



OZARKS FOOD HARVEST

THE FOOD BANK

Available Resources for SPS Children & their Families

Ozarks Food Harvest (OFH) is the Feeding America food bank in southwest Missouri, serving 30,000 food insecure individuals weekly across 28 Ozarks counties. The Food Bank rescues, warehouses and distributes food and supplies to 200 nonprofit hunger-relief organizations across one-third of the state of Missouri.

The Supplemental Nutrition Program (SNAP), formerly Food Stamps, is the largest federal nutrition program that helps families and individuals put food on the table and improve their nutrition.

- SNAP is the most effective program for providing families with a consistent source of food and solving hunger in Missouri.
- The benefits can be used to purchase food at grocery stores, convenience stores and farmers' markets.
- Families can determine if they meet the eligibility guidelines by speaking to the OFH SNAP Coordinator, who will help the family through the application process. Please call (417) 429-0853 for more information.

The Weekend Backpack Program™ provides backpacks full of easy-open, nutritious food for underprivileged children to take home every weekend during the school year.

- Ozarks Food Harvest reaches 1,500 children weekly at 46 schools in 14 counties, distributing a total of 55,000 backpacks – more than 329,000 meals – during the 2014-15 school year.
- Administration at participating schools can select children to become recipients after an observation of hunger, a child's request, and/or knowledge of their family situation.

The Mobile Food Pantry brings truckloads full of food and supplies directly to children, families, and seniors in need.

- This unique program acts as a supplement for those who don't have access to a food pantry or have limited resources in their ability to reach one.
- Typically, one distribution will provide approximately 10,000 lbs. of food to around 100 families or 400 individuals.
- Ozarks Food Harvest provides monthly MFP distributions at SPS school locations.
 - Clients are eligible if their child attends the school hosting the distribution.
 - Check with your school administrator to learn the next scheduled distribution at your school.

At-Risk After-School Feeding Program serves more than 700 children each night, five nights a week at 19 locations across southwest Missouri.

- More than 45,300 meals and 46,750 snacks were served last year to ensure these children will not go to bed hungry.
- Many of these programs operate at local schools, community centers and YMCAs.
- Check ozarksfoodharvest.org/kidscafe.html for your nearest site.

The Summer Food Service Program (SFSP) helps supplement children's diets in the summer months when they do not have access to school meals.

- Last year, the program served more than 37,000 meals and 5,700 snacks to children when school was not in session.
 - Most summer programs offer a variety of activities for children during the day when their guardians may be at work.
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There are a variety of resources available that can benefit Springfield Public School children and their families. The Food Bank is happy to assist anyone in learning more information about the direct-relief programs above, or the location of their nearest Ozarks Food Harvest member food pantry. Please call (417) 865-3411 for more information.

For more than 30 years, Ozarks Food Harvest has been Transforming Hunger into Hope™ for neighbors in need across the Ozarks.

Transform Hunger into Hope™ at ozarksfoodharvest.org

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