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May 2026



Joining Forces to Support Local Veterans

OFS and The Kaufman Fund Partner to Address Veteran Hunger

On May 8, 2026, Operation Food Search and The Kaufman Fund partnered once again to help ensure local veterans and military families had access to nutritious food through our annual Food for Vets event.

Held at Operation Food Search, the event brought together staff, volunteers, and community partners to distribute free groceries and connect veterans with additional nutrition resources. 125 veterans and their families received boxes filled with fresh produce, pantry staples, and protein.

Veterans across the country continue to face challenges accessing consistent, nutritious food. According to Feeding America, 1 in 9 working-age veterans experiences food insecurity, and nearly 1.2 million low-income veterans rely on SNAP benefits to help feed themselves and their families.

"We are grateful for our partnership with The Kaufmann Fund and the opportunity to support and honor military families," said Kristen Wild, Operation Food Search President & CEO. "The past year has brought challenges to our region, ranging from severe weather disasters to increased food prices and reduced access to federal benefits. Our veterans have been hit hard, and we are proud to be there for them."

In addition to food distribution, veterans attending the event had the opportunity to learn more about nutrition assistance programs and available community services. The event highlighted the importance of community connection and year-round support for veterans throughout the St. Louis region.

To learn more about future veteran support initiatives and events, visit The Kaufman Fund's website.

[Learn More](#)



Helping Kids Stay Nourished All Summer Long

For many children across the St. Louis region, summer break doesn't just mean time away from the classroom. It can also mean losing reliable access to the **meals they count on during the school year**.

As families continue facing **rising grocery prices and other economic challenges**, the summer months can place additional strain on already tight household budgets. That's why access to **free, nutritious summer meals** is more important than ever.

As a sponsor of the USDA's Summer Food Service Program, Operation Food Search works with libraries, community sites and organizations to help children and teens 18 and under access free meals while school is out of session. **Last year, OFS provided nearly 59,000 summer meals at 36 locations.**

"Our goal is to make sure children continue receiving the nutrition they need during the summer months, when many families lose access to school meals," said Melissa Weissler, OFS Chief Program Officer. "Summer Meals sites also create welcoming community spaces where kids can stay engaged, active, and connected."

Every meal served represents more than food. It's **an investment in a child's health**, stability, and ability to thrive.

Families searching for Summer Meals locations can visit the OFS Meal Map below.

[Find Meals](#)



Register Now for Our Annual Golf Tournament on July 13



Hold a Summer Food Drive for OFS




In honor of our 45th anniversary, we're

Join us for a fun day of golf at the prestigious **Norwood Hills Country Club**. Whether you sign up with a foursome or become a sponsor, every swing **helps OFS fight hunger** across the St. Louis region.

Event Details:

Monday, July 13, 2026
Norwood Hills Country Club
Lunch @ 11 a.m., Tee Time @ Noon

Dinner and evening event hosted by St. Louis Sports Broadcaster **Tim McKernan**

-  Foursomes & Individual Golfers Welcome
-  Sponsorships Available
-  Great Golf for an Even Greater Cause

Every round played provides **meals, stability, and hope** for families facing food insecurity.

Last year, supporters helped OFS provide **food and services** to more than **200,000 people each month**.

We can't wait to see you on July 13! Learn more and register below.

[Learn More](#)

[Get Started](#)

In honor of our 45th anniversary, we're encouraging our community to hold a food drive for us.

Whether you organize a large food drive or simply donate a few shelf-stable items, every donation helps ensure families across our region have access to nutritious food.

Every donation we collect in the next 45 days helps stock pantry shelves, support community partners and provide reliable food access **during a critical time of year** when it's difficult to keep up with demand.

How to Host a Food Drive

1. Organize a collection through your school, church, workplace, neighborhood, sports team, club, or summer camp.
2. Tell OFS your plans and get materials at Give.OperationFoodSearch.org.
3. Review our list of most-needed items and encourage people to donate.
4. Share your efforts with friends, colleagues, and on social media.

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 Follow

Join our social community and help spread the word about OFS and our mission to create a future free from hunger.



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





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