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April 2025

MONTHLY



OFS Garden Collective Launched

Planting Seeds for a Healthy Future

OFS is excited to announce the launch of our [new Garden Collective](#) in partnership with [EarthDance Organic Farm School](#), a big step toward creating a **more sustainable and food-secure future** for our community. Our 10,000 square-foot garden, located at OFS's newly renovated facility in Overland, is not just a garden—it's a place where knowledge, fresh produce, and hope will grow!



The Garden Collective is a hands-on teaching space where **170 partner food pantries and agencies can learn how to grow their own fresh, healthy food**. By cultivating their own gardens, these partners will play a key role in expanding access to nutritious, locally grown food across our Missouri and Illinois counties.

EarthDance, well known regionally for its expertise in urban agriculture and community education, is managing the Garden Collective. They'll offer a variety of **hands-on classes on seed saving and composting, container growing, and companion planting**—available both in-person and virtually to meet the needs of participating agencies.



Watch our [volunteer hub](#) for opportunities to help out in the garden and be part of this exciting project!

Together, we're planting the seeds for a brighter, healthier future.

MetroMarket is Back on the Road

Our [St. Louis MetroMarket](#) season launched on Monday, April 21. Two custom-built farmers market trucks and a new refrigerated van are hitting the road each week, Monday through Saturday. This season brings four new sponsors and six new sites added to [the 2025 schedule](#).



The **MetroMarket program increases access to fresh, healthy, and affordable food** in areas of St. Louis with limited options. The USDA reports that as much as 18% of the St. Louis regional population lives in a food desert.

The farmers market trucks, sponsored by Dierbergs Markets and Bunge, create an **open-air shopping experience, accessible for people of all physical abilities**, and more spacious for shoppers to grab the items they want and check out. The van opens in the back and serves shoppers who order from a menu of items.



A special thank you to all our 2025 sponsors: Bayer Fund, Bunge, Community Impact Network, Christian Hospital, Delmar DivIne, Devoted

Health, Dierbergs Markets, People's Health Centers, St. Louis County Library Foundation, Schnuck Markets, Whole Cities, and YMCA.

[Support St. Louis MetroMarket on May 8 for Give STL Day.](#) Each donation up to \$15,000 will be **matched by Stern Brothers.**

Golfing for Good



The [31st annual Swing to Heal Hunger Golf Tournament](#), presented by **Seeger Toyota**, is back on **July 14!** Join us and play at the stunning **Norwood Hills Country Club**, home of the 30th PGA Championship and the 32nd Women's Mid-Am Championship. This year's event will include both Norwood courses. Join our expanding community of golfers united in healing hunger.



Your registration includes:

- 18 holes of golf on one of two courses at Norwood Hills Country Club, the premier golfing destination in St. Louis;
- Lunch, on-course drinks and snacks, and dinner with bar;
- Fun activities like on-course games and raffles, and more; and
- The satisfaction of knowing you are helping to provide healthy food and supportive services to more than 200,000 neighbors in need each month.

Thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, Seeger Toyota, and the **other [generous sponsors](#)** who are supporting the tournament.



[Register to join the fun on July 14!](#)

Upcoming Events



Party for Packs

Thur., May 15, 2025

Experience this local tasting event while supporting the Operation Backpack program.

[LEARN MORE](#)



Feast for Change

Sat., September 13, 2025

An annual dining experience held at the picturesque Piazza Messina in Cottleville, MO.

[LEARN MORE](#)

Ways To Give



Donate



Honor Someone with a Gift

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

[Give online here.](#)



Get Your Gift Matched

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

[Search here.](#)

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

[Learn more 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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