



## OPERATION FOOD SEARCH

**The mission of Operation Food Search is to provide food and other basic necessities to individuals in need to help alleviate the burden of hunger and its consequences.**

### **What does this mean?**

Operation Food Search works tirelessly to fight hunger in more ways than one. While we are a leader at collecting and distributing food throughout the bi-state region, we go beyond just supplying agencies with free food. With comprehensive nutrition education programs, an innovative weekend backpack program, and environmentally-friendly green initiatives, **Operation Food Search fights hunger with knowledge, empowerment, and hope.**

Established in 1981 to tackle the growing problem of hunger, Operation Food Search is a St. Louis area **food bank that distributes food - free of charge - to feed the poor and hungry.**

**Each month**, Operation Food Search distributes more than **2 million pounds** of food and necessities to **230** food pantries, soup kitchens, and homeless shelters **in 28 St. Louis-area counties** of Missouri and Illinois.

Operation Food Search feeds approximately **150,000 people every single month** – more than a third of these recipients are **children**.

We are **privately funded**. Food and funds are provided by individuals, businesses and organizations here in our St. Louis area community. We do not receive any United Way funds or government food stuffs. This year we will distribute over **29,000,000 pounds of food and services**.

Without this private support, our mission to feed the poor and hungry could not be achieved. Quite simply, **we are people helping people** – and to this end, we are building a healthier, more vibrant St. Louis region.

**Together, we can impact lives one meal at a time.**

### **MOST NEEDED DONATION ITEMS**

**CANNED MEATS & FISH**

**CANNED VEGETABLES**

**OATMEAL PACKETS**

**CANNED FRUIT (IN JUICE)**

**CANNED CHILI & RAVIOLI**

**WHOLE GRAIN PASTA/BROWN RICE**

**DEODORANT**

**TOOTHPASTE/TOOTHBRUSHES**

**DIAPERS/BABY WIPES**

**FEMININE HYGIENE ITEMS**

**BATH SOAP/SHAMPOO**

**ADULT INCONTINENCE ITEMS**