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January 2025



## Celebrating OFS Grand Re-Opening

### New Renovation Complete

Operation Food Search (OFS) celebrated the Grand Re-Opening of our newly renovated facility on Thursday, January 23. **Project donors, partners, and friends commemorated the completion** of the renovation at an event that included tours of the new spaces.



Guests learned that the renovation project was more than a building update – it was about enhancing the way we serve the St. Louis bi-state area and **increasing our capacity to fight food insecurity.**



The renovation was driven by key goals that will have a lasting impact on our community: **more fresh, healthy food distributed; streamlined food distribution; and a focus on building nutrition IQ through culinary skills and experiencing garden-to-table eating.**



To date OFS has raised \$7.8 million towards this \$10 million campaign. Recently an anonymous **donor pledged a \$1.5 million challenge grant** to OFS to help us get across the funding finish line. This commitment is from one of our community's largest donors who would like to remain anonymous until the match is completed. What a

great opportunity to have gifts matched, up to \$1.5 million, as we wrap up this important initiative. We're grateful for the many friends who have joined the campaign to date, and for the many more friends who will help us achieve this matching grant.

[Click here for more information](#) about the renovation project or to donate to the matching challenge grant.

[View all photos from the Grand Re-Opening Event on January 23.](#)

## Get a Class, Give a Class

### Building Nutrition IQ in Our Community

Join us at the OFS Teaching Kitchen for a hands-on cooking experience that benefits both you and individuals and families facing food insecurity. Our *Get a Class, Give a Class* program is designed to make **cooking more accessible and empowering for everyone**. When you book a class for your group, the fee covers the cost for your own group (up to 16 people) and also **provides a FREE class for people facing food insecurity**. For just \$750, your group will enjoy a fun, interactive cooking session. \$375 of that cost will be tax deductible and will fund a class for others to build their nutrition IQ!



Each of our cooking **classes focuses on budget-friendly, nutritious dishes that are simple to make**. Each class lasts about an hour and a half. If you're looking to enhance your own culinary skills or simply enjoy a great team-building experience, you'll leave with enhanced knowledge, a new recipe, and the satisfaction of giving back to your community.



Ready to sharpen your culinary skills, have fun, and build nutrition IQ in our community? **Contact Jason Goldman**, our Culinary Nutrition Education Manager, at [Jason.Goldman@operationfoodsearch.org](mailto:Jason.Goldman@operationfoodsearch.org) to learn more or schedule your class today!



Operation  
Food Search  
**COFFEE  
CONNECTION**  
Conversation & Tour

## You're Invited to Coffee Connection!

We'd love you to join us at our upcoming *Coffee Connection* conversation and tour! This is a great opportunity to **meet like-minded members of the OFS community, take a tour of our newly renovated facility, and enjoy a light breakfast.**

**Choose the date that works best for you:**

- February 11
- April 8
- June 10

(Additional dates are available later in the year!)

Each event runs from 9 to 10 a.m. at our OFS facility in Overland. It's a relaxed and welcoming way to connect, learn more about our work,

and discover how you can get involved.

**We can't wait to see you!**

**To register, click here:** [Coffee Connection Registration](#).

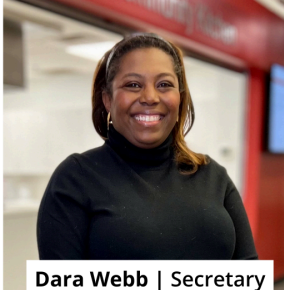
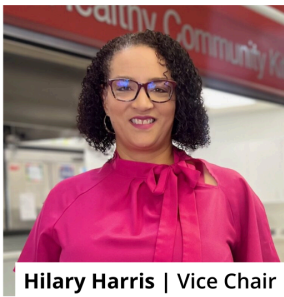
**For more information**, contact Jane Calkins at 314-325-1295 or [Jane.Calkins@operationfoodsearch.org](mailto:Jane.Calkins@operationfoodsearch.org).

## **OFS Board Elects New Officers and Member**

Operation Food Search recently welcomed a **newly elected OFS board member, Emilee Hargis**, a partner specializing in antitrust law at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP.



“As food insecurity rates rise across our region, strong leadership is more critical than ever,” said Kristen Wild, President and CEO of Operation Food Search. “Emilee’s expertise and dedication will help advance our mission to ensure families have access to the food and resources they need to lead healthy lives.”



**On January 30, new OFS Board leadership was elected:**

- Chair, **Laura Bryant** (Mirowitz Center at Covenant Place),
- Vice Chair, **Hilary Harris** (Christian Hospital),
- Treasurer, **Amy Altholz** (RubinBrown), and
- Secretary, **Dara Webb** (Mercy).

OFS's Executive Board is made up of leaders from diverse fields who are dedicated to the work of healing hunger and ensuring that OFS fulfills its mission. "We're extremely fortunate to have such a strong team of advisors, and special thanks are due to our outgoing board members, **Erin Brooks** (Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner LLP) and **Maxine Clark** (Clark-Fox Family Foundation)," adds Wild. "Their dedication to our mission has been inspiring and impactful to all of us."

See the complete list of board members [on our website](#).

## Ways To Give



### Donate

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



### Honor Someone with a Gift

Recognize someone special while helping solve the problem of

donations.  
[Give online here.](#)

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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