



OPERATION  
FOOD  
SEARCH

Over 30-Years of Nourishing Our Community  
[www.OperationFoodSearch.org](http://www.OperationFoodSearch.org)

Main Warehouse & Distribution Center • 6282 Olive Boulevard • St. Louis, MO 63130 • (p) 314.726.5355 • (f) 314.726.9945  
O'Fallon Warehouse & Distribution Center • 1435 Hoff Industrial Center • O'Fallon, MO 63366 • (p) 636.544.3500 • (f) 636.327.9292

## Mark Your Calendar for These Upcoming Events and Activities!

- **January 28** — *Pistons and Pearls Gala* — America's Center
- **January 30** — *LoRusso's Pasta Bowl* — LoRusso's Cucina
- **February 17** — *Sips in the City* happy hour with Alive Magazine — Schnucks Culinaría
- **March 2 & 3** — *3rd Annual St. Louis Idiotarod* — Downtown St. Louis
- **April 28** — *Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri's April Showers* community-wide personal care item drive
- **May 5** — *Purses for Pantries* — Orlando Gardens
- **May/June** — *Hunger Never Takes a Vacation* campaign — Schnucks, Dierbergs, Shop 'n Save, Straubs
- **June 3** — *18th Taste of Clayton* — Brentwood Blvd. (between Forsyth Blvd. and Maryland Ave.)
- **July 1 - 30** — *Tomato Explosion with Feast Magazine* — at participating St. Louis restaurants
- **July 28** — *Saturday Jubilee* community-wide food drive
- **October 8** — *Swing to End Hunger* golf tournament — WingHaven Country Club

## Hometown Hero David Freese, MVP of the World Series Warms Hearts at OFS!



On a brisk December day, 2011 World Series MVP David Freese visited Operation Food Search to help distribute 750 turkeys to several local food pantries. The turkeys were generously provided by Molina Healthcare to add brightness and hope to local families who struggle from hunger and food insecurity this holiday season.

Just as Freese delivered a memorable win for baseball fans everywhere, this hometown hero gave his personal best to be a winner in the hearts of OFS community partner agencies, volunteers and staff.

## Cooking Matters to Our Veterans!

For 11 years Operation Food Search's *Cooking Matters* has reached out to kids, teens, moms, dads, elderly adults, and families. This past year, we began working with a new population, local veterans. In the summer of 2011, our staff began its first *Cooking Matters for Adults* course at Jefferson Barracks VA Medical Center.



Cooking Matters courses provide education and support to veterans.

Many of the Veterans attending the *Cooking Matters* courses are men who reported feeling inept in the kitchen or only knew how to prepare a handful of dishes. During our six-week long course, veterans learned cooking skills as simple as sautéing vegetables, and how to prepare basic recipes, including frittatas, soups, and pasta. One of the vets who graduated from the *Cooking Matters* program said, "For the past four years, I lived on TV dinners, hamburgers, and bratwurst. Now, I eat stir fry vegetables about four times a week that I learned how to make in class, and I now order healthier choices when eating out."

In addition to not knowing their way around the kitchen before the classes began, we

*Continued on page 7*



## Join Us for Full-Throttle Action at Piston and Pearls!

Join Operation Food Search on January 28th, 2012, for an evening of excitement at *Piston and Pearls* – the Saint Louis Auto Show Charity Gala at the America's Center.

OFS is pleased to once again be one of the beneficiaries for this evening on the town, complete with drinks, dancing, hors d'oeuvres, a silent auction and entrance to the Auto Show during the gala.

This year's event will also feature Las Vegas headliner, Gerry McCamridge, the inspiration for the hit TV show, *The Mentalist*. VIP ticket holders will get an exclusive viewing of the Million Dollar Mile car display—an area highlighting the most luxurious automobiles on the market — after the gala!

- \$40 General Admission Tickets include: 2 Drink Tickets; Heavy Hors d'oeuvres; Entrance into Auto Show anytime during the Gala; Admission to the After Party at The Pepper Lounge
- \$100 VIP Tickets include everything listed above, plus an exclusive viewing of the Million Dollar Mile after the Gala, unlimited drink tickets and complimentary valet parking.

Ticket purchasers have the option to select Operation Food Search as their charity of choice — and when this happens all but \$10 of the ticket cost will go directly to OFS! Select Operation Food Search and for every \$40 ticket sold, OFS will receive \$30, and for every \$100 ticket purchased we will receive \$90!

For more information and to purchase tickets, visit <http://www.saintlouisautoshow.com/>

## OFS Moves Forward with its New Toyota Sienna!

Recently, Seeger Toyota Scion presented Operation Food Search with keys to a beautiful 2012 Silver Sienna minivan for being a winner in the 2011 Toyota '100 Cars for Good' program. The van was won based on votes by the public through a national social media campaign that revved up 3,000 applicants from around the country.

Andy Seeger, General Manager of Seeger Toyota Scion also presented OFS with a grant, matched by Toyota Corporation, for a total of \$5,000 to carry out nutrition services to the St. Louis Community. The minivan is equipped with Toyota Care's two-year complimentary maintenance and roadside assistance and a 6-year, 100,000-mile platinum vehicle service agreement from Toyota Financial Services.

The van is already being put to good use, moving OFS's *Cooking Matters* nutrition education program forward," exclaimed OFS executive director Sunny Schaefer.



Dietitians Melissa Mobley and Kari Hartel load up the van with Cooking Matters gear.



L to R: Joanie Taylor, OFS Board Member ; Sunny Schaefer, Executive Director, OFS; Mark Neal, OFS Board Member, Andy Seeger, General Manager, Seeger Toyota Scion; Leslie Bertsch, Nutrition Manager, OFS; Tony Mueller, Toyota Regional Director; Michael Rouse, Toyota Vice President/Philanthropy and Community Affairs and Karen Klaus, Director of Development, OFS.

"Teaching individuals and families who live on a tight budget how to select and prepare nutritious foods is an important part of our strategy to fight hunger." We are thrilled that Seeger Toyota Scion has embraced Operation Food Search as part of its family! Its location at 12833 Olive Boulevard in Creve Coeur is now a year-round food collection site for us!

## Lucky 13th Annual Empty Bowls the Most Successful to Date!

Hundreds of local high school and college pottery students, faculty and professional potters crafted beautiful bowls, pitchers, vases and other vessels symbolic of the empty bowls thousands of children face at dinner. These pieces of art were donated and sold the weekend before Thanksgiving in a display gracing the center court of Plaza Frontenac. Nearly 1,000 pieces of art were sold and generated over \$8,000 to help feed the hungry this winter.



Happy customers with their bowl crafted by Luke Cano, a ceramics teacher at Whitfield School

## Welcome Aboard!

Operation Food Search is pleased to announce the addition of Karen A. Bedell to its Board of Directors. Karen is Senior Vice President, New Business Integration and Development, Centene Corporation, a leading multi-line healthcare enterprise that provides programs and related services to individuals receiving benefits under Medicaid. The Company operates local health plans and offers a range of healthcare solutions for the rising number of uninsured Americans.



Before joining Centene, Karen served as Vice President and General Manager for DRS Marlo Coil, manufacturer of heat transfer systems, and as Senior Vice President, Marketing and Strategic Planning for Engineered Support Systems, Inc. Prior to ESSI, Karen was Vice President, Community Relations for The Boeing Company.

Karen attended Cor Jesu Academy and earned degrees from the University of Missouri-Columbia and St. Louis University. Her affiliations include the St. Louis Science Center Board of Trustees, St. Louis Zoo, Education and Government Committees St. Louis University, and the Institute of International Business Advisory Board. In 2009, she was recognized with the St. Louis Business Journal's 25 Most Influential Business Women Award.

She and her husband Marshall have two children. She enjoys the outdoors, especially riding bikes, rock climbing, and water skiing.

## OFS Scores with *Homeruns for Hunger!*

Lumière Place and River City Casino pledged \$1,000 for every home run the St. Louis Cardinals scored during the 2011 World Series. Their executives then decided to round the donation up to \$10,000 to help us meet a 30 percent increase in requests for food assistance. This leadership funding will enable OFS to bring in 15 tractor trailer loads full of donated food and personal care items to help local people in need. Thank you Lumière Place and River City Casino for stepping up to the plate!



L to R: KTVI Fox 2's Margie Ellisor and Tim Ezell are visited by Joe Branchik, Vice President of Marketing, Lumière Place and River City Casino who presents a check to OFS from the Homeruns for Hunger campaign (with assistance from Fredbird!) during the KTVI Fox 2 Food Drive.

## Peabody Energy's Employees Share the Holiday Spirit with a Cans and Coats Drive

Operation Food Search is grateful to Peabody Energy for adopting our organization as beneficiary of its 2011 employee holiday celebration. Peabody employees and guests gathered at the beautiful new Peabody Opera House for a private dress rehearsal of *Dr. Seuss' How the Grinch Stole Christmas: The Musical*, yet there wasn't a Grinch in sight as they brought with them 3,700 pounds of food donations and 500+ items of winter apparel to keep our clients warm this holiday season.

"More than 30 Operation Food Search volunteers greeted Peabody's 2,000 guests as we arrived. Your volunteers were outstanding to help accept the food and winter items in the freezing cold, and to help us with event flow and information booths!" exclaimed Peabody's Director of Community Relations, Sarah Kramer, who with her team coordinated the celebration. The donations were immediately put to good use, as several OFS partner agencies came in the next day to pick up food, warm coats and other much-needed goods.

Before the show started, Peabody Energy's President and Chief Executive Officer Greg Boyce took stage to present OFS Executive Director Sunny Schaefer with a leadership gift of \$30,000. "Peabody Energy has called downtown St. Louis home for more than half a century, and we are proud to be doing a lot of fundamental good for this community. In this economic environment, Operation Food Search clients need our help now more than ever, and we're pleased to recognize your 30 years of service to our community with this grant."

The term "Grinchy" does not apply as the holiday spirit of Peabody was in great supply! To help OFS nourish St. Louis' most vulnerable lives, the hearts at Peabody grew 3 times in size!



Volunteer "Santas for a Day" collect food and coats donated by Peabody employees

## Gifts that Live

One of the most enduring legacies one can bestow is a gift for the living. So many people choose to gift parts of their estates to worthy causes that it is hardly out of the ordinary to hear of people making plans for how an estate is to be bequeathed.

Feeding the hungry is a calling that is with us always. In good times and in bad, there is a constant segment of the population that needs assistance with basic necessities. Operation Food Search answers this call, but we cannot do it without the help of a multitude of generous individuals.

Operation Food Search welcomes donors, volunteers and so many others to consider a legacy for the living as plans for survivorship are considered this year. Estate planners, attorneys and financial representatives are well versed in planned giving options and can assist in making arrangements.

When decisions are final, Operation Food Search would like to thank those who choose to leave such a legacy in our care. Thank you for considering making feeding the hungry your living legacy. For more information on planned giving, please contact Sunny Schaefer at (314) 726-5355 X 11 or sunny.schaefer@OperationFoodSearch.org. Thank you!

## Start Revving Up Your Grocery Cart Now!

March 2nd and 3rd is when the Downtown St. Louis *Idiotarod* will pay homage to the Alaskan tradition of the Iditarod where dogs pull a sled and musher across the Iditarod Trail. However, with the *Idiotarod*, dogs are replaced with teams of five people and sleds with shopping carts that race throughout downtown stopping at checkpoints and competing in challenges to win prizes. One of the challenges is collecting "virtual" food for Operation Food Search. Teams come up with fun themes that are reflected in their sled and costumes, and like the Alaskan event, the race goes on regardless of rain, sleet, snow, wind or even a bright, sunny day.

Last year, over 40 teams paraded in front of judges and huge crowds that gathered on the steps of the Old Post Office before scrabbling all over Downtown. In the end, a great time was had by all and over \$20,000 was raised for Operation Food Search. Start getting your team together now! For more information visit <http://www.downtownstl.org/Play/DowntownSt.LouisIdiotarod.aspx>.



2011's Best Overall Time Winner in the Corporate Race - Laclede Energy Resources' Mario Brothers Cart

*"Extra Helpings" from the 7th Annual Downtown Restaurant Week raised a record \$9,700 in Donations for Operation Food Search! Thank you Amit Dhanwan and Synergy Productions!*

*Certain project costs have been underwritten by the Missouri Department of Economic Development, Neighborhood Assistance Program.*

## Purses for Pantries Returns!

Ladies, as spring blossoms, the event you have been waiting for will too. Purses for Pantries, an event of silent and live auctions featuring everyone's favorite accessory, purses stuffed with gift certificates and other surprises, is May 5 at Orlando Gardens with doors opening at 10:30 a.m. for the silent auction, followed by a delicious lunch at noon and a live auction at 1 p.m.



Mark your calendars for this can't miss event! This is a great chance to help feed the hungry and find the perfect handbag to make a favorite outfit pop!

Tickets are \$25. Tables can be reserved with sponsorship credit for \$500. RSVP to Steve Baer, [Steve.Baer@OperationFoodSearch.org](mailto:Steve.Baer@OperationFoodSearch.org) or 314-726-5355 x 19 by April 16 to reserve your spot.

# Food Drives Ensure Season's Eatings!



ROTC volunteers assist at Miles for Food



Some runners whose sole purpose was to collect food and raise funds for OFS

**A**lthough all of our donations are precious to Operation Food Search because they make our mission of feeding the hungry possible, food drives are extra special. The donations we receive in these collections come from concerned individuals who are looking out for their neighbors.

Some of our most successful food drives this winter came from marathon runners, a health care provider, St. Louis City and County elementary schools, a society magazine and its advertisers, a TV station, and a karaoke night. Here are the highlights:

The 5th Annual **Miles for Food** run, organized by OFS volunteer Michael Linkogel, brought in over 17,000 pounds of food, and raised over \$3,400 in cash and nearly \$7,000 in on-line donations. That's enough to feed more than 7,500 people for a day – and it was all raised by a few dozen of St. Louis' most dedicated runners and walkers.

**Magellan Health Services** brought in more than \$4,000 in cash, checks and on-line donations, and more than 500 pounds of food. Students at **Jury Elementary** and **Lucas Crossing Elementary** collected more than 2,500

pounds of food. The upcoming Hearts 4 Hunger campaign at **St. Louis Public Schools**, whose top year brought in 28,000 pounds and \$9,000 from nearly 50 schools is 10 years strong!

**Town & Style Magazine** encouraged fifty of their advertisers to participate in a community-wide holiday food drive! Santa's elves helped Tim Ezell collect food at **KTVI Fox 2's Annual Food Drive** at **Dierbergs**, and **Hummel's Pub** put on a fabulous hilarious charity drag show/karaoke night with proceeds benefiting OFS.

## Save-A-Lot Donation Means a Lot!

**O**peration Food Search is grateful to Save-A-Lot for sponsoring the backpack program for the month of September with a donation of \$10,000, and by having its volunteers assist in filling backpacks at our distribution center. "Save-A-Lot is committed to helping fulfill the needs of the St. Louis Community and is pleased to partner with Operation Food Search on such an important and worthwhile project," said Chon Tomlin, Save-A-Lot external communications manager. OFS thanks Save-A-Lot for helping us feed tomorrow's future today!



Save-A-Lot volunteers mean-a-lot to OFS!



OFS nutritionists Brittany Crump and Mariella Funk participated in a fashion shoot for Healthy Planet Magazine at Wayside Community Garden in Normandy, where they teach on-site nutrition classes and conduct food demos on how to easily and deliciously prepare the bounty of the garden.

# TRIBUTES & MEMORIALS

June 14, 2011 – December 15, 2011

Tributes and memorial gifts may be made online at [www.OperationFoodSearch.org](http://www.OperationFoodSearch.org), by calling (314) 726-5355 X 19, or by mailing your request along with a check made payable to Operation Food Search at 6282 Olive, St. Louis, MO 63130-3300. Gifts of \$25 or more will be acknowledged in "newsFEED".

## In Memory of...

**Florence Adams**  
Robert N. Hartog

**Pat Baker**  
Bill and Carol Bennett

**Jeff Edwards and Sally Barlow**  
John and Kate Lane

**Charles E. Barrioz**  
Maurice R. Meslans and Margaret E. Holyfield

**Anne Baum**  
Linda Rubin

**Susan Ellen Berger**  
Marvin E. Goldford

**Ken Berkbigler**  
Mary Ann and Paul Wolfe

**Mildred Bern**  
Beverly L. Faber

**Ben Birenbaum**  
Richard and Carol Kohnen

**Janet Bogdanor**  
Douglas and Jane Reed  
John Bogdanor

**James Bradley, Sr.**  
James Bradley, Jr.

**Charles Carney**  
Ellen Carney

**Jose Antonio Casarez**  
Michael Casarez

**Granddaughter of Faith Chasen**  
Alan and Susan Flom

**Richard A. Copeland**  
Carol A. Carter

**Ruth Curry**  
Mike Jennings

**James M. Daly**  
Douglas and Jane Seaberg

**Louise Davenport**  
Mrs. Frank Key

**Delores Davis**  
L.D. Davis  
Cecil and Shirley Sutherland

**Delores Drury**  
Magdalen Daily  
Victoria Heil  
Richard Davis  
Robert Davis  
Lisa Hoguet  
Anderson Davis  
Pat Jennings  
Lisa Hughes

**Tex Ennis**  
Ellen Carney

**Cynthia Fitzler**  
George and Rhonda Linne

**Hilda Fulkerson**  
Bill and Carol Bennett

**Paul R. Grace**  
Ann Ellen Grace Schactman

**Stewart Graham**  
Patricia D. Vogt

**William and Ann Gregor**  
Patricia Gregor

**James Griggsby, Sr.**  
Cynthia Feldhaus and Lakeside Staff

**Dorothy B. Gross**  
Client Services

**Jacqueline Harrell**  
Mr. and Mrs. John Brooks

**Patricia Hartog**  
Robert Hartog

**Jack Henrion**  
Donna Quinn

**Dorothy Herbort**  
The Employees of ASC

**Ollie Hibbeler**  
Cheryl Hibbeler

**George Hilyard**  
Carmen Wilcox

**Charles W. Hippisley**  
Grant A. Korkoyan, Jr.  
Marilyn Tanaka  
Michael F. Gallagher  
Mr. and Mrs. Henry Remes  
Mary T. Stoker  
Brenda Kaltenbronn  
Susie and Bob Morse

**Sonney Huber**  
Ellen Carney

**Arthur Kerckhoff, Jr.**  
Skip and Elaine Spielberg

**Richard Klein**  
Sally and Don Friedman

**Emily Korbar**  
Diane Shade

**William L. Martin**  
David and Venita Dixon

**Robert and Virginia May**  
Joanna May

**Mother of Mildred E. Monroe**  
Mildred E. Monroe

**Lillian Morris**  
Ellen Carney

**John Musser**  
Anonymous

**George and Nona Nannie**  
Eddie Bryant

**Elsie Normberg**  
Ron and Renee Beck

**Clark J. Potzmann**  
Louise S. Potzmann

**James Quinn**  
Pat and La Vona Robinson

**Mary Richardson**  
Mr. and Mrs. Bobby Richardson

**John Ringwald**  
Susie Ringwald

**Duell Rogers**  
John and Phyllis Eck

**Gene Rosenbloom**  
Sam and Dorothy Rosenbloom

**Bill Rush**  
Margaret Golden

**Anne Salsman**  
Mr. and Mrs. Edward Goldenherst

**Gene Schneider**  
Sam and Dorothy Rosenbloom

**Richard Sellers**  
Charles and Linda Anderson

**Emma Shea**  
Dr. and Mrs. Gordon Goldman

**Melvin Sieber**  
Joseph Vance

**George Tainter**  
Greg Tainter

**Alene G. Truesdale**  
James D. Truesdale

**John L. Voelker**  
Joan Rice

**Mark Wagstaff**  
Robin R. Rathmell

**Raymond Weis**  
Gwen Gilmore  
Larry and Penny Gilmore  
Tom and Karen Staelens

**Jody Wolff**  
Maxine I. Goldman

**Dolores Ziegler**  
James and Mary Ann Luther

## In Honor of...

**Leonard and Kathy Abraham**  
Barbara and James Ely Shrauner

**William and Roberta Abraham**  
Barbara and James Ely Shrauner

**Donna Abrams**  
Todd and Alyssa Abrams

**The Children and Grandchildren of Joan S. Abrams**  
Joan S. Abrams

**The Family and Good Fortune of Joan S. Abrams**  
Joan S. Abrams

**Broke But Not Broken Labor Day Event, Maxine Beech**  
Shirley Crenshaw  
Elva Beach

**Barb and John Brancheau**  
Don Bauer

**Jacob Brand's Birthday**  
Janice L. Burggrabe

**Lana Boime, Get Well Soon**  
Alan and Ellen Boime

**Norman Mueller and Cyndi Brockmeier**  
Richard O. Fine

**Pat Buehring**  
Richard O. Fine

**Buffalo Soldiers Southwest Illinois**  
Sonju Goodwin

**Larry Buffen's Birthday**  
Barrie Sher

**Rosemary Burrows**  
Jean Parker

**Dr. David Carpenter**  
Grover C. Ripley

**Connie Cominsky**  
Dixie Mansker

**Connie Cominsky's 60th Birthday**  
Ray Simon  
Sharon L. LaRue and Bob Lipscomb

**Ed Coombs' 90th Birthday**  
Jon Hagar

**Betty and Jim Dowd**  
Barbara and James Ely Shrauner

**Nick and Rose DiCarlo**  
John and Teresa Rueve

**Evelyn and Lester Fagin's 60th Wedding Anniversary**  
Beverly L. Faber

**Amy Fillo**  
Tiffany Brammer

**Charles Fisher**  
Douglas Prokopf

**Jean Fisher**  
Nancy Trail  
Michael and Elaine Fisher

**Mr. and Mrs. G. Gans**  
Tracey Lucas Gans and James Gans

**Donna Gemeinhart**  
Donald Gemeinhart

**Chuck and Cathy Gilbert**  
Jeff and Holly Demerath

**Rosa Gladney's Birthday**  
Eve McNew

**Craig Goldford's 60th Birthday**  
Patty K. Nogg

**Marvin Goldford**  
Joan S. Abrams

**Peggy Graham**  
Carmen Wilcox

**Myra Grossman's Special Birthday**  
Ruth Wiseman

**Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Grove**  
Sam and Dorothy Rosenbloom

**Mr. and Mrs. Jim Guidry**  
Richard O. Fine

**Gussie's 105th Birthday**  
Linda and Jerry Kraus

**Cassie and Tim Hage**  
Bruce and Sheri Tons

**Hare Krishna**  
Kiran Kumar Muddana

**Speedy Recovery for Jim Henderson**  
Harvey and Terry Hieken

**Jim Henderson's Birthday**  
Howard H. Witsma

**Harvey and Terry Hieken**  
Andrea Mintz

**Pat Higgins**  
Richard O. Fine

**Jan Hulett**  
Jean Parker

**Brian Humes**  
Richard O. Fine

**Bob Jansen's 80th Birthday**  
Marian Jansen

**Jess**  
Edward Diestelkamp  
Katie Vago

**Dave Johnson's 70th Birthday**  
Alan and Susan Flom

**Olivia Beatrix Jones**  
Elizabeth J. Kuntz  
Paul Pastorek  
Constance Jackson

**Karen Klaus**  
Gary Kratz

**Dr. and Mrs. Robert Kloecker's New Grandson**  
Roberta and Gordon Goldman

**Mr. and Mrs. Roger Koch**  
Richard O. Fine

**John Kourik**  
Robert Kourik

**Janet Kourik**  
Robert Kourik

**Keith and Cheryl Kowalczyk**  
Kelli Ross  
Kendree Spisak  
Sarah Bailey  
Gary Bayer  
James Tuley

**Keith Kowalczyk's 60th Birthday**  
Leslie B. Echele

**Lilly Levi**  
Hans Levi

**Dede Coughlin and Ralph Levy**  
Barbara and Bud Kohm

**Ed Luman**  
Mitchell and Joyce Podolsky

**Mary McCafferty**  
Debra Schuster

**Maurice R. Meslans**  
Stephen C. Jones

**Dr. Joseph A. Muccini, Jr.**  
Eve McNew

**Louise Nation**  
Roberta Brimer

**Laura Neuman**  
Denise Denton

**Zach and Brandon O'Dell**  
Pamela Borgmeyer

**Opening of the 13th Branch of Pulaski Bank**  
Harvey Hieken

**Julia Oyen-Keller**  
Charles Warren Keller

**Darryl Page**  
The VF Foundation

**Jane Popham**  
Jean Parker

**Clark J. Potzmann**  
Louise S. Potzmann

**Julia Ramborn**  
Stephen and Joyce Best

**Tricia Recker**  
Richard and Sally Rosenthal

**Reed School's 5th Grade Service Project**  
Barry Goldman

**City of Richmond Heights**  
Amy Hamilton

**Mary Margaret Robinson's Birthday**  
L.J. and C.M. Heitmann

**Mike Rodgers**  
Richard O. Fine

**Bernadine Rosen's Special Birthday**  
Gordon and Roberta Goldman

**Jennifer Rosenthal's Bat Mitzvah and Jack Rosenthal's Bar Mitzvah**  
Suzanne and Ted Hoffman

**Patricia Rothman**  
Richard and Sally Rosenthal

**Hema Sahadevan**  
Sharath Sahadevan

**Mauricio Sanchez**  
Maria Sanchez-Carney

**Sunny Schaefer**  
Marci Pritts  
Elizabeth Long  
Nancy Litza

**Richard Sems**  
Maurice E. Quiroga

**Marjorie Shelton**  
Howard H. Witsma

**Tim Shipley**  
Richard O. Fine

**Rick Simoncelli**  
Jean Parker

**Dr. and Mrs. Smith**  
Tracey Lucas Gans and James Gans

**Chris and Anne Sommers**  
Mike and Kelly Faillo  
Christina Perrino  
Marian Walsh

**Jack and Brody Spielberg**  
Skip and Elaine Spielberg

**Spike and Wave**  
Chris Markham

**Mark and Kate Strobe**  
Raymond Geisman  
Mike and Nancy Brand  
Mark and Patti Beck  
Richard Schrick  
Debra Flavin  
Cindy and Joe Lammert

**Jean and Mary Sullivan**  
John and Mary Anne Sullivan

**Jim, Gail, Matt and Kathleen Sullivan**  
John and Mary Anne Sullivan

**John and Mary Anne Sullivan**  
Mary and Jean Sullivan

**Lila Traeger**  
Matthew Traeger

**U.S. Bancorp Community Development Corporation**  
Jana C. Barbe

**Cole Wicklund**  
Emily Bell

**Gavin Wicklund**  
Emily Bell

**Ryan Wicklund**  
Emily Bell

**Harriett Wolff**  
Gail Smith

# Backpacks of Food Provide the Fuel Kids Need to Flourish!



Volunteers from Enterprise Holdings label food for the Operation Backpack program

**O**peration Backpack provides a vital bridge of nutrition to nearly 3000 children from low-income families, giving them backpacks filled with kid-friendly, healthy foods each Friday before dismissal. The children receive enough food for the weekend to help them grow healthier and to learn more successfully. Leadership supporters to the backpack program include Anheuser-Busch Foundation, the Dennis M. Jones Family Foundation, Enterprise Holdings Foundation, Express Scripts Foundation, Greater Saint Louis Community Foundation, PNC Foundation, Pott Foundation, and Sunnen Foundation. We are grateful to these foundations for their support and that of all of the corporations, foundations and individuals whose philanthropy contributes to the success of Operation Backpack. We are also thankful to all the caring corporations and individuals who conduct food drives specifically for Operation Backpack to help kids get their week off to a great start!

## Thank You St. Louis for Supporting the Warm-Up!

**A** special thanks to the greater St. Louis bi-state area for sharing a little warmth this winter with your support of the 11th annual Warners' Warm-up Coat Drive, which garnered over 17,000 coats! We are also grateful to the volunteer groups who have helped count, sort, and distribute collected coats for our network of community partner agencies and shelters. Special thanks to Kurt and Brenda Warner and Warners' Warm-up teammates: FedEx Office, Walgreens, LookAfter Hair Company, credit unions, police stations, A-Mrazek Moving Systems, MESI, Fox 2, WB11, KMOX, Y98, Fresh 102.5, American Cleaners, and St. Louis Rams.

The Warners also provided 450 Thanksgiving turkeys for OFS to distribute to its partner agencies! We are grateful to Warner's for their ongoing commitment to the St. Louis community!

Brenda Warner with the children at Sunshine Ministries



Veterans continued from page 1

learned that many of the veterans we served battle chronic diseases, such as diabetes, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. In each of the *Cooking Matters* courses, a registered dietitian instructs veterans on how to read food labels so that they can select the right foods to help them better manage their chronic conditions. One of our class participants reported, "My knowledge on nutrition has been expanded and will affect the rest of my life in a positive way."

In partnership with the VA's Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program, OFS has completed three *Cooking Matters for Adults* courses, reaching 42 veterans. The program has proven so successful that we have two additional classes scheduled for January.



OFS Nutrition Education Mgr. Leslie Bertsch, MPH, MS, RD, LD (2nd from R) conducts *Cooking Matters* classes at Jefferson Barracks VA Center

St. Louis Headquarters  
6282 Olive Blvd.  
St. Louis, Mo 63130

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
ST. LOUIS, MO  
PERMIT NO. 495



**Taste of Clayton Returns!**

The City of Clayton is bringing back its popular restaurant festival, the *Taste of Clayton*. The event will take place on Sunday, June 3rd at a new location

— North Brentwood between Forsyth and Maryland. OFS is pleased to partner with *Taste of Clayton* and will have information booths and blue collection barrels at each end for food donations. Those who donate 5 cans or \$5 will be entered into a raffle for some big prizes at the highly-anticipated return of this food extravaganza!

**LoRusso's Pasta Bowl XV!**

Just as the Superbowl is the championship game of the NFL, LoRusso's *Pasta Bowl* stars winning family favorite recipes contributed by its customers who compete in this annual fundraiser for Operation Food Search!

Will it be the Ziti con Vodka by Mary Hoffman? The Linguine di Carciofi by Allison Ricks? Or the Fettuccine Pollo Asiago by Dora Bachesta? You be the judge at LoRusso's 15th Anniversary *Pasta Bowl* taking place Monday, January 30, 2012 at LoRusso's Cucina located at 3121 Watson Road.

Attendees will taste all three pasta dishes, served family style, and vote on their favorite. The winning pasta will be featured on LoRusso's menu for the entire year. Each time the dish is ordered, Operation Food Search will receive two dollars. Over the years, the *Pasta Bowl* has raised more than \$60,000 for Operation Food Search. This year, the three contenders are all past *Pasta Bowl* winners, so competition will be fierce!

*Pasta Bowl* Monday at LoRusso's is the most delicious party of the year and just might rival Superbowl as the second-largest day for U.S. food consumption, after Thanksgiving! Make your reservation now! Call LoRusso's at (314) 647-6222!

Newsletter design by: [www.cathywoodgraphicdesign.com](http://www.cathywoodgraphicdesign.com)

**Join Us for Winter Fun at SIPS in the City!**

Whether you are single or coupled, why not extend Valentines to Friday February 17th and join us from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m. for *Alive Magazine's Sips in the City* happy hour at Downtown St. Louis' Culinaria wine bar (9th and Olive)? For a suggested donation of \$5, guests receive two complimentary drinks (1 premium Belgian beer and 1 glass of featured wine). Operation Food Search will receive 100% of the donations from the evening. What better way to beat the winter doldrums, mingle with friends or make some new ones?



St. Louis Headquarters • 314-726-5355  
O'Fallon Satellite • 636-544-3500  
[www.OperationFoodSearch.org](http://www.OperationFoodSearch.org)  
[www.facebook.com/OperationFoodSearch](http://www.facebook.com/OperationFoodSearch)  
[www.twitter.com/OPFoodSearch](http://www.twitter.com/OPFoodSearch)