



Operation Food Search

www.operationfoodsearch.org

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Who We Are

Operation Food Search, founded in 1981, is the largest distributor of **free food** in the St. Louis bi-state region. With a network of 265 agencies (food pantries, shelters and soup kitchens) over 120,000 people are provided food assistance each month. **Almost half of those served, are children.** Our service area includes 15 counties in Missouri and 15 counties in Illinois. Operation Food Search operates from a main distribution center located in University City and a second distribution center located in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Who We Serve

As a leader in the fight against hunger, Operation Food Search's mission goes above and beyond basic food collection and distribution. In addition to providing food and other supplies to our network of agencies, Operation Food Search has nutrition education programs and cooking classes, a 24/7 hunger hotline and our child-focused **Operation Backpack** program. Operation Backpack provides a backpack of food to children who may be at risk of hunger. Currently over 2,500 children in St. Louis and St. Charles County receive a backpack each week.

Volunteer Opportunities

Volunteers are essential to the success of Operation Food Search, and donating time is a great way to help feed the hungry in our communities. We have opportunities to help in the warehouse and at different events throughout the year. We also are seeking dietitians and chefs that would be interested in teaching in our nutritional education and cooking programs.

Donations

Consider becoming a monetary donor. For every \$1.00 donated, Operation Food Search is able to distribute \$17 worth of nourishing food to hungry families. We also encourage you to conduct a food drive at your work, school or neighborhood. We make it easy by delivering collection barrels and posters at the start of your food drive and picking up the donation after the food drive has ended. We also have "Virtual Food Drive" which is an easy and fun way to have a food drive where anyone can donate food by purchasing items on a personal website that is set up specifically for your drive.

For more information contact Denny Gladieux at denny.gladieux@operationfoodsearch.org or 636-544-3863.

