at Ozarks Food Harvest. You make it possible to *Transform Hunger into Hope* in southwest Missouri.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Check out our community partners who helped provide more than 500 meals from January 11-March 15, 2024.

Harter House - Nixa – 47,741
 Pyramid Foods – 40,881
 Woods Supermarket #471 Bolivar – 16,935
 Community Blood Center of the Ozarks – 16,900
 Harter House - Springfield Republic Rd. – 11,804
 Prime, Inc. – 8,800
 Ridewell Suspensions – 7,836
 Pick-n-Pull Auto Dismantlers – 5,735
 Schnitzer Steel Industries – 5,735
 Rhodes Family Price Chopper – 5,595
 Guaranty Bank – 3,381
 Harter House - Kimberling City – 3,021
 Skrewball Whiskey, thanks to Feeding Missouri – 3,000
 Natural Grocers by Vitamin Cottage Natural Food Markets, Inc. – 2,392

Ozark Chapter of Missouri Society of Professional Engineers – 1,771
 First Christian Church of Republic – 1,650
 Missouri State University Construction Club – 1,532
 Rapid Robert’s – 1,500
 Hy-Vee – 1,308
 Harter House – Hollister – 1,296
 Student Union Board at Drury – 1,143
 Retro Eats LLC DBA Retro Metro – 1,134
 Grant Avenue Free Will Baptist Church – 1,110
 Big Whiskey’s Concepts, LLC – 1,050
 Kiwanis Club of Springfield – North – 1,004
 Harter House – Strafford – 789
 Won Communications – 750
 Ozark Pizza Company, LLC DBA Papa John’s Pizza – 517

Wesley United Methodist Church – 465
 St. Thomas the Apostle Orthodox Church – 407
 The Lighthouse Gallery – 360
 Bob & Ike’s Neighborhood Bar – 300
 Ebenezer Methodist Church WSCS – 300
 Finnegan’s Wake – 300
 Peggy Miller Tax Service – 300
 Juanita K. Hammons Hall for the Performing Arts – 174
 Birner Southwest Missouri LLC DBA Renewal by Andersen – 142



Garden-to-Go kits help families and communities grow their own food.

OZARKS FOOD HARVEST TO DISTRIBUTE 9,000 GARDEN KITS TO FAMILIES FACING HUNGER

Ozarks Food Harvest’s *Full Circle Gardens* program will distribute more than 9,000 Garden-to-Go kits this year to help families facing hunger in the Ozarks grow their own food. Baker Creek Heirloom Seed Company, Seed Savers Exchange, The Buffalo Seed Company and other local retailers, donated more than \$1.2 million worth of seeds to The Food Bank to make these kits.

The Food Bank will distribute their Garden-to-Go Kits to their network of 270 faith-based and community charities as well as other Feeding America food banks in Missouri, the Northwest Arkansas Food Bank and the El Pasoans Fighting Hunger Food Bank in Texas.

“We appreciate all of our donors and volunteers that continue to make our Garden-

to-Go Kits possible,” said Alexa Poindexter, director of Full Circle Gardens at Ozarks Food Harvest. “This is such a great way to get families involved with growing their own food supply and being part of the solution to end hunger in the Ozarks.”

Each kit contains seeds for a flower, herb and eight different vegetables. To make planting easier, the kits also contain a specific planting calendar with links to gardening instructions and budget friendly cookbooks.

If you are interested in joining the Glean Team or volunteering at Ozarks Food Harvest, you can sign up at ozarksfoodharvest.org/volunteer.

CHECK OUT HUNGER CAMPAIGN COLLECTS NEARLY \$48,000 FOR HUNGER RELIEF

More than 60 local grocers partnered with Ozarks Food Harvest for the 25th annual Check Out Hunger campaign, raising nearly \$48,000 from customer donations to provide more than 142,000 meals across the Ozarks.

The fundraiser wrapped up at the end of December, but The Food Bank received checks from grocers through February 2024. Charitable donations tend to drop after the holidays, which makes this an ideal time for Ozarks Food Harvest to receive a financial boost.

“Families across the Ozarks are facing a perfect storm of increased childcare, housing and food costs,” said Jordan Browning, director of communications at Ozarks Food Harvest. “Donations from our Check Out Hunger campaign have come at a perfect time to help us feed more families facing hunger.”

Check Out Hunger gives shoppers the opportunity to add a \$1, \$3 or \$5 tax-free donation to their grocery bill at the register of participating retailers during the holiday season. Participating grocers included Apple Market, Country Mart, Harter House, King Cash Saver, King Food Saver, Price Cutter, Ramey, Rhodes Family Price Chopper, Town & Country Supermarket and Woods Supermarket.

Since 1998, the Check Out Hunger campaign has raised more than \$810,000 to help provide more than 3.6 million meals to The Food Bank’s network of 270 faith-based and community charities. Thank you to the grocers and customers who made this campaign possible!

VOLUNTEERS

Below is a list of individuals and groups who have donated 15+ hours of time from January 1 – February 29, 2024.

INDIVIDUALS

Joanne Adams	Mary Magnus
Stephanie August	Cindy McDonough
Korey Besch	Spencer Mende
Jim Brymer	Austin Merritt
Alan Butler	Lillianna Morales
Riley Carpenter	Anna Muehlenbrock
Tom Carson	Pat Myers
Abel Chung	Alyssa Nanneman
Gale Clithero	Peter Nester
Kerry Curran	Grant Nicholson
Gary DeHaven	Katie Palmer
Kris Dreesen	Kevin Parnell
Betsy Esquivel	Derek Peacock
Mario Esquivel	Craig Peterson
Ed Ferris	Debbie Peterson
Dylan Fuller	Lauren Pyle
Gerald Green	Angela Rakhuba
Wil Hardiman	Daniel Regier
Matthew Harmer	Terry Reichert
Marcia Hesler	Shelbee Schrock
Susan Hunn	Emerald Sell
Cindy Hunter	Richard Sherman
Ben Johnson	Joseph Snelling
Susan Johnson	Rachel Spaulding
Mary Keidle	Margene Terrill
Aaron King	Carrie Trouskie
Alyssa King	Amy Viets-Cooper
Julian Koenig	Kathy Vinson
Vito La Fata IV	Lona Wait
Don Landon	Julia White
Dave Lappin	Sierra White
George Lawrence	Jack Williams
Shaun Lencki	Kitty Williams
Mark Lucio	Judy Willis
Ashley Lynch	

GROUPS

American Products	MSU Student
Antioch United	Activities Council
Methodist Church	New Home Baptist Church
Arby’s	O’Reilly Auto Parts
Ava National Honors Society	OTC Middle College
Cronkhite Homes	Paddio
Cummins	Springfield Catholic HS
Guaranty Bank	SPS AgVenture
Humansville High School FFA	SPS BASE
MSU English	The Door Youth Group
Language Institute	Wesley United
MSU Lambda Chi Alpha	Methodist Church
MSU Nutrition & Dietetics	Willard High School FFA
MSU Pi Kappa Alpha	

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





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