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June 2025

# MONTHLY



## From Crisis to Care

### What We Accomplished Together

When **tornadoes struck** the St. Louis region this spring, you helped Operation Food Search act quickly. Because of your generosity, we have been able to reach **thousands of families** in some of the hardest-hit communities, providing not only food, but a reminder to everyone that we are all a part of a **caring community**.

We're deeply grateful to the **216 donors** who made **224 gifts**, contributing a total of **\$176,934** in support of tornado response efforts. These donations—both

large and small—fueled a swift, coordinated effort resulting in **21 food and supply distribution events**.

More events are planned throughout the summer to continue meeting the **ongoing needs** of families rebuilding after the storm. From grill-outs run by **neighbors** to hot meals donated by **Russo's Catering** and **Propel Kitchens**, we've seen incredible commitment and creativity from our partners and volunteers.

A special thank you to these **leadership partners** who stepped up in a big way:

- Berges Family Foundation—\$50,000
- United Way of Greater St. Louis—\$50,000
- Post Holdings—\$25,000
- Light A Single Candle Foundation—\$10,000
- Mid America Transplant—\$10,000
- Missouri Foundation for Health—\$10,000

Your continued support of Operation Food Search's year-round work allows us to remain **ready to respond** to our community in times of crisis and every day as we focus on creating **a hunger-free tomorrow**.

**Thank you** for standing with us.

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## Helping Kids Thrive through the Summer

As summer heats up, so does the need for reliable nutrition for **kids across our region**. Thousands of children who **count on school meals** lose access to them over summer break, putting extra pressure on **families working hard** to get by.

During the 2022–2023 school year (latest data available), **280,374 children in Missouri** relied on free or reduced-price lunches every day. But in the summer of 2023, the average number of kids receiving summer meals statewide dropped to just 23,253. That means **more than 9 out of 10 kids who need meals in the summer aren't getting them**. Missouri now ranks 44th in the nation in meeting summer meal needs.

And here in the St. Louis region, more than **115,000 children** were already experiencing food insecurity before the recent tornadoes—a number that has likely grown.

OFS' **Summer Meals program** is helping bridge that gap. In partnership with the United States Department of Agriculture, PepsiCo and Propel Kitchen, we're making it **easier for kids to access nutritious, kid-approved meals**. There's no sign-up, no ID, no questions asked.

Here's what your support is making possible this summer:

- More than 24,600 meals served through the end of June—and counting
- A growing network of nearly 40 meal sites
- Partnerships with new community favorites like the St. Louis Aquarium and St. Louis Science Center
- Meals designed with kids in mind—options like sandwiches, wraps, and protein kits are based on feedback from the children we serve

Many locations are also offering **activities like word games, coloring sheets, and simple nutrition lessons** to create a positive, engaging experience for children.

The Summer Meals program runs **through August 16**, and with your continued support, we'll keep reaching more kids in more locations. Together, we're **nourishing kids** and bringing back some of the simple joys of being a kid in the summer!

See where meals are being served: [CHILD MEAL MAP](#)

GIVE NOW



**Last Chance for Golf:  
Only 3 Foursomes Left!**

**30th Annual Swing to Heal Hunger  
Golf Tournament  
Presented by Seeger Toyota  
Mon., July 14 | Norwood Hills  
Country Club**



**Save the Date for Our Farm to  
Table Experience**

**5th Annual Feast for Change  
Presented by Post Holdings  
Sat., Sept. 13 | Piazza Messina in  
Cottleville**

Join us for an unforgettable evening  
at the beautiful Piazza Messina,

Tee up for a cause! Our annual tournament is almost full—only 3 foursomes remain.

Don't miss your chance to play two championship courses, enjoy all-day hospitality, and support OFS's mission to nourish our community.

Tournament contests, premium food & drinks, amazing raffles, the opportunity to Fund the Future, and more!

[REGISTER NOW](#)

where community, flavor, and purpose come together to help build a hunger-free tomorrow.

Early event highlights include:

- Cocktails and hors d'oeuvres
- A vibrant pop-up farmers market
- A fabulous farm-to-fork dinner
- Wine and spirits pull, live auction, and more!

Sponsorship opportunities are available now.

Learn more [HERE](#).

## 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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