St. Augustine
WELLSTON CENTER
Confronting & alleviating food insecurity

# WELLSTON UPDATE

## SEPTEMBER 2026

**552**
**Member families served**

**80%** Returning families

**20%** New families

**713**
**Children served**



**WHAT WE DO**
*Provide 5-7 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

### UPCOMING EVENT: *Fashion a Future Without Hunger*

**Thursday, November 5th, 6:00 PM – 10:00 PM**

St. Augustine Wellston Center's fall fundraiser is right around the corner! Join us for an elegant evening featuring both live and silent auctions, open bar, hors d'oeuvres, and fund-a-need. Guests are encouraged to wear cocktail attire. The event will be held in the Cardinal Rigali Center's Fleur De Lis Room located in Shrewsbury, MO.

Individual tickets are $150, with discounted table reservations of 4 or 8 available as well.

If you are unable to attend, please consider donating!

Visit *fashionafuture.givesmart.com* to purchase tickets, donate, and view auction items.



*Cardinal Rigali Center*




### 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

## A Recipe for Healthier, Happier Meals

At the Wellston Center, providing food is about more than making sure families have enough to eat. We believe everyone deserves the comfort of a good meal and the opportunity to gather around the dinner table with loved ones. Dedicated volunteer Ellen Schmitt has taken this mission to heart, helping families make the most of the food available to them. She has begun developing an online recipe book featuring meals made entirely from ingredients offered at the Center, providing practical ideas for preparing healthy, satisfying meals at home.

Ellen has also helped make spices a regular part of our food offerings, recognizing that even the simplest ingredients can become something special with a little added flavor. Her efforts reflect the importance of thoughtful stewardship: making the most of the resources we have while never losing sight of the people we serve. Through her care and creativity, Ellen is helping families enjoy more than a full plate. She's helping create opportunities for the warmth, comfort, and togetherness that come from sharing a good meal.

Find the link to her *online recipe book* here.

## A Personal Touch to the Wellston Center

At the Wellston Center, hospitality begins with something as simple as greeting someone by name. This year, dedicated volunteer AnnMarie helped bring that spirit to life by crafting new aprons for our volunteers. Beyond making volunteers easily recognizable to members and visitors, the aprons help everyone learn each other's names, encouraging the personal connections that make the Center feel like a welcoming community.

For AnnMarie, this project is just one of many thoughtful contributions that have helped shape the Center's warm and inviting atmosphere. The importance of that hospitality is perhaps best expressed by one of our members, who shared this:

*"You [the volunteers] make everybody feel welcome. If you don't have a family, when you come in here you feel like you have one."*

It's a powerful reminder that the smallest gestures can make the greatest difference. Through her continued generosity and attention to the little things, AnnMarie helps make the Wellston Center a place where neighbors truly feel like family.




## Book Book Go - Thank You!

A heartfelt thank you to Book Book Go for their generous donation of books to the Wellston Center's thrift store! Dedicated to improving childhood literacy, Book Book Go works to make reading more accessible to children in underserved communities throughout the greater St. Louis area. Their generosity reflects a shared belief that every family deserves opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive. We're grateful to help extend the reach of their mission by giving these books a place in our thrift store, where they can find new homes and bring the joy of reading to more members of our community.

*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

Please SCAN to DONATE

St. Augustine
# WELLSTON CENTER
Confronting & alleviating food insecurity

# 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 Parish.**

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