

HIGHLIGHTS

391

total individuals served through our food pantry

68

total individuals helped not in our service area

4,490 LBS

total of food distributed

\$7,411

total value of food and hygiene products distributed

\$1,100

total utility assistance granted (Ameren and Spire bills)

A NOTE FROM HALEY

Since our founding in 1993, we have always closed our doors for three weeks in the summer to all of our services. What started as a time where the Sisters went on their spiritual retreats, the break has evolved as a built-in reset button for the Center, staff, volunteers, and our clients.

This break serves as more than a time for re-organization and catching up on paperwork - though that is definitely a bonus! It allows much needed time for our volunteers and staff to recharge from their demanding work. You would be hard pressed to find more dedicated and empathetic people than those who use their free time at the Wellston Center to ensure the low-income community is fed and clothed. Nevertheless, their needs need to be prioritized, too!

Time off offers the mental clarity needed to properly assist and care for our future clients. We are our best selves, personally and professionally, when given the time to care for our own well-being. The bottom line is that our three week closing benefits all those involved with the Center!

With gratitude and appreciation,



H. Calabro
Haley Calabro, MSW
Executive Director

FLOODING AFTERMATH IN WELLSTON

HUNDREDS OF RESIDENTS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE

While FEMA has been at the ready with resources people need in the region to recover, we've been seeing many of our clients come to us distraught over the recent flooding and the damage to their homes. We're looking for in-kind donations of **bleach and cleaning supplies** to help our clients get back on their feet.



NEW COMMUNITY SPACE

Each year, our priorities shift from what we choose to focus on during the three weeks that we are closed. Two years ago, we concentrated on making our food pantry as efficient as possible through organization during the height of the pandemic to support both volunteers and clients. Last year, our concern was updating our thrift store with new fixtures, marketing, and reorganizing the main shopping areas to attract more customers.

This year, we wanted to address making the Center welcoming to both our food pantry clients and thrift store customers. Ultimately, we chose to create a **new community space** where our furniture section for our thrift store used to be (don't worry - we moved that section to the thrift store!). This space includes new round tables for our clients to congregate, a table where free items are distributed, a health center for our volunteer nurses, and a nutrition nook sponsored by Operation Food Search. We unveiled the new space last week and the clients LOVED it! Clients were meeting their neighbors and coming together to share stories. It was truly beautiful to see our vision of a safe and inviting environment come to life.



July Feature

Top Requested Food Items

Canned Fruit
(263 cans distributed)

Canned Tuna
(230 cans distributed)

Canned Vegetables
(209 cans distributed)

Most Requested Hygiene Products

Laundry Detergent
(81 bottles distributed)

Bars of Soap
(104 bars distributed)

Deodorant
(40 sticks distributed)

Current Food Pantry Needs

- Jelly (urgent)
- Mac and Cheese
- Canned Chili
- Canned Chicken
- Healthy Snacks
- Bars of Soap
- Body Lotion
- Adult Diapers (M-XL)

DID YOU KNOW...

the cost of school supplies for a 1st grader is \$113.65?

With back to school rapidly approaching, we spent the past few weeks in overdrive filling backpacks with new school supplies for all the kiddos in our community. Last year, we distributed **over 200 backpacks** to ensure all children have the tools that they need confidently participate and thrive in school and we anticipate doing more this fall. Thank you to all who have donated thus far for this new school year!

