St. Augustine
WELLSTON CENTER
Confronting & alleviating food insecurity

WELLSTON UPDATE

OCTOBER 2026

768
Member families served

80% Returning families

20% New families

992
Children served



WHAT WE DO
Provide five to seven days of food to members in one of Missouri's most food-insecure areas

HOW WE DO IT
Purchasing our own food
Keeping reliable and consistent hours
Building relationships with our members

WHY WE DO IT
Access to healthy food is not a privilege. It is a foundation of human dignity and stability.

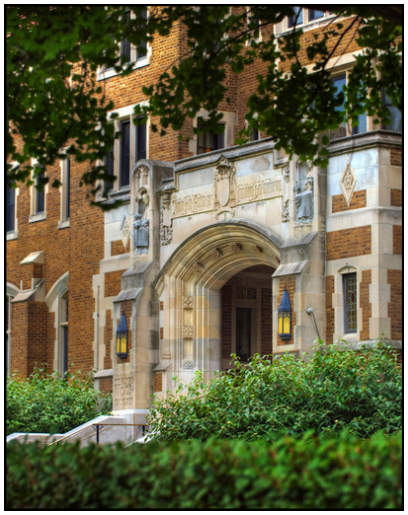
STORIES FROM THE COMMUNITY

Recap: *Fashion a Future Without Hunger*

Thank you to all who attended and supported!

On November 5, friends and volunteers gathered at the Cardinal Rigali Center for our Fashion a Future Without Hunger gala. The evening brought our community together through delicious food, auctions, and meaningful connections, reflecting our mission to transform neighbors into family through God's love.

Special thanks to Beth Schenk and Lynn Born for leading the event, along with everyone who donated, volunteered, and helped make the evening a success. Thanks to their generosity, Fashion a Future Without Hunger is on track to exceed **$100,000** in net proceeds, supporting our mission to provide food, clothing, and hope to neighbors in need.



New Milestone!

St. Augustine Wellston Center is proud to announce it has more than **5,000** food pantry visits in 2026. This more than doubles 2025's total of 2,000.

This growth could not have been achieved without the help of the hardworking volunteers and generous donors. Thank you!

Help Stock the Wellston Center!

Each category below links to its own list with different options for that specific need. Simply click a category, choose an item, and help support the member families we serve.

- Cereal
- Feminine Hygiene
- Incontinence
- Diapers

Thanksgiving At Our Neighbors' Tables

There's a particular peace in being able to tell the people you love, "Come over for Thanksgiving." On Turkey Tuesday, November 24, we're preparing to send about 400 families home with a turkey and the fixings so they can gather around their own tables.

If you're shopping for your family, would you pick up an extra box of stuffing, a can of green beans, or some cranberry sauce for a neighbor? Financial gifts help us practice good Stewardship. Once the food drives come in, we can buy exactly what's missing. To arrange a food donation or volunteer to help get the Center ready on Monday, November 23, email wellstoncenter@gmail.com.



December's Christmas Club

On December 12 and 13, the Wellston Center will celebrate its 33rd annual Christmas Club at the St. Roch gymnasium (6040 Waterman Blvd). This special event allows parents to select and purchase new Christmas gifts for their children at affordable prices, bringing joy and dignity to the holiday season. This year, we expect to serve approximately 400 families, nearly double last year's total.

You can help make Christmas brighter by donating new coats, socks, underwear, or gifts for teens. Donations can be dropped off at the Wellston Center (1705 Kienlen Avenue) by December 10. Volunteers are also needed to help set up and welcome families with warmth and hospitality.
Volunteer or support Christmas Club here.



Thank You St. Joseph - Manchester

For over a decade, St. Joseph Parish in Manchester has faithfully supported the Wellston Center through its monthly "Giving Sunday" donations. Parishioners regularly contribute nonperishable food, diapers, toiletries, and other household essentials, helping keep our shelves stocked and our Member families supported. One Member shared the following,

"This place gives out what is really needed. You have dishes, food. This is a one-stop shop."

This dependable generosity helps us provide necessities that extend beyond the food pantry. We are deeply grateful to the parishioners of St. Joseph Manchester for their continued commitment to serving our neighbors in need.

Employment Connection

This month, we hosted our first World of Work class with Employment Connection. Neighbors came to the Center to explore employment opportunities close to home. Thank you to Sal, Willie, and the Employment Connection team for making it possible. We look forward to building on this partnership in 2027. Learn more about their mission at www.employmentstl.org.

Thank you

to all who support us in the Christmas season!

Please contact us with questions about volunteering or donations!

DONATION DROP-OFFS

All donations must be dropped off at the Wellston Center by **Thursday, December 10th.**
Please contact us to schedule a pickup!

CHRISTMAS CLUB IS OPEN:

Saturday, **December 12**, 2026
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Sunday, **December 13**, 2026
8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Location: **St. Roch Gymnasium**
6040 Waterman Blvd
St. Louis, MO 63112

Please SCAN to DONATE

St. Augustine
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THE 33RD ANNUAL CHRISTMAS CLUB

CONTACT US

1705 Kienlen Ave, St. Louis, MO 63133
314-409-7048
wellstoncenter@gmail.com

CELEBRATE THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS

Since 1993, the St. Augustine Wellston Center has served the poor and hungry in and around the Wellston City area.

To honor the dignity of our Food Pantry Member Families, we celebrate the bonds we have built together and invite families to our Christmas Club.

VOLUNTEER IN THE CLUB:

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12 | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 13 | 8:00 AM - 2:00 PM

PLEASE SCAN TO SEE OUR VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES!



HOW THE CLUB WORKS:

This December, the Wellston Center's Christmas Club will be hosted at St. Roch gymnasium.

6040 Waterman Blvd, St. Louis, MO 63112

For two joyful days, the Club offers a holiday-store-experience of brand-new, unopened gifts of toys, clothing, and household items, able to be purchased by Food Pantry Member Families at an affordable cost. This allows parents to choose the perfect gifts for their children, share in the pride of giving, and celebrate Christmas with dignity.

Rising food costs and growing community need mean we depend more than ever on generous donors to purchase gifts from our suggested list and on dedicated volunteers to help set up, decorate, and assist shoppersduring this special event.

ITEMS TO GIFT:

- **Household Favorites**

Microwaves, Instapots, AirFryers, Toaster Ovens, Electric Skillets, Crockpots, Pots & Pans Sets, Roasters, Blenders, Coffee Makers, Waffle Makers, Electric Heaters, Flatware, Glassware Sets, Storage Containers, Sets of Cooking Utensils, Electric Hand Mixers, Electric Can Openers, Dishes, Flashlights, Food Processors

- **Toys & Family Fun**

Sports Equipment, Remote Control Cars, Family Board Games, Barbies, Ethnic Dolls, Baby Toys, Lego sets, and more

- **Warm & Wearable (All Ages)**

Coats, Jackets, Knit Sweaters, Sweatsuits, Pajamas, Slippers (L and XL preferred), Socks, Underwear

- **Linens, Bedding, & Comfort**

Comforter Sets, Non-White Sheet Sets (King, Queen, and Full), Bed Blankets, Plush Non-White Towels (Hand/Bath/Washcloths), Kitchen Towels, Mitts, Dish Cloths

- **Gifts & Personal Care**

Fragrance Gift Sets, Men's Toiletry Sets, Grooming Sets, Jewelry, Watches, Wall Clocks, Basic Tool Sets, Other Hand Tools, Lotions, Holiday Food Gift Packages, Popcorn Tins, Clock Radios, Wireless headphones, speakers, nail polish, nail sets, hair accessories

- **Holiday Extras**

Wrapping Paper, Tape, Christmas Cards, AA Batteries