

Make It Work: Using Resources Wisely

At the St. Louis Area Foodbank, we recognize that we have limited resources. As stewards of the generosity of our donors, we have a responsibility to make sure we're doing everything we can to make the most of what we are given; to make sure we're using available resources efficiently and effectively.

Thanks to a grant from The Boeing Company, the St. Louis Area Foodbank began using Roadnet in 2011. The Foodbank relies on Roadnet, the same

logistics system used by UPS, to develop routes for our donation pick-ups and product deliveries. This software, acquired at a fraction of its retail price due to UPS support of Feeding America, has helped us do 25 percent more with our existing fleet. Implementing Roadnet has helped us:

- Decrease the average miles driven annually per truck from 40,000 miles during FY2010 to 23,819 miles in FY2011.

- Reduce the average cost per truck in repairs/preventative maintenance from \$12,036.50 in FY2010 to \$10,578.33 in FY2011

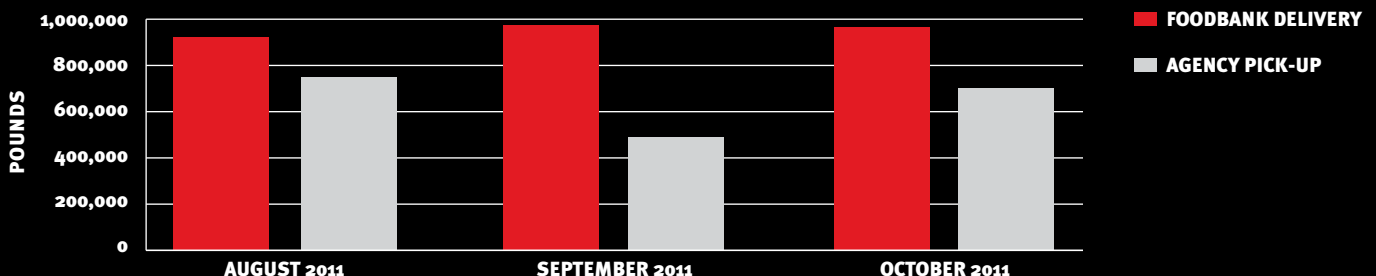
- Save an estimated \$39,966 in fuel in just the first year.

This is important because for the first time in our history, we are delivering more food to agencies than is picked up by agencies. (See sidebar)

Roadnet is just one way in which the St. Louis Area Foodbank is working smarter, a theme we'll explore more in future issues. Our ongoing commitment to being good stewards of your generosity has recently earned us Charity Navigator's "Slam Dunk 4-Star" Charity designation.



THREE MONTHS OF FOODBANK DELIVERIES VS AGENCY PICK-UPS



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



LOCATION

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A LITTLE NOURISHMENT

I was sitting at my desk looking out the window at a rainy, overcast sky. It seemed to be as gloomy inside as it was outside and I didn't feel much in the holiday spirit. My mood didn't improve when I was informed the roof was leaking in one of our offices.

The "leaking" office is located on the other side of the building so I had to walk through the Volunteer Center to investigate. The center was bustling with at least 40 volunteers packing boxes.

Adults and children from a home school group were busily working and I stopped to introduce myself to a grandmother working alongside her granddaughter. The grandmother was from just outside of Chicago, and she had stopped here in St. Louis to visit family. The two of them were boxing food and other items, taking extra care to make sure each box was both packed to the brim and included a good assortment of items. It was hard to determine who was having a better time – the granddaughter or the grandmother. The 10-year-old obviously felt good about what she was doing – helping to feed people; the grandmother, in for only a short visit, was obviously pleased to spend some meaningful time with her granddaughter. One of them was certainly providing an example of how to turn compassion into action. I'm just not sure which one. I do know they created a memory that will be cherished even more as time goes by.

Another group of volunteers were adults from St. Charles – perhaps from a company, social or church group. The group included a gentleman who said he also volunteers at the Oasis Food Pantry. He was sorting and packaging donations that in a few short days he might be handing out to those showing up at the pantry's doorstep.

As I left the Volunteer Center one of our trucks was unloading hundreds upon hundreds of turkeys from the Mary Institute and St. Louis Country Day School "Turkey Train," an annual food drive for the Thanksgiving holiday. Then, as I came up to the order staging area I saw hundreds of Scouting for Food pallets ready to be picked up. Both events have become annual traditions and one, the Boy Scout Food Drive, is the largest one-day food drive in the country.

When I finally arrived at the office with the leaky roof, things didn't seem so bleak. Someone had put a flower pot on the desk to both catch the drops and nourish the plant. And maybe that's the holiday message I was struggling to write.

It was still rainy and overcast outside and the roof still leaked. But the sun is just hiding behind the clouds for a while and we can fix the roof. Yes, there are people in need of food assistance but as a community we have stepped up to provide them the nourishment they need.

And like the plant, we're nourishing ourselves in the process.

FRANK FINNEGAN
PRESIDENT AND CEO

THIS INSTITUTION IS AN EQUAL
OPPORTUNITY PROVIDER.

ST. LOUIS RAMS DEFENSIVE END ROBERT QUINN SIGNS AN AUTOGRAPH FOR A VERY EXCITED FAN AT THE TASTE OF THE NFL AT THE ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK.



TASTE OF THE NFL SCORES A TOUCHDOWN!

The 9th Annual St. Louis Rams' Taste of the NFL event, held November 14 at the Foodbank, was a huge success. Rams first round draft pick, Robert Quinn, and second round draft pick, Lance Kendricks, greeted the more than 550 guests and signed autographs for fans of all ages. The extravaganza allowed guests to sample specialty foods prepared by some of the best restaurants and clubs throughout the community. They also got the chance to meet the chefs and Rams players, and bid on unique auction items.

WHAT'S COOKING?

Thank you for your continued support of the Foodbank. Year-end tax statements will hit mailboxes in January and will recap gifts received by the Foodbank during the 2011 calendar year.

20 TONS FOR 20 YEARS

This year, the St. Louis Verizon Wireless Amphitheater celebrated its 20th anniversary, and wanted to commemorate it by gathering 20 tons of food to donate to the Foodbank. Throughout the summer, concert-goers were encouraged to bring non-perishable food items when they came to concerts by artists such as Toby Keith, the Urge, Kenny Chesney, Brad Paisley and Def Leppard. Fans who made the largest donation received prizes such as ticket upgrades or a meet and greet with the featured artist.

HUNGER ACTION MONTH GENERATES AWARENESS

September is Hunger Action Month and this year, the Foodbank came up with 30 creative ways for individuals to bring awareness to the issue of hunger in their communities. "30 Ways In 30 Days" calendars were available for download at www.STLFoodbank.org throughout the month and included ideas like setting an empty plate at the dinner table and hosting a potluck where guests are encouraged to bring a donation for the Foodbank. Other Hunger Action Month activities included a statewide food drive sponsored by the Missouri Food Bank Association, and Feeding Illinois' SNAP Hunger Challenge where participants were encouraged to live off \$5 a day for seven days. That's the average SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) benefit, formerly known as food stamps, for an individual in Illinois.

SHOP AT SCHNUCKS TO HELP THE FOODBANK

Help the St. Louis Area Foodbank while you grocery shop! Just pick up a Schnucks eScrip Community Card at any Schnucks location. Follow the instructions on the card or go to www.escrip.com/schnucks.jsp to activate your card. Be sure to specify the St. Louis Area Foodbank as your charity of choice. Every time you shop and swipe your card, Schnucks will donate up to 3% of your purchase to the Foodbank.

THE NEW FOODBANK TOYOTA HIGHLANDER HAS ARRIVED!

In October, the Foodbank brought home the brand-new Toyota Highlander Hybrid received for winning the "100 Cars for Good" competition back in May. All the children that starred in the winning video were invited out to Pappas Toyota to share in the excitement of the big day. Foodbank staff will use the vehicle to help carry supplies for community food drives and to travel throughout our 26-county service territory to assist partner agencies. To view the winning video, visit the Foodbank's YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/stlfoodbank.



IN YOUR BACKYARD

HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY

9237 Coach Stop Road, Columbia, IL 62236

Hope Christian Church Food Pantry in Columbia, Illinois got its' start in November 1997 when five women from the church donated their time and effort to start a food pantry. Today, the pantry provides food assistance and personal hygiene items to approximately 375 people a month.

The food pantry is open the second and fourth Fridays of each month, but also provides emergency food assistance whenever it is needed.

"We serve anyone who needs food," says Pantry Director Jane Wood. "We have never turned anyone away for food. God has provided us the needed food each time we open the pantry."

The pantry serves people of all ages and lifestyles, from single men and women to families numbering from two to 11 people. Wood tells of those seeking assistance after losing their jobs and running out of unemployment benefits as well as working families who need help to make ends meet until the next paycheck arrives.

"In the past six months, on food pantry dates, our numbers have increased by approximately 50-75 additional families," she says.

Hope Christian Church Food Pantry began working with the St. Louis Area Foodbank in 2007. Typically, they obtain food staples, such as peanut butter, soup, macaroni & cheese and pasta, as well as vegetables, bread, produce, household cleaning items and laundry detergent. The pantry picks up food and household products from the Foodbank, but USDA commodities are delivered to them.

"We are very blessed to have the St. Louis Area Foodbank available to us to help our clients meet some of their needs," concluded Wood.

FOOD CHAIN: CHILD FOOD INSECURITY

The St. Louis Area Foodbank and Feeding America have released a new study, "Map the Meal Gap: Child Food Insecurity 2011," revealing that 172,660 children in the bi-state region are struggling with hunger. While one in six Americans of every age is food insecure, the rate for children is much higher, with nearly one in four children around the country living in food insecure households. Food insecurity essentially means at a minimum that nutritionally adequate and safe foods are not readily available to all of the members of a household.

The study provides the following data for our 26-county service territory:

- Within the 26 counties served by the St. Louis Area Foodbank, nearly one-fourth of children are struggling with food insecurity.
- In St. Louis City/County, 100 percent of the food insecure children live at or below 185 percent of the poverty line.
- Among the 14 counties served by the Foodbank in Missouri, the highest rate of childhood food insecurity was found in Washington County – 35.6 percent.
- In the Foodbank's 12-county service territory in Illinois, Franklin County has the highest rate of childhood food insecurity – 32.8 percent.

An executive summary of the report can be found at: feedingamerica.org/mapthegap/childsummary.

In recognition of this growing problem, the St. Louis Area Foodbank has worked to deliver more food to high-need areas, particularly in rural locales where there tend to be fewer resources available. The support we receive from you helps make these much-needed efforts possible.

SHARING THE NEWS ABOUT SHARE THE HARVEST

Missouri Governor Jay Nixon visited the St. Louis Area Foodbank November 1 to encourage local deer hunters to donate venison to the Share the Harvest program, a partnership between the Conservation Federation, the Missouri Department of Conservation, local food banks and meat processors to provide protein-rich food to families in need. He also announced additional funding for the Missouri Association of Food Banks, of which the Foodbank is a member.



HELPING HANDS

EMPLOYEES AT BODINE ALUMINUM COLLECTED 26,000 POUNDS OF FOOD IN A DRIVE HELD EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR THE ST. LOUIS AREA FOODBANK.



VOLUNTEER CORNER

Head to the Hub! The Foodbank has started a new online volunteer application called “Volunteer Hub.” Go to www.stlfoodbank.org and see what shifts we have available for volunteers. You can then directly schedule yourself right online! The application also sends out emails and texts to let volunteers know of any cancellations due to weather or other extenuating circumstances.

BOWL US OVER: BODINE ALUMINUM “CHILLS” AT THE FOODBANK

In August, the St. Louis Area Foodbank welcomed a dozen volunteers from Bodine Aluminum’s two area facilities – the St. Louis plant, which is one of the largest producers of aluminum sand and permanent mold castings in the United States; and the Troy, Mo. plant, which supplies automotive parts for Toyota’s Georgetown, Ky., car manufacturing facility.

The Bodine volunteers gave three hours of their time in the chilliest section of the Foodbank – the cold dock – packaging frozen meats and other foods. The volunteers are part of a group called “Diversity Working Group,” which plans community volunteer work on a regular basis. Bodine holds a large food drive for the St. Louis Area Foodbank in May, but members felt they also wanted to do hands-on community service at our facility, to learn firsthand how the Foodbank works to help people in our bi-state community.

A group from the St. Louis plant had volunteered at the Foodbank in the past; this time they collaborated with employees from the Troy plant, as well.

“Coming to volunteer here, we realized this is a big operation,” notes Hitomi Scott, Bodine administrative specialist. “The place was well-organized and very clean. It was fun working with such a diverse group of people. We had so much fun, the time went so fast!”

The Bodine volunteers said they would definitely recommend serving at the Foodbank to others, and plan to bring more Bodine groups here to help in the future. If your business or association is looking for opportunities for employees to serve the larger community, we hope you’ll follow the lead of these enthusiastic Bodine volunteers! It’s easier than ever, thanks to our new Volunteer Hub (see Volunteer Corner). Check it out!

IN THE BANK

The following organizations held food drives from June 1 to October 15 that collected more than 1,000 pounds of food: Midcoast Aviation, St. Louis Blues Hockey, Congregation Shaare Emeth, Anheuser-Busch, Enclave at Winghamen Apartments, Thyssenkrupp Industrial Services, Berkley Medical, Live Nation’s “20 Tons for 20 Years” food drive, Group Cares, Shop ’n Save “Feed Our Future”, Fifth Third Bank, Novus International, Ace Learning Center, Family Video, Unitrin, Boeing “AmeriCan” Food Drive, Lincoln Industrial, St. Louis Public Library, Fresh 102.5’s “Christmas in July” food drive, Unigroup, Regional Acceptance, Schnucks, St. Louis County Government

These other groups also held food drives: Safeco Insurance, Magellen Behavioral, St. Louis Symphony, Monsanto, Raven Industries, Crawl for Cancer, CSI Leasing, Macy’s, Glenridge Elementary School, Lindbergh High School, Wolters Kluwer Health, Scott Air Force Base, United Way of Greater St. Louis, Clifton Gunderson, Midcoast Aviation, Cardinal Health, FedEx Smart Post, Dave Mungenast Locations, Sperrung Middle School, Unidev The Net Impact, KSDK, Customs Border Protection, Oasis Education Program, Frost Electric,

Everest College, Sports Monster, FedEx Ground, BNY Mellon, Champion Windows, Tarlton Corporation, Dent Wizard, St. Louis Association of Realtors, Bank of America, St. Charles Seed Co., St. Richards Bible School, Convergys, Small Business Administration, St. Charles County Farm Services, Sunset Draperies, Catholic Family Services, Horner & Shifrin, Inc., Chesterfield Academy, Xerox, Doc’s Harley Davidson, Construction Craft Laborers, America’s Incredible Pizza, Hillsboro Treatment Center, Exel Inc., Edward Jones, Washington University School of Medicine, Lindenwood University, Dataz Inc., Enterprise Financial, Fazoli’s Italian Restaurant, Crestwood Elementary School, Longwood Elementary School, Truman Middle School, Kennerly Elementary School, Concord Elementary School, Sappington Elementary School, Lindbergh Administration, Lindbergh Early Childhood, Widespread Panic, Ross & Baruzzini, Dot Foods, Grabbe-Leonard, Community American Credit Union, Enterprise Holdings, Paychex, Wells Fargo Advisors, Fahlo, KinderCare – St. Peters, Bank of America, US Bank, TitleMax, Enterprise Fleet Management, AT&T Services, Wilson School, Missouri Foundation for Health, YMCA of South County

ON THE MENU

Meadows Elementary School (Jan.), AFTRA (Jan.), Canstruction (Mar.)

YOUR NEIGHBOR IS HUNGRY

JANE WOOD, DIRECTOR OF HOPE CHRISTIAN CHURCH FOOD PANTRY in Columbia, Ill. (see “In Your Backyard” page 4), remembers the day a woman and her two small sons arrived at the pantry. It wasn’t one of the two days per month when the pantry is open. “She said all the food she had was mustard, ketchup and bread for her children to eat,” Wood recalls. “We provided her with food and personal hygiene items. Her two sons had the best smiles on their faces when we gave them each a donut to eat,” says Wood. “Those smiles made the work we are doing at the pantry worth every hour we are there!”

COMMUNITY SCREENING OF “GROWING HOPE AGAINST HUNGER”



The new Sesame Street special, “Growing Hope Against Hunger” aired nationally on October 9, 2011. Sesame Workshop, the nonprofit affiliate, chose 15 markets to air private screenings of the special, and elected St. Louis Area Foodbank to be one of the hosts. The Foodbank worked with Vera Jones of Lessie Bates Davis Neighborhood House to show the special to a large group of children ages 2 to 7 on October 14, 2011 at the LBD Family Development Center. The special features Brad and Kim Paisley and a new Muppet named Lily, whose family struggles with hunger and poverty. After watching the show, Foodbank staff led the children in a game about healthy and unhealthy food.

HUNGRY KIDS

New data from Feeding America reveals that 23% of children in the bi-state region struggle with hunger.

BI-STATE
REGION

23%
OF CHILDREN

**FEED HUNGRY PEOPLE BY ACQUIRING AND DISTRIBUTING
FOOD THROUGH OUR MEMBER AGENCIES, AND EDUCATE
THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NATURE OF AND THE SOLUTIONS
TO THE PROBLEMS OF HUNGER.**

mission