



**A FRESH
APPROACH
TO HEALING
HUNGER**



Our Fresh Approach

Our prescription for healing hunger is to work beyond the immediate need to address the root causes of hunger.

We empower children and families with access to fresh food, cooking skills and resources that promote self-sufficiency.

We work with lawmakers to advance both public and institutional policies that help families put food on the table.

Our Leadership

“Fresh activity is the only means of overcoming adversity.”
—Johann Wolfgang von Goethe



Kristen V. Wild



Lisa Pelikan

More than 40 years ago, dedicated members of a coalition of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths went in search of food for the hungry. What started as the St. Louis United Hunger Effort became Operation Food Search (OFS) in 1981. Since then, OFS has worked tirelessly to fill a vital need in the community. Now we are going beyond searching for food—we are searching for solutions. We are taking a fresh approach to healing hunger by working on the root causes of the problem. Through nutrition education and innovative programs that address the overall health of individuals and communities, we are working on more than immediate hunger relief to create lasting change.

In this great country, no one should have to search for food. By engaging in “fresh activity to overcome adversity,” we are striving to ensure that everyone has the skills and resources to provide for their families and put healthy food on the table. We are immensely grateful for the supportive community of partners, participants, volunteers and donors who are helping us achieve our mission.

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Our Reach



Our Impact

\$33 Million

worth of food was distributed to partner agencies.



57% of food distributed

included produce, dairy, meat and freshly prepared items.



8,300+

people were empowered by Nutrition Education programs.



We worked with over **200**

Community Food Partner Agencies in MO and IL.



We received **5,000+**

calls to our Hunger Hotline.



\$945K worth of food

was collected from food and fund drives.



KIDS' MEALS

750,000

meals were provided to kids.



8,593

kids were served weekly during the school year by Operation Backpack.



52,323

afterschool meals were served.

89,341

summer meals were served.



FRESH RX

57 pregnant moms participated in Fresh Rx.



27 healthy babies were born during the pilot phase of our program.

97% of infants were born full-term.

Our Strategy

Working Upstream to Address the Root Causes of Hunger

VISION: All children and families have the nutrition, food and skills they need to live a healthy life.

MISSION: Nourish and educate our neighbors in need to heal the hurt of hunger.



Missouri's Food Insecurity Rate is Higher Than the National Average

- ▶ One in six children lives in a food insecure home.
- ▶ 865,400 people experience food insecurity.
- ▶ Missourians need an additional \$409,933,000 to meet food needs.

Assessment & Treatment

2 Build Nutrition IQ

Individuals • Communities • Systems

Strategies/Tactics

- ▶ Teach kids and families to cook low-cost nutritious meals
- ▶ Develop partnerships with healthcare systems, early childhood systems and school districts
- ▶ Work with employee-driven health and wellness initiatives

Success/Outcomes

- ▶ Increase access to nutrition education throughout Missouri
- ▶ Change attitudes and behaviors so that healthy food becomes the food of choice
- ▶ Institutionalize nutrition in systems
- ▶ Improve population health and decrease stigma



Prevention

3 Champion Change

Policy • Advocacy • Innovation Projects

Strategies/Tactics

- ▶ Support policies that help health and nutrition initiatives while opposing those that do not
- ▶ Launch integrated program models that calculate both a return on investment and the cost of hunger
- ▶ Identify impact partners

Success/Outcomes

- ▶ Change public and institutional policy
- ▶ Influence the public to engage in community issues
- ▶ Change individual and systemic behaviors

Triage

1 Meet the Immediate Need

Emergency Food Distribution • Operation Backpack
Afterschool Meals • Summer Meals

Strategies/Tactics

- ▶ Build partner network capacity
- ▶ Establish OFS as a leader in regional and statewide food access and nutrition initiatives
- ▶ Integrate program planning
- ▶ Develop professional curriculum

Success/Outcomes

- ▶ Reduce reliance on food pantry system
- ▶ Reduce pantry deserts
- ▶ Reach three out of 10 food insecure children with child nutrition programs

Our Work

Three Pillars

Strategic Alignment:

All Operation Food Search initiatives support our strategy to alleviate food insecurity in families.

Meet the Immediate Need



AGENCY DISTRIBUTION

We provide food to more than 200 partner agencies working to feed the need in their community—free of charge.



OPERATION BACKPACK

Provides weekly sacks of kid-friendly food to help students get through the week-end when school meals are not available.



OUT-OF-SCHOOL MEALS

Our Summer Meals program and Afterschool ReFuel provide vital nutrition to children when school is out.

Build Nutrition IQ



OPERATION CHEF

Empowers families at risk of hunger with skills, knowledge and confidence to prepare healthy, affordable meals at home.



COOKING MATTERS AT THE STORE

Guided grocery store tours teach low-income adults how to get the most nutrition for their budget.



DEMONSTRATIONS

On- or off-site demonstrations for groups and organizations aimed at cooking nutritious meals at home and on a budget.

Champion Change



POLICY

We work with lawmakers and stakeholders to advance both public and institutional policies that help families put food on the table.



ADVOCACY

We educate, train and empower people to engage in the policy-making process in order to ensure that all voices are represented.



INNOVATION PROGRAMS

Our innovative solutions address the root causes of hunger to improve the overall health of individuals and communities.

Our Innovation Programs



Overview

Fresh Rx is a program designed by Operation Food Search to connect qualifying families with fresh, local food and provide resources for a healthy household.



Fresh, Local Food for Strong Moms and Healthy Babies

How FreshRx Impacts Families:

- ↑ Increased Food Security
- ↑ Increased Healthy Infant Birth Weights
- ↑ Increased Life Skills
- ↓ Decreased Nutritional Deficits
- ↓ Decreased Stress & Depression
- ↓ Decreased Health Care Costs



Improving Birth Outcomes Through Fresh, Nutritious Food

Fresh Rx: Nourishing Healthy Starts

This program helps low-income women by improving birth outcomes and empowering families to cultivate a healthy household.

Through weekly shares of fresh food, nutrition education and other supportive services, OFS is addressing the very serious problem of preterm births in the region.

We partner with doctors and insurers to provide prescriptions for healthy food, helping families thrive from better nutrition, reducing healthcare costs, and benefiting local farmers.

St. Louis currently has the 10th highest rate of preterm births in the country and recently received a grade of D+ on the March of Dimes Report Card.

In addition to the high financial cost (nearly \$65,000 for medical care and subsequent services per preterm birth), preterm births are associated with higher infant mortality. By eliminating food insecurity during pregnancy, we produce better birth outcomes for moms and their babies.

As of Sept. 30, 2019, 57 women have participated in this pilot program, and 97% had healthy births at full term (37 weeks+). 94% had healthy birth weights of 5.5 lbs. or greater.

In addition, program participants are now trying new fruits and vegetables while developing cooking skills and confidence in the kitchen.

These moms also found the program eliminated the social isolation that comes during difficult life circumstances, so Fresh Rx is a success on multiple levels.



Our Innovation Programs



Building a Fruitful Partnership with Normandy Schools Collaborative

Fresh Rx: Prescribing Healthy Futures

We're prescribing fresh, local food to decrease hunger, improve health and increase student success at Normandy High School through *Fresh Rx: Prescribing Healthy Futures*.

This program provides students who are food insecure with weekly shares of fresh, local food to address nutritional deficits, improve health and increase academic success.

Teaching Farm that Fuels Nutrition & Learning

The Normandy High School (NHS) Teaching Farm and Student-Faculty Farm Committee is a collaboration between Operation Food Search and Normandy Schools Collaborative (NSC). The Farm Committee is made up of 20 NHS students and staff who are working together to design the

NHS Teaching Farm—what it will look like, what will be grown, and how knowledge from the farm can support classroom learning.

Farm Committee members serve as the liaisons to the greater NSC community, gathering input and feedback from their peers while gaining valuable leadership skills.

Norket (Normandy Market)

Opening in 2020, the Norket will be OFS's first school-based community food partner agency. Normandy High School students and staff will be able to "shop" for healthy meals, pantry staples and personal care items.

The culmination of our collaboration will be a community market that provides opportunities for students to gain professional experience.

Our Fresh Approach to School Meals

By reimagining breakfast, lunch and afterschool meals, we're helping kids get the nutrition they need to learn and thrive.

We work across the state to develop **Breakfast After the Bell** programs, bringing breakfast into the classroom where students are more likely to have the opportunity to eat. This is crucial in areas where school breakfast participation is low and ensures that kids get the nutrition they need to succeed at school.

Our fresh approach to school lunch had an enormous impact at Normandy High School, where lunch participation nearly doubled as a result of our revamped menu and cafeteria.

Our **Afterschool ReFuel program** is offered at libraries and other locations throughout the

community. Nutritious Super Snacks, which include a fruit, vegetable, protein, dairy and whole grain, help kids and teens stay focused and active through the afternoon and into the evening.



Representative Richard Brown (D-Kansas City) with kids enjoying breakfast in the classroom.

The nutrition children receive during and after school is vital to their success in the classroom and beyond.



Our Volunteers

In addition to thousands of individual volunteers, volunteer groups showed up in full force to help us sort food, pack family meal kits and prepare backpacks for distribution.

6,735 volunteers

Spent **26,167** hours

Saving us **\$665,426**

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Our Community Supporters

Fill the Ambulance with Food: For the tenth consecutive year, seniors and first responders teamed up to support OFS. Retirement communities throughout St. Charles County joined the St. Charles County Ambulance District to donate 5,200 pounds of food.



The Yeldham Family: In lieu of mailing traditional holiday cards (they posted their festive photo on Facebook instead), the Yeldham Family made a donation to Operation Food Search.



American Optometric Association (AOA): It was the best year ever for contributions to the annual food drive run by the AOA, which collected 4,200 pounds of food and personal care items with a staff of fewer than 80 people.



Trinity Cason: Trinity, a student in the Parkway School District, hosted her 2nd "Trinity's Infinite Food Raiser" food and fund drive. Her outstanding efforts brought in 304 pounds of food and \$693.

Cranksgiving Food Ride/Drive: The 13th Annual Cranksgiving by Bworks.org brought hundreds of people out to ride bikes and support Operation Backpack. Riders started at Schlafly Bottleworks in Maplewood, and the event brought in 3,049 pounds of food and \$10,798.



Little Fishes Swim School: The fin-tastic families of Little Fishes Swim School got creative with their food donations, constructing a themed photo opp to show off their work. The school thanked their generous community by hosting a Hot Cocoa and Cider Celebration during swim classes the following weekend.



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Mr. Robert Bassett and Ms. Vicki Pohlman
Ms. Erin Brooks and Mr. Josh Udelhofen
Mr. and Mrs. Ryan and Cindy Cuba
Mr. and Mrs. James and Lisa Goebel
Mr. and Mrs. Keith and Cheryl Kowalczyk
Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Lisa Pelikan
Mr. and Mrs. Steven and Mary Schoolman
Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Judy Schultz

\$1,000 - \$9,999

Ms. Amy Peck Abraham
Commerce Bancshares Foundation
Ms. Ann K. French
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph McClanathan
Mr. Michael Renfro

Mrs. Barbara Shrauner
Mr. and Mrs. Skip and Elaine Spielberg
Heather Wood Charitable Fund

Up to \$999

Dr. Kelvin Adams
Ms. Margaret Barnidge
Ms. Susan K. Bitney
Mr. and Mrs. Jonathan Bomze
Ms. Laura Bryant
Ms. Rosalee Cavataio
Mr. Joseph Corrigan
Ms. Kathy Dabrowski
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard B Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Dierberg
Mr. Mark Erker
Mr. and Mrs. Bernard and Marjorie Feldman
Ms. Joan Ferguson
Mr. Sidney Goldstein and Ms. Laura Kipnis
Ms. Mary Louise Gunther
Ms. Barbara Harris

Mrs. Joan Herzog
Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Hieken
Mr. and Mrs. Paul and Amy Inman
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Jennings
Ms. Joyce M. Knobbe
Ms. Connie Kraus
Mr. and Mrs. Jeremiah and Nancy Long
Ms. Joanna May
Ms. Jaimette McCulley
Ms. Janet Porter
Red White & Green, Inc.
Ms. Gretchen H. Ross
Ms. Loretta Seltzer
Mr. Philip Sholts
Ms. Kathy Sinnott
Mrs. Anita Steck
Ms. Christina Steck
Ms. Kate Stewart
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Joanie Taylor
Mr. Joseph S. Torrissi
Ms. Judy Underhill
Rev. Deacon Waldschmidt
Mrs. Suzanne Weaver

Our Donors | Food and Fund Drives 10/1/18 - 9/30/19

Leadership Food Drives*

105.7 The Point
Anheuser-Busch
Bal Vihar Center for
Indian Cultural Education
Brown Smith Wallace
CANstruction St. Louis
Cisco
Enterprise Holdings
Express Scripts
Insight Global
Kennard Classical Junior Academy
Laborers' International Union
of North America—Local 110
Ladue School District—Fill the Barrel
MilliporeSigma
St. Charles County Ambulance District—
Fill the Ambulance
St. Louis County Library
Reinsurance Group of America (RGA)
Wells Fargo Advisors—CANstruction
Whitfield School

*More than 4,000 lbs. of food donated

Leadership Fund Drives*

The Dave Glover Show/Hardee's
ej4
Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis
Ladue Fifth Grade Center—
Penny Wars
Reinsurance Group
of America (RGA)
St. Louis BWorks Cranksgiving
Webster Feeds
WholsHussain.org

*More than \$5,000 donated



Photo credit: Will Pinkston, AOA

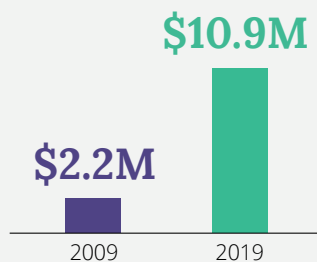
Our Financials

Statement of Financial Position as of September 30, 2019

TEN-YEAR GROWTH

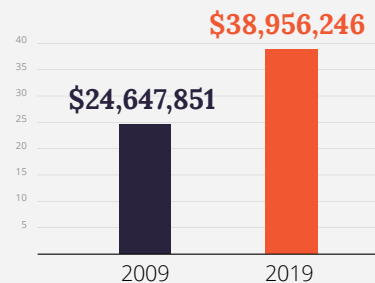
Total Assets

Nearly **5 times** larger in 10 years.



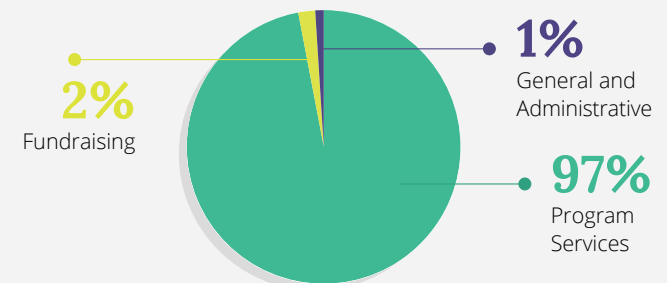
Total Revenue

Increased by **58%** in 10 years.



FISCAL YEAR 2019

Expense Allocation



ASSETS

Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 1,597,980
Investments	609,409
Receivables and promises to give	572,394
Inventory	860,685
Prepaid expenses	15,938
Total current assets	3,656,406
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	5,427,925
Unconditional promises to give, net of discounts	100,460
Grants receivable, net of discounts	573,633
Endowment	1,157,208
Total assets	\$ 10,915,632

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Current liabilities:	
Accrued expenses	\$ 603,096
Net assets:	
Without donor restrictions	7,715,410
With donor restrictions	2,597,126
Total net assets	10,312,536
Total liabilities and net assets	\$ 10,915,632

Our Financials

Statement of Activities and Changes in Net Assets as of September 30, 2019

OVERVIEW			
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and other revenue:			
Support:			
Cash and investment contributions	2,690,877	\$ 1,145,567	\$ 3,836,444
State support	514,135	-	514,135
Grant revenue	481,932	612,371	1,094,303
Special events (net after \$32,580 of expenses)	171,198	-	171,198
Subtotal	3,858,142	1,757,938	5,616,080
Other non-cash contributions	33,046,281	-	33,046,281
Total support	36,904,423	1,757,938	38,662,361
Other revenue:			
Rental income	115,575	-	115,575
Other income	126,213	-	126,213
Investment income	32,656	19,441	52,097
Total support and other revenue	37,178,867	1,777,379	38,956,246
Net assets released from restrictions	389,958	(389,958)	-
Functional expenses:			
Program services	37,129,991	-	37,129,991
Management and general	376,724	-	376,724
Fundraising	902,815	-	902,815
Total functional expenses	38,409,530	-	38,409,530
Changes in net assets	(840,705)	1,387,421	546,716
Net assets, beginning of the year	8,556,115	1,209,705	9,765,820
Net assets, end of the year	\$ 7,715,410	\$ 2,597,126	\$ 10,312,536

Our Secret Ingredient: **Community**



"As a small food pantry, we are on the front lines of the fight against hunger, and we work very hard for our clients. We simply wouldn't be able to help our community and provide for them without OFS!"

—Carmelita Davidson, Director, Ozark Food Pantry



"I'm so impressed by OFS's commitment to community education. I love volunteering with Operation CHEF and teaching children how to cook healthy meals as part of this free, fun program."

—Kellie Hynes, Nutrition Education volunteer



"I was immediately drawn to OFS for how it combats the root of the problem through policy change and innovative programming. I feel very lucky to be a part of such a knowledgeable and passionate team!"

—Joanne Song, OFS Policy Fellow



"I'm the first person visitors see when they come to OFS, and I welcome the opportunity to lift peoples' spirits in a way that captures the positive energy here. We are a hopeful place, and I want everyone to feel that."

—Bridget Brooks, OFS Front Office Administrator



"It's scary to ask for help and you're scared of the consequences, but sometimes you just have to, and there are places like this that are willing to help without any judgment. They just want to help. And it's refreshing."

—Shawna, Fresh Rx participant



"It's eye-opening, the need. I'd never realized kids were going home and not having food; I just wasn't familiar with it. They do a good job here, everything is efficient, getting the food out to people. It's a good place to be."

—Bryan Bell, OFS donor and warehouse volunteer

Our Mission: **How to Help**



Donate

As responsible stewards of your generosity, we make every dollar count! Your donation provides food, nutrition education, training and technical assistance to stem the tide of childhood hunger and family food insecurity.

Donate.OperationFoodSearch.org



Give Food

Operation Food Search distributes food donations obtained via food rescue, food and fund drives, corporations and individuals. You make a difference: In 2019, \$945,000 worth of food was collected from community-driven food and fund drives. **Give.OperationFoodSearch.org**



Volunteer

Our generous and dedicated volunteers are the backbone of our organization. It takes many helping hands to feed nearly 200,000 people every month. The contributed hours saved the organization \$665,426. This helps us maintain free programs and services for our clients.

Volunteer.OperationFoodSearch.org



Spread the Word

You have the power to help end hunger! Lend your voice in support of our hungry neighbors by becoming an OFS advocate.

Follow.OperationFoodSearch.org

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Thank you for supporting us in our vision to
#HealHungerSTL

OperationFoodSearch.org