

## **Our Mission**

### To nourish and educate our neighbors in need to heal the hurt of hunger

Operation Food Search provides immediate food assistance to individuals and families, serving 200,000 people every month. We also work to address the underlying causes of hunger that impact the ability to put food on the table. Through programs, partnerships and policy change, we strive to ensure that all bistate-area children and adults have the nutrition, food and skills needed to live healthy lives.



#### **Our Year in Review**

2021 marked the 40th anniversary of Operation Food Search's incorporation as a nonprofit organization, and it was a year of both celebrations and continued challenges. As we began our fiscal year (Oct. 1, 2020), we remained fully immersed in the adversities of the pandemic, along with the rest of the world. Those challenges continue today, beyond what many of us expected. Yet we have found hope and inspiration in doing our work and in the resiliency we see all around us.

The need has increased, but so have the solutions to the problem of hunger. We've seen greater numbers of new donors, created more partnerships and expanded our programs, enabling us to not just face the trials of this ordeal, but to move further upstream to address the underlying causes of food insecurity.

In this report, you'll learn more about our continued adaptation to the demands of the pandemic, our outstanding partners and our generous supporters. Most of all, you'll see how our strategic approach to going beyond meeting the immediate need is designed to ensure that all those who are working hard to put food on the table can do so, today and in the long term.

Forty years ago, the founders of OFS began this guest in search of food for the hungry. They could not have predicted the need that would still exist today. But what they did know remains true four decades later: the solution lies in the community of caring people who are committed to helping others. We are privileged to be a part of that community and to have your partnership in creating a future free from hunger.

Kristen V. Wild, President & CFO

## **Our Leadership**

#### **Senior Leadership Team**



Kristen Wild President & CEO



Carlton Adams
Chief Operating
Officer



Julie Mann Chief Financial Officer



Trina Ragain Chief Innovation Officer



Ellen Reed-Fox Chief Development Officer



Jocelyn Fundoukos
Director of
Communications



Kristen Frazier Human Resource and DEI Manager

#### **Board of Directors**

#### Officers

Chair: **Alan Schultz** Bayer

Vice Chair: Erin Brooks Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP Treasurer: **Amy Altholz** RubinBrown

Secretary: Julie Hoff CultivateHR

#### Members

**Dr. Kelvin Adams**St. Louis Public
Schools

**Laura Bryant**Formerly Enterprise
Holdings

Nik Brym Wee Ones Ryan Cuba

Schnuck Markets Inc.

**Lisa Pelikan** Edward Jones

**Skip Spielberg**Formerly Bueno Bags

**Steve Spratt** Ascension

**Jessica Stephan**Bunge

**Rick Stevens** Christian Hospital

#### **Friends Board**

#### Officers

Chair: **Amanda Ruby** Bayer

Vice Chair: **Katie Hebson** AlG

Secretary: Shelby Akos Bally Sports Midwest VP of Membership: Barrett Feltmeier Edward Jones

#### Members

**Clayton Bax** Commerce Bank

Sean Berry Nidec Corporation **Alyssa Burks** TD Ameritrade

### **Tess Coyman**Select Specialty

Hospital **Kelly Cubellis**Allspring Global

Investments

Julie Feltmeier Enterprise Holdings Inc.

### **Brittany Forrest** *Riverfront Times*

Madeleine Garbo Ernst & Young

#### Suzanne Hart

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

#### Rica Hendrix

Brighter Vision Psychological Services

#### Katie Holtgrave Anders CPAs + Advisors

**Katie Mueller** BIC Healthcare

#### Alex Rich Audacity Inc.

Austin Schultz GadellNet

#### Cole Silverman

SSM Health Rehabilitation

#### Mitch Slattery

Edward Jones

#### Chris Sawicki

Anheuser-Busch

#### Mark Taylor Centene Corporation

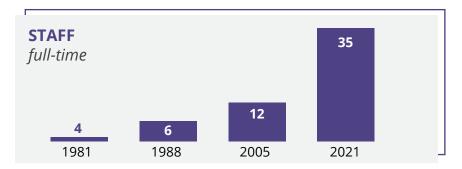
Scott Whitehill Arthur J. Gallagher & Co.

## **Our History**

#### Four Decades of Work to Increase Food Access

More than 40 years ago, dedicated members of a coalition of individuals of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish faiths initiated an organized search for food to help the hungry. What began as the St. Louis United Hunger Effort became Operation Food Search in 1981. Since then, OFS has worked tirelessly to fill a vital need in the bistate community. Now, OFS is going beyond searching for food: We are searching for solutions.



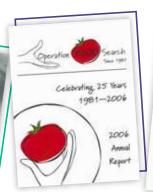














#### The Path Toward Better Solutions

As we continue our work to heal hunger, we remain true to our origin as a rescue food bank while also addressing the social determinants of health. We provide food and related services to more than 200,000 individuals every month — one-third of whom are children — through a network of 330 community partners in 27 Missouri and Illinois counties. In addition, our community nutrition programs empower individuals and families to eat healthier food on a budget. Our policy and advocacy work strengthens support for safety-net programs and increases opportunities for everyone to put food on the table and live healthier lives.

There is no question that hunger is a very serious problem. But with persistence, dedication, collaboration and creativity, hunger is solvable. And with the help of our partners, volunteers, donors and community members, OFS is finding solutions and helping to create a healthier, more vibrant region.



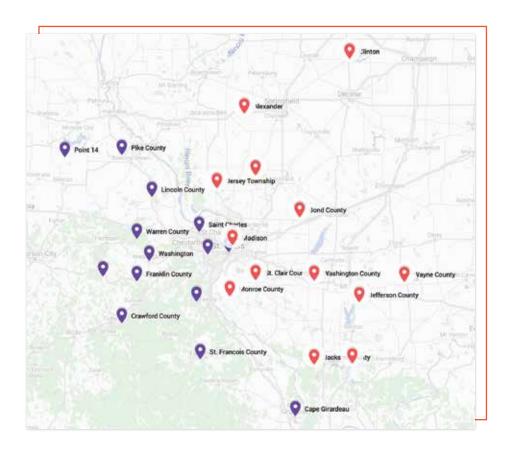
#### **OFS Service Area**

#### **Missouri Counties**

Cape Girardeau Pike
Crawford St. Charles
Franklin St. Francois
Gasconade St. Louis City
Jefferson St. Louis County
Lincoln Warren
Montgomery Washington

#### **Illinois Counties**

Alexander Madison
Bond Marion
Clinton Monroe
Jackson St. Clair
Jefferson Washington
Jersey Wayne
Macoupin



## **Our Impact**

FY 2021 in Review (Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021)



18,439 queries on our Hunger Hotline, text line and Find Food map

21,856 pounds of produce rescued from local farms

### **SUMMER MEALS**

served



at Summer Meal sites and other distributions

#### **AFTERSCHOOL REFUEL**

served

8,152

child meals



#### **OPERATION BACKPACK**

distributed

589,035

meals to students in

338 schools in

15 counties



1,104,700 pounds of produce

106,836+





Child Meal Map had

4,085

online visits



#### **ADVOCACY**

nutrition- & health-related bills of those bills submitted testimony



of those bills passed session including legislation creating a Statewide Food Security Task Force

conducted

interviews with WIC participants

#### **COMMUNITY NUTRITION**

by programs

483

people empowered classes & store tours in 21 counties



cooking and quick-tip videos



total interactions on social media posts featuring nutrition education

#### **FRESH RX**

Food Is Medicine Programs for Pregnant Women, Children and Families

expectant families participated in Fresh Rx: Nourishing Healthy Starts



median gestational age of infants born to Fresh Rx graduates

37 weeks is considered full term.

93% of infants born at a healthy birth weight



8,820 meals distributed

compared to the rate of 83.7% of births for women living in the city of St. Louis who received their care through the Medicaid for Pregnant Women program in 2018

**116**%

reduction in maternal depression & anxiety symptoms

reduction in severity of household food insecurities

## **Our Programs**

#### Meet the Immediate Need

All Operation Food Search initiatives support our strategy to alleviate food insecurity and address the underlying causes of hunger. This work aligns under three pillars: Meet the Immediate Need, Build Nutrition IQ and Champion Change.



#### **AfterSchool ReFuel**

To reduce health issues stemming from undernutrition, OFS provides free shelf-stable, grab-and-go meals to children on weekdays during the academic year. Known as AfterSchool ReFuel, the program is available at no cost to children ages 5-18 at 15 area locations. These "super snacks" — which include milk, protein, fruit, vegetable and grain — supply the energy and nutrition the children need to focus on homework and other after-school activities. More than 8,000 child meals were served through the program in FY2021.



#### **Operation Backpack**

Since 2006, Operation Backpack has provided weekly sacks of kid-friendly, shelf-stable food to get students through the weekend, when school meals are unavailable. Participating children are discreetly given these backpacks to take home at the end of the school week, enabling them to return to school Monday with the good nutrition and focus needed for academic success. More than 589,000 meals were provided to 338 schools in 15 counties during this fiscal year.



#### **Summer Meals**

This year marked OFS's 10th year as a sponsor of the Summer Food Service Program. Funded by the USDA, the program ensures that children continue to receive nutritious meals when school is not in session. Kids are more at risk for hunger when school is out, and this program provides a crucial link to nutrition normally provided at schools. Of our 35 meal sites, 16 sites also distributed family food boxes and fresh produce boxes. Due to the pandemic, we extended our Summer Meals program and were able to expand our reach to other family members as well. OFS provided more than 843,000 meals from Oct. 1, 2020, to Sept. 30, 2021.



#### **Gleaning**

Gleaning is rescuing fresh food from farms that would otherwise be unharvested or wasted. Produce gathered in the fields or picked up after the harvest is quickly distributed to food-insecure individuals and families in the region.

The benefits of gleaning include reducing food loss; increasing access to healthy, fresh, local food for food-insecure individuals and families; and creating tax benefits for farms that donate food. Since the start of the gleaning program in 2020, Operation Food Search staff and volunteers have rescued nearly 25,000 pounds of produce from local farms. Partners include Eckert's Family Farms, Liberty Apple Orchard and Three Rivers Community Farm.



#### **Community Food Partner Agencies**

OFS's partner agencies—pantries, churches, shelters and other community food sites—are vital to our ability to get food to the community. As a food bank, Operation Food Search secures funding, rescues and sources food through a variety of ways, and then sorts and distributes food to our agencies. We also support them through training, capacity building, nutrition education resources and more. They then serve the community directly.

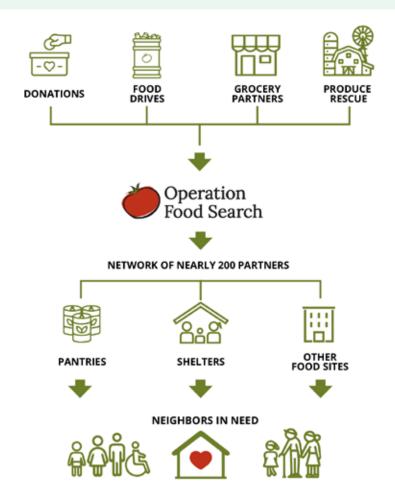
Our nearly 200 partner agencies are largely run by volunteers who often are older adults in higher-risk categories for COVID-19. This year, they were nothing short of heroic in their determination to help individuals and families struggling with food insecurity. These dedicated partners create 1.5 million human interactions each year. We could not do our work without them! View a full list of our partner agencies on the next two pages.

## **Our Programs**

#### Meet the Immediate Need

#### **More About Our Community Food Partner Agencies**

Our Community Food Partner Agencies are vital to our ability to get food to the community. The nearly 200 partner agencies, including pantries, churches, shelters and other community sites, are largely volunteer-run and require great dedication to the people they serve.



#### **Our Agencies**

Affton Christian Food Pantry

Agape Help House of Pacific

Agape House Franklin County

Agape Ministry of Warren County

Agape SDA Pantry

Almost Home

Alton Guardian Angel Pantry

**Anointed Hands** 

**Arnold Food Pantry** 

Ascension Food Pantry

**Baptist Ministries South Center** 

Berean Food Pantry

Bismarck Church of God Food

Pantry

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

(Church St.)

Blessed Teresa of Calcutta

(Elizabeth Ave.)

Bond County Food Pantry

Bostick Temple

Bread for Life Food Pantry

CAASTLC

Caring & Sharing

Caseyville Food Pantry

Cathedral of Y Shua Worship

Center

Catholic Services of St. Clair

**CCW Food Pantry** 

Centennial's Food Pantry

Chapel for the Exceptional (The Waymakers)

Chapel of the Lake

Church of the Living God Food Pantry

Circle of Concern

Circle of Light Associates

City Hope Bible Church, Inc.

City of Peace Food Pantry

City Temple Assembly of God

Collinsville Food Pantry

Community Care Center, Inc.

Community Helping Ministry

Community Hope Center

Community Interfaith Food Pantry

Community Outreach of Gerald

Cosgrove's Soup Kitchen

**CPR Food Pantry** 

Crisis Food Center

Crisis Nursery

Dayspring Foursquare Pantry

Daystar Community Program

Deliverance Church

DeSoto Food Pantry

Diane's House

Dunn Road Manor

Elmwood Memorial Emergency

Food Pantry

Elvins Food Pantry

Emmanuel Food Pantry

Emmaus Homes, Inc.

Epworth Drop-In Center

F.A.S.T. (Foster Adoption

Support Team)

#### **Our Food Partner Agencies** (continued)

Faith Church Earth City Faith Church St. Louis

Family Food Pantry

Farmington Ministerial Alliance

Feed My People - Centralia

Feed My People - High Ridge

Feed My People - Lemay

First United Methodist Church

Gethsemane Church

Gillespie Care Center

Glen Ed Pantry

**Good Samaritan Ministries** 

Grace Fellowship

Grace New Covenant Church

Grace U.M.C. Food Pantry

Great Things Incorporated

Guardian Angel @ Hosea House

H.O.P.E. Ministries

H.O.P.E. Ministry - Wentzville

Halls Ferry Manor

Harvester's Food Pantry

Helping Hands Food Pantry

Helping Hands of Ferguson

High Ridge Food Pantry

Hillsboro Food Pantry

Hilltop Manor

Hope Christian Church Food

Pantry

Hope Church at Mills Mall

Hope Ministries of Geff, IL

ICNA Relief USA

Immaculate Conception

of Dardenne

Immaculate Conception, SVDP

Immaculate Heart of Mary, SVDP

Isaiah 58 Ministries

Jackson Park Senior Apartments Jefferson County Rescue Mission

Jewish Family Services

The Joseph Center

Keeping the Faith Empowerment

Center

Labor of Love Ministries

Law & Grace Ministry at Faith

Baptist Church

Lessie Bates Davis

Neighborhood House

Food Pantry

Life Center International COGIC

Life Wise STL

Love in Action

Loving Hearts Outreach

McBride Foundation

**MCCB Transitions** 

Merry Makers New Cote

Brilliante COG

Millstadt Senior Services

Mind of Christ Church

Moscow Mills Community

Food Pantry

Mt. Olive Care Center

Nash Prayer Band Church

New Jerusalem SDA

New Journey Baptist Church

Northside SDA

O.A.S.I.S. Food Pantry

O'Fallon Community Food

Pantry, Inc.

Operation Food Sharing -Steelville 1st Assembly

Our Lady of Guadalupe, SVDP

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, SVDP

Our Lady's Inn

Our Lady's Inn - Defiance

Ozark Food Pantry

PCAC - Southside City Services

Peace Pantry

Pine Lawn Glen Echo Food Pantry

Powell Terrace Baptist

Benevolence Project Hope

Ritenour Co-Care Food Pantry

Riverview C.O.G. Room at the Inn

Sacred Heart SVDP

Salvation Army Alton Pantry

and Shelter

Salvation Army Family Haven, CIP

Salvation Army O'Fallon

Salvation Army St. Charles

Second Blessing

Second Presbyterian

Sister Christine's Pantry

Smithton Food Pantry

SonLight M.B. Church

Sorento Food Pantry

Soup-N-Share

St. Anthony Food Pantry

St. Augustine - Wellston Center

St. Augustine SVDP

St. Charles Senior Center

St. Francis Borgia Food Pantry

St. Joachim and Ann Care Service

St. John House of Hope

St. Joseph M.B. Church

St. Louis Adventist Community
Services

St. Louis Empowerment Center

St. Louis Youth Build

St. Michael's Food Pantry SVDP

St. Nicholas Food Pantry

St. Patrick Center

St. Patrick's SVDP

St. Vincent DePaul Pantry -

Farmington
Star Bethel Food Pantry

State Park Food Pantry

Storehouse Food Pantry

Sunshine Ministries

TFAM

Teen Challenge of Mid-America

Teen Challenge of St. Louis

Tri Food Pantry

Trinity Presbyterian Church

Universal Church of Jesus Christ

University City Senior Center

Urban League - City Division

Urban League Metro Community Outreach

Urban League Patch Center

The Wesley House Association

West Central Church of Christ Wilhelmina Hardin Food Pantry

Women's Safe House

Word of Life

Zion Lutheran Food Pantry

Zion Temple Food Pantry

Zion Travelers Community Involvement Association

Zion United Church of Christ

## **Our Programs**

### **Build Nutrition IQ**



#### **Community Nutrition**

The Community Nutrition department operates individual and group-level interventions within community settings, creating changes in knowledge, attitudes, behavior and health outcomes in individuals, families and small, targeted groups.

Nutrition education services, which are a part of this effort, are offered to our Community Food Partner Agencies free of charge. Services include on-site cooking demonstrations, recipe sampling, nutrition lessons and nutrition education materials. All educational services are aligned with the food being distributed by pantries, churches, soup kitchens and shelters.



#### **Operation CHEF**

Operation CHEF (Culinary Habits to Empower Families) is a nutrition-focused cooking course that teaches kids, teens, adults and families at risk of hunger fundamental culinary skills through hands-on lessons. Because low-income individuals and families frequently prepare meals at home, strategies to help them prepare nutritious home-cooked meals are critical in the fight to end childhood hunger.

With nutrition education woven into every recipe, discussion and activity, the program presents good nutrition as fun, accessible and delicious. Our team promotes discussion and sharing in these classes, so participants learn from each other and enjoy a positive experience.

"We give your nutrition education information to our volunteers to share with the guests. They have found the information is then spreading by word of mouth throughout the community. One person who does not come to the pantry asked a volunteer for the chicken tetrazzini recipe because the person had heard it was so good!"

—Bond County Food Pantry



#### **Virtual Classes**

OFS uses videos as well as Facebook Live and other virtual platforms to connect directly with individuals and families. From the comfort of their home kitchens, participants practice culinary skills alongside an instructor in an interactive class. Quick-tip videos provide basic and advanced information at the pace of each viewer. These virtual cooking classes — as well as grocery store tours, cooking demonstrations and nutrition presentations — teach participants to cook delicious, nutrient-rich food on a budget in a direct-to-consumer format.



#### **Workplace Wellness**

Americans working full time spend, on average, more than onethird of the day, five days a week, at their workplaces. Effective workplace-based programs and policies can reduce health risks and improve quality of life. Toward this goal, we collaborate closely with each organization to create a personalized approach to combat their employees' specific health-related disparities.

## **Our Programs**

### Champion Change



#### **Food Is Medicine**

Our innovative programs treat food as medicine and are designed to improve the overall health of individuals and communities.

#### **Fresh Rx: Nourishing Healthy Starts**

Food-insecure mothers have greater risk of chronic conditions and complications during pregnancy, and their infants are more likely to be born early and underweight. In addition, the delivery for an underweight newborn costs \$44,000 more, on average, than the delivery for a healthy-weight newborn.

After a successful pilot phase, we're partnering with local health care providers, as well as the Social Policy Institute at Washington University in St. Louis, to conduct a randomized control trial of 750 families over three years to determine the impact of the Fresh Rx program on food security and birth outcomes for Missouri women who are Medicaid beneficiaries.

Following screening for food insecurity by the managed care companies administering the Medicaid program, OFS provides half of the families with a weekly delivery of ingredients to make three nutritious family meals, as well as cooking classes, nutrition resources and supportive services. The other half receive food and nutrition resources only.

Claims data for the two study groups will be compared with data for nonparticipants and the findings provided to policymakers to help them make informed decisions about the value of addressing food insecurity as a reimbursable health-care expense under the Medicaid program.



#### **Fresh Rx: Prescribing Healthy Futures**

This year, OFS began a partnership with the Division of Endocrinology and Diabetes at St. Louis Children's Hospital to conduct a pilot program serving 30 young people with a diagnosis of type 1 diabetes. Participants and their families will receive a weekly meal kit delivery, regular consultations with a registered dietitian and supportive services from a care manager. The goal of the program is to improve management of symptoms, lower hemoglobin A1C levels and decrease episodes of diabetic ketoacidosis.



#### **Policy & Advocacy**

OFS advocates for policies that address the underlying causes of hunger and strengthen individuals and families in Missouri. Our goal is to create a robust and equitable health and food safety net system that increases opportunities for all Missourians to put food on the table and live healthier lives. The 2021 Missouri legislative session brought several victories for food and nutrition policy. Our team supported five bills that passed session, including legislation creating a Statewide Food Security Task Force.

Our advocacy work includes training and support for Momvocates, champions for health and nutrition safety net programs who began their work in 2021 with storytelling training. The goal is to use their voices to increase understanding of food insecurity and advocate for policies that improve health and food access.



#### **School Breakfast**

When children eat breakfast, they perform better on tests, experience improved memory and concentration, achieve stronger attendance records and visit the school nurse less often.

With support from the Food Research and Action Center, OFS is working to increase breakfast participation across the state and to showcase innovative approaches and best practices. For example, Breakfast After the Bell models improve traditional school breakfast by changing the location and time. Rather than being offered in the cafeteria before school starts, breakfast is moved into classrooms, where students are more likely to have the opportunity to eat, or onto convenient kiosks where students can easily access grab-and-go meals. OFS provides resources, information and technical assistance to ensure every student has the chance to eat a nutritious breakfast at school each morning. Learn more at MoSchoolBreakfast.org.



#### **WIC Innovation**

The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) is a federal public health program that provides food assistance, nutrition education, breastfeeding support and health-care referrals for pregnant women, new mothers and infants, and children up to age 5. Research shows that access to nutrition during pregnancy and in the first few years of life has long-term impacts on health. OFS is working to increase participation among eligible Missourians by conducting a multiyear research study designed to identify pain points from each stakeholder that impede WIC satisfaction and utilization. We are learning from WIC participants, retailers and providers to develop innovative solutions and create a program that works better for everyone involved.

## **Our Events**

Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021

#### **Friends Board Events**

The OFS Friends Board organized two virtual events in place of its annual Party for Packs. These dynamic, delicious and interactive evenings were attended by nearly 200 people and raised a total of over \$51,000 combined. Proceeds benefited OFS's Operation Backpack program, which distributes sacks of kid-friendly, shelf-stable food each week to get students through the weekend, when school meals are unavailable.

#### **Event Committee**

Shelby Akos Rica Hendrix Clayton Bax Katie Holtgrave Sean Berry Katie Mueller Alyssa Burks Alex Rich Tess Coyman Amanda Ruby Kelly Cubellis Chris Sawicki Barrett Feltmeier Austin Schultz Iulie Feltmeier Cole Silverman Brittany Forrest Mitch Slattery Madeleine Garbo Mark Taylor Suzanne Hart Scott Whitehill Katie Hebson



## Pasta for Packs Oct. 12, 2020

Our virtual cooking event with James Beard Award-winning chef Gerard Craft was a huge success. Chef Craft guided beginners and foodies alike through the preparation of a salad and fresh pasta dish with meal kits curated by his Clayton restaurant, Pastaria. This fun, interactive evening was a dynamic and delicious event for all ages, and more than \$21,000 was raised to support Operation Backpack.

#### **Sponsors**

Ernst & Young \$2,500 UMB Bank \$2,500 McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer L.C. \$1,000 Edward Jones \$500 Peoples National Bank \$400 Ralph & Lee Anne Quatrano \$400



### Operation BBQ

May 13, 2021

In this virtual cooking event with Sugarfire Smoke House's award-winning Executive Chef Matt Glickert, at-home participants were guided through the preparation of a full meal, including kabobs, lemon herb coleslaw and potato salad. Attendees preordered kits of ingredients paired with 4 Hands Brewing's City Wide beer. This event raised more than \$30,000 for Operation Backpack.

#### **Sponsors**

Ernst & Young \$2,500 AIG \$2,000 McCarthy, Leonard & Kaemmerer L.C. \$1,000 Peoples National Bank \$400 TSI Global Companies LLC \$400



## **Our Events**

Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021

## Swing to Heal Hunger Golf Tournament Oct. 5, 2020

OFS welcomed 115 golfers to WingHaven Country Club for our 27th annual Swing to Heal Hunger golf tournament. The outing raised more than \$77,000 to support OFS's work.

Lunch was donated by Russo's, and dinner was prepared by students in St. Louis Community College's hospitality studies program.

#### **Sponsors**

#### Title (\$20,000)

Ascension

#### Champion (\$10,000)

Seeger Toyota

#### Eagle (\$5,000)

Becker Iron & Metal

#### Birdie (\$2,500)

Core Telecom Straub's Market Toyota Financial Services Quiet Village Landscaping

#### Major In-Kind

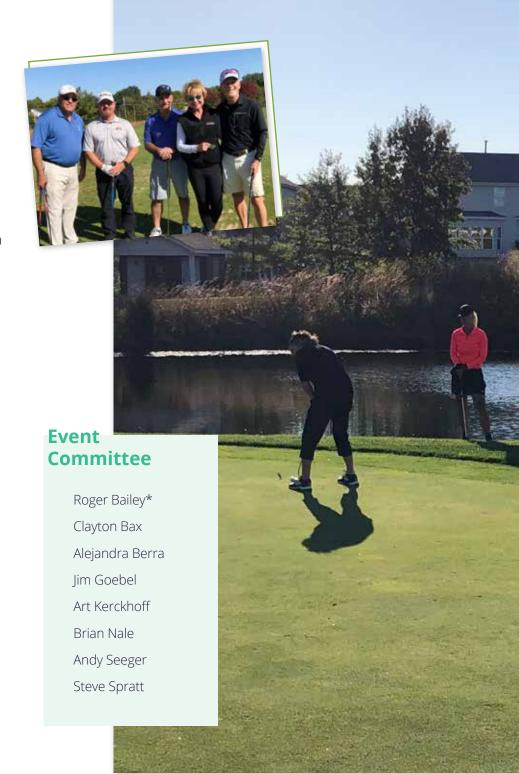
Molson Coors Russo's Catering St. Louis Community College

#### Invitational (\$1,700)

CJC Transport Dema Terry and Barb Donahue Gabriel Group Greensfelder SoTel System Inc. Vistage

#### Hole (\$500)

Gadellnet Great Southern Bank Kurt and Julie Hoff Jan-Pro Mike and Kate Kupstas Vogel Heating



<sup>\*</sup>We are grateful for the enduring friendship and support of the late Roger Bailey. He will be greatly missed.

#### **Feast for Change**

Inaugural Event: Sept. 11, 2021

Our inaugural Feast for Change farm-to-fork experience marked our 40th anniversary and raised over \$90,000 in support of our future work. The evening highlighted significant moments in OFS's history, starting with our founding in 1981 as a food rescue organization.

The evening paid special tribute to Mike and Kate Kupstas, the inaugural Champion for Change Award honorees. Mike, CEO of Lion's Choice, served on the OFS board from 2003 to 2018 and has been instrumental in helping OFS grow through business connections, food donations and leadership development. Kate is a longtime supporter and leader of a group of Operation Backpack volunteers.

#### **Sponsors**

#### Urban Farm (\$10,000)

Mike and Kate Kupstas

#### Farmer's Market (\$5,000)

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP Warehouse of Fixtures

#### Community Garden (\$2,500)

Ascension

Fifth Third Bank

Louis H. Kohler Foundation

Elaine Moss

National Cart Company

Ole Tyme Produce

PNC Bank

Post Holdings Inc.

Tech Electronics

Volpi

#### Bee Keepers (\$1,000)

Amy Amelung

Chris Burridge

Craig Evans and Denise Phelabaum Evans

Luxco

Musick Construction

Peoples National Bank

Skip and Elaine Spielberg

#### Major In-Kind

Rockwell Beer Company Unshackled



## **Our Volunteers**

#### Volunteers Are Critical to Our Mission

Halfway through the fiscal year, we were able to welcome a limited number of volunteers back to the warehouse to help sort food, pack family meal kits and prepare backpacks for distribution.

In addition, our volunteers worked tirelessly to provide food and essential supplies to others by helping at gleaning events, Shop Out Hunger, Summer Meal distributions and much more!

**3,611** volunteers devoted **76,743** hours, saving OFS **\$2.19** million during the fiscal year.

#### **Volunteer Groups**

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP

Enterprise Holdings Inc.

GiftAMeal

The Home Loan Expert

Humana

**KARES Camp** 

Leigh Consulting

Marsh & McLennan Agency

Maryville University

**Musick Construction** 

Novus International

Olin Corporation

Panera

Safety National

Saint Louis University School of Medicine

Schnuck Markets

Villa Duchesne and Oak Hill School

Washington University School of Law

World Wide Technology



# Our Community Food Drives

## Food and Fund Drives raised more than \$1 million in food and monetary donations.

These volunteer-led efforts are crucial to our ability to get food to individuals and families in ourservice area.

#### **Leadership Food Drives**\*

Edward Jones

The Harvard Club of St. Louis

Ladue School District

Missouri Democratic Party

Randall's Wine & Spirits

Six Flags St. Louis

St. Charles County Ambulance District

St. Louis B-Works Cranksgiving Event

Whitfield School

Woodard Cleaning & Restoration

#### **Leadership Fund Drives**\*\*

105.7 The Point

Bayer

The Dave Glover Show 97.1 FM

ELCO Chevrolet Cadillac

Enterprise Holdings Inc.

Federal Reserve Bank of St. Louis

GM Financial

Masonmade Stone Design + Supply

McCarthy Holdings, Inc.

Millipore Sigma

Mosby Building Arts

Object Computing Inc.

**RGA Reinsurance Company** 

True Refrigeration

Washington University School of Medicine

\*More than 4,000 pounds of food donated

\*\*More than \$5,000 donated





## **Our Partnerships**

### Dedicated Partners Empower Our Work

OFS collaborates with a broad range of organizations and entities to fulfill our mission. We are grateful for the resources, expertise and support they provide.

#### **Partners**

Area Resources for Community and Human Services (ARCHS)

Bayer YMCA

Becker Iron and Metal

Beyond Housing

Boggs, Avellino, Lach & Boggs LLC

Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLC

Center for Youth on the Rise

Christian Hospital

City of Ferguson Parks and Recreation

City of Wellston

Eckert's Family Farms

**Equity Homes** 

First Things First Foundation

Girl Scouts of Eastern Missouri

Greater Grace Church

Greater St. Louis Area Council Boy Scouts of America Home Sweet Home

International Institute

The Kaufman Fund

Liberty Apple Orchard

Lion's Choice

The Little Bit Foundation

Mehlville School District

My Diversity Circle

NAACP

OB Care Center at SSM Health DePaul

Hospital

People's Health Centers

Phoenix Solutions

Share Our Strength

Share the Harvest

Social Policy Institute at Washington

University in St. Louis

SoTel Systems Inc.

SSM Health DePaul Hospital

SSM Healthcare

St. Louis Area Diaper Bank

St. Louis Area Foodbank

St. Charles City-County Library

St. Louis Children's Hospital

St. Louis County Division of Youth Services

St. Louis County Library

St. Louis Public Library

**Sunset Transportation** 

That's So Good LLC

Three Rivers Community Farm

United for Children

University of Missouri Extension

Urban League of Metropolitan St. Louis

Warehouse of Fixtures







## **Our Partnerships**

#### **Innovative Collaborations**

"Repurpose for a Purpose is one of the most incredible projects I have worked on in my career. Instead of this furniture ending up in a landfill, it was repurposed to help feed those in need!"

—Bonnie S. Wedel, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP



#### Repurpose for a Purpose

Through this program, businesses can dispose of assets and materials while generating revenue to support OFS's hunger relief work. The program began in 2008, when OFS board member Skip Spielberg collaborated with Bonnie Wedel, facilities manager at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP, to arrange for out-of-use furniture to be repurposed in order to benefit OFS.

#### **How It Works**

OFS connects businesses to our trusted partners, who are committed to philanthropy and social responsibility. They help businesses dispose of unwanted equipment and furniture, creating a donation that literally puts food on the table for food-insecure families in the region.



#### **Healthy Eating Resources**

This video library was created through a partnership between SSM Health DePaul Hospital and Operation Food Search. The series shares information about healthy food choices with people who may be food insecure, are working to make healthy choices on a budget, or are interested in improving health through diet.

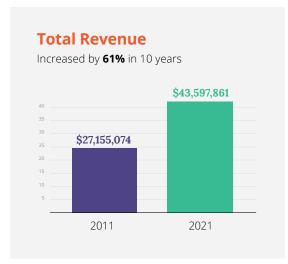
The eighteen videos cover topics such as Meal Planning Basics, Hidden Vegetables and Shopping for Produce. They can be viewed on our website at OperationFoodSearch.org/healthy-eating-resources.

## **Our Financials**

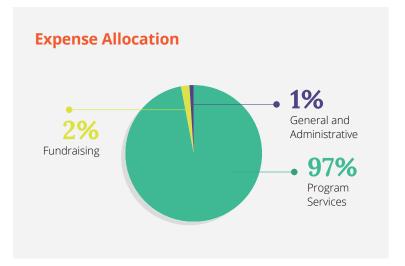
FY 2021

#### **TEN-YEAR GROWTH**









	2021
Current assets:	
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,682,556
Investments	3,739,260
Receivables and promises to give	1,046,056
Inventory	1,644,345
Prepaid expenses	44.540
Total current assets	9,156,757
Property and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation	5,113,525
Unconditional promises to give, net of discounts	73,639
Grants receivable, net of discounts	173,149
Endowment	6,675,106
Total assets	\$ 21,192,176

ASSETS

Current liabilities:	2021	
Accrued expenses	\$	333,518
Net assets:		
Without donor restrictions	16,751,654	
With donor restrictions		4,107,004
Total net assets		20,858,658
Total liabilities and net assets	\$	21,192,176

## **Our Financials**

### FY 2021

	2021		
	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Support and other revenue:			
Support:			
Cash and investment contributions	\$ 6,915,790	\$ 1,097,139	\$ 8,012,929
State support	2,427,146	-	2,427,146
Grant revenue	3,966,543	718,646	4,685,189
Special events (net after \$62,009 of expenses)	172,260	<del>-</del>	172,260
Subtotal	13,481,739	1,815,785	15,297,524
Other non-cash contributions	27,285,781	-	27,285,781
Total support Other revenue (loss):	40,767,520	1,815,785	42,583,305
Investment income	628,029	264,685	892,714
Rental income	2,430		2,430
Other income	119,412	-	119,412
Total support and other revenue	\$ 41,517,391	\$ 2,080,470	\$ 43,597,861
Net assets released from restrictions	1,110,583	(1,110,583)	-
Functional expenses:			
Program services	36,972,408	-	36,972,408
Management and general	334,645	-	334,645
Fundraising	809,354	-	809,354
Total functional expenses	38,116,407	<del>-</del>	38,116,407
Changes in net assets	4,511,567	969,887	5,481,454
Net assets, beginning of the year	12,240,087	3,137,117	15,377,204
Net assets, end of the year	\$ 16,751,654	\$ 4,107,004	\$ 20,858,658

The COVID-19 worldwide pandemic continued to impact the Organization. Stimulus bills provided extra support that helped fund additional food needed in the community. However, supply chain issues continued, food donations were disrupted and the demand for food assistance remained high. The Organization continued to adapt to limit transmission of the disease by following food distribution models that included more drive-through and grab-and-go options, adjusting warehouse procedures to include additional safety measures, continuing to provide numerous virtual and online resources for community nutrition, food access and other assistance, and partnering with additional organizations to provide leadership and support for hundreds of thousands of individuals in the bi-state region.

## **Our Donors**

Oct. 1, 2020 - Sept. 30, 2021

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for Humanity

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"\$82 of this donation is from my daughter, Abby, age 10. She raised the money by cooking baked goods and selling them to neighbors.

She called her little business 'Abby's Quarantreats' and wanted all of the money to go to Operation Food Search."

—St. Louis area mom and OFS supporter

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"You don't know how much this helps. Our family took in a child whose parents both died six months ago, and due to the virus we haven't been able to get any paperwork done. We didn't have a lot of extra money before, but with another mouth to feed it has been really difficult. This food helps so much."

—Recipient of food at St. Louis County Library drive-through distribution

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