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December 2025



## MetroMarket: Fresh Food, All Year Long

### **MetroMarket Expands to Year-Round Service and Doubles Capacity**

The OFS MetroMarket has **evolved in exciting ways** this year. For the first time since its inception in 2016, the fresh food market is operating year-round, running five days a week and **reaching thousands more** individuals and families in both **Missouri and Illinois**. In the next fiscal year, the program is projected to grow to a total of 665 markets, up from 388 in 2025.

“Families in the areas we serve need **reliable access to fresh food all year**, and now we can deliver it,” said Kristen Wild, OFS President and CEO.

“Shifting to a year-round schedule means we can reach more than 23,000 households and nearly **70,000 individuals in the coming year**. That scale wasn’t possible with a seasonal model.”

### **An Adaptable Resource in Times of Crisis**

In addition to regularly providing **low-cost produce, protein and shelf-stable items**, MetroMarket has proven to be highly versatile when the need for food resources suddenly increases. **Thanks to the generosity** of our community of support, including corporate partners and **donors like you**, markets were offered at no cost in **neighborhoods most impacted by the tornado** and severe storms earlier this year. During the SNAP crisis, your support meant OFS could provide **\$15 vouchers to SNAP recipients** when they shopped at MetroMarket.

### **Meaningful Help and Positive Vibes**

Our fall survey results confirm that shoppers experience MetroMarket positively, as well.

- Nearly every shopper agrees that MetroMarket has made life easier by providing **affordable, reliable access to groceries**.
- Over 95% of shoppers report that MetroMarket helps them save money for **other necessities like transportation or prescriptions**.
- All respondents say they have been able to **eat more fruits and vegetables** because of MetroMarket.
- More than 95% say there is a MetroMarket location that is **convenient for them**.
- 100% of shoppers say they are **satisfied with their MetroMarket experience**.

We are grateful for the incredible support that has enabled us to grow this program in meaningful ways. Thank you for helping Operation Food Search **deliver fresh, affordable, dependable food access** to tens of thousands of individuals and families across our region, every month of the year.

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## Because of One Volunteer's Impact, Your Gift Can Go Twice as Far

Volunteers are at the heart of our work at OFS. Every year, **thousands of dedicated volunteers** show up with compassion and energy to help us ensure no one in our community goes hungry. This year, that spirit has **inspired something amazing**.

The family of **one of our cherished long-time volunteers** has created a \$250,000 matching challenge **to honor her memory** and enduring commitment to healing hunger. The family's hope is that her legacy of kindness and love toward others will **spark even more generosity** across our region.

That means every donation made through Dec. 31 will be **matched, dollar for dollar, up to \$250,000**.

This generous match could not come at a more critical time when our region has faced a **perfect storm of food insecurity**. The effects of the federal government shutdown hit families in our region especially hard. Many of them were already **struggling to recover after the tornadoes**. In addition, **food prices have risen by 30% in the last five years**. As the holidays approach,

thousands of children and adults are facing the daily stress of not knowing where their next meal will come from.

Because of the match, **every dollar you donate becomes \$12 in food and services** for neighbors working hard to regain stability. There has never been a better time to turn your compassion into action, **making an impact that offers real comfort and hope to families** when they need it most.

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION NOW

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## Ways To Give



### Donate

Give a one-time gift or become a Hunger Healer with recurring donations.

[Give online here.](#)



### Honor Someone with a Gift

Recognize someone special while helping solve the problem of hunger in a directly impactful way.

[Learn more here.](#)



### Get Your Gift Matched

Search for your company to see if it matches gifts or volunteer hours.

[Search here.](#)



### Plan a Legacy Gift

Include OFS in your estate plan and help ensure a better future.

[Learn more here.](#)



## Give Us a Like

Spread the word about OFS and our mission  
to end hunger in the St. Louis region.

### Committed to Excellence

Operation Food Search is certified and accredited for its accountability, transparency and adherence to strong and comprehensive industry standards.



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