City’s Week of Living United results

The City’s Week of Living United festivities may be over, but you still have the opportunity to pledge your support to the United Way through a payroll deduction donation.

Successful fundraising events were held by several departments throughout the week. Here is how each event came out:

- **Bake Sale** - $394.75 (BDS)
- **Ice Cream Socials** - $510.35 (Public Works/Env. Svcs.)
- **Pizza Lunch** - $295.00 (1/2 split Police and Fire)
- **“Support Your Team”** - $597.00 (Everybody)
- **Popcorn** - $64.00 (Parks)
- **Chili Lunch** - $348.00 (1/2 split BDS and Planning)
- **Desserts** - $97.75 (Finance)
- **Silent Auction** - $2,991.50 (Everybody)
- **Wreath of MO Lottery Scratch-Off** - $904.00 (Finance)

The grand total for the 2012 Week of Living United events came to $6,202.35, which is only a tad shy of the $6,592.27 total from 2011.

You can still give!

This year the City is involved in a little friendly donation competition with City Utilities and Greene County. Help us earn bragging rights (and a cool travelling trophy) as the top public service heavyweight champion of United Way giving.

We only have until Oct. 15 to

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See UNITED WAY on page 6.

E-Verify Ordinance lawsuit settled

The City of Springfield has reached an agreement with plaintiffs (Positronic Industries, Inc.; Oke-Thomas & Associates; Stenger Management LLC; and Joe Robles) in a lawsuit over the City’s controversial E-Verify ordinance approved by voters in February.

The plaintiffs contended that the ordinance, proposed by the Ozarks Minutemen and passed by initiative petition, was unconstitutional and in violation of federal and state law.

The U.S. Federal District Court entered judgment on the agreement Sept. 20, leaving intact only a small part of the ordinance, and ordering that what remains are provisions that may only be enforced consistently with state and federal law.

The City and plaintiffs agreed to the terms of the judgment and City Attorney Dan Wichmer said his office defended what they thought were legal portions of the ordinance.

“There were many areas where the legal analysis between the City and plaintiffs reached the same conclusion as to the unenforceable provisions,” he said. To avoid waste of money and resources, the City made what is known as an “offer of judgment” after discussions with plaintiff’s counsel, he explained. It was this judgment that was entered by the Federal Court Clerk.

Positronic’s President John Gentry points out the

See E-VERIFY on page 3.

Leaving a legacy

Remembering community leader, Robin Melton.

inBalance Events

Take note of upcoming wellness events!

Do you know?

Get to know Pam Boyce with the Airport.

BeCivil BeHeard.com

Acknowledge Others

Greet people, ideas and values with respect.
Community leader Robin Melton made a positive impact

It is with a heavy heart that we send our sincere condolences to the friends and families of the victims of the Sept. 15 plane crash north of Springfield. Among those on board the plane was Robin Melton, a local business and community leader, who served as co-chair of the FieldGuide 2030 (our community strategic plan) planning committee.

The City of Springfield greatly appreciates Robin’s contributions and wanted to say a few words about her positive impact:

“Robin was an independent-minded, strong businesswoman who cared deeply about her community,” said Springfield City Manager Greg Burris.

“When she was asked to co-chair the strategic planning committee, she was reluctant at first because she was humble. I asked her to seriously consider it because she was independent, fair and brought a new and fresh perspective.”

Burris explained that Robin and co-chair Mark McNay have worked together to navigate the planning committee through multiple issues.

“Robin was the perfect co-chair for our community’s planning initiative,” said McNay. The two led a coordinating committee meeting with City Manager Greg Burris the week before the accident.

“In addition to working beside her on the FieldGuide, I’ve had the pleasure of serving with her on the Chamber Board and the Watershed Committee Capital Campaign. I’ve always known Robin as a passionate professional who led by example. I’ve always admired her unique ability to build consensus. Her leadership will be sorely missed,” McNay said.

Robin was President and Owner of Environmental Works, Inc. (EWI), an environmental consulting firm. After starting the company in 1992, Robin successfully grew the firm to nearly 50 associates and three locations – Springfield, MO headquarters with regional offices in Rolla, MO and Kansas City, KS.

Environmental Works, Inc. (EWI) has helped lead the revitalization of city districts through a variety of joint projects. EWI partnered with the City of Springfield, Missouri for several years on various environmental assessment and brownfield restoration projects under the City’ Brownfields Consultant Contract. Of significant note, an abundance of abandoned service stations, petroleum distribution facilities and neglected underground storage tanks (USTs) have hindered redevelopment projects throughout the community. To help mitigate associated concerns, EWI successfully completed dozens of environmental assessments through joint ventures with Missouri Department of Natural Resources, developers and various community-based organizations.

Robin also shared her time and talent by serving as a board member for the following non-profit boards: Mercy Hospital, Springfield Chamber of Commerce, Jordan Valley Innovation Center, Inc., Urban Neighborhoods Alliance, Watershed Committee of the Ozarks, and Missouri Petroleum Storage Tank Insurance Fund. EWI is also a corporate sponsor of the James River Basin Partnership.

“Robin’s entrepreneurial spirit, dedication to community and commitment to preserving and enhancing quality of life, will be missed. Her support of environmental preservation practices to help lead to a sustainable future will no doubt leave a positive legacy,” Burris concluded.

Running a Tape in Excel

A lot of Excel users still use adding machines on their desks because they find it convenient for “running a tape” on a list of numbers. Seeing each number as they type and having a running total really is convenient.

Select a range of cells large enough to accommodate your list of numbers and start typing. Each number you type will be listed in the cells and the running total will be shown in the Status Bar. If the SUM doesn’t show up in the status bar, right click in the status bar area and make sure the SUM feature is checked.

Hints from the Help Desk

Don’t forget about free online training with Lynda.com!
To find out more, contact the Help Desk at: 864-1111
plaintiffs do not support or condone illegal immigration in any form. “All of us were opposed to the proposed E-Verify ordinance because it puts Springfield businesses at a competitive disadvantage by piling on more City regulations in an area of the law pervasively covered by federal law. It was clearly ill-conceived and overreaching with mostly unconstitutional provisions,” he explained.

As part of the judgment, the City agreed to pay $45,550 in attorneys’ fees and Court costs, admitting the plaintiffs are “prevailing parties.”

“We are pleased to have these issues behind us so that we may focus on the business of serving our citizens again,” said Greg Burris, City Manager.

The City law department will bring forward a “clean-up” bill to bring the current ordinance into conformity with the judgment. This will essentially mirror current federal and state law, Wichmer said.

At that time, the City should be essentially in the same position as before the ordinance, with employers compelled to comply with the current federal and state law. Laws essentially require companies to employ only individuals who may legally work in the United States – either U.S. citizens, or foreign citizens who have the necessary authorization. Laws do not mandate the use of E-Verify – the free Internet-based system that allows businesses to determine the eligibility of their employees to work in the United States.
Welcome

Nicholas Nelson
Director of Art
Museum – Art Museum
Glenda Troop
Accounting Technician – Planning and Development
Laura Henderson
Staff Nurse – Health
Lisa Matthes
Community Recreation Supervisor – Parks
Derek Gillis
Laboratory Analyst – Environmental Services
Lewis Burgess
Barry Rowell
License Inspectors – Finance
Christi Edwards
Legal Technician – Building Development
Emily Burney
Police Services Representative – Police
Deborah Barnhart
Office Assistant – Parks
Heather Huff
Court Services Representative – Municipal Court

Kenneth Carlisle
Plant Maintenance Mechanic I – Environmental Services
Dennis Matthews
Building Maintenance Craftswoman – Public Works
Mart Reid
Wastewater Sludge Truck Operator – Environmental Services
Shaun Smith
Maintenance Worker – Parks
Kendall Sawyer
Parks Caretaker – Parks

Promotions

Darla Morrison
Senior Human Resources Coordinator – Human Resources
Grant Dorrell
Brian Phillips
Robert Pitts
Gregory Wheelan
Police Lieutenants – Police
James McCulloch
David Millsap
Police Captains – Police
Lori Stubbeman
License Inspector – Finance
Keith Coker
Austin Nystrom
Senior Inflow & Infiltration Technicians – Environmental Services

FOR SALE

2006 Toyota Tacoma 2WD access cab x-runner. 77K miles. Cardinal red w/grey interior. Extra sharp, looks and runs like new. 6 cyl; manual trans; 4 dr. $16,000. Call Rick at 880-4323.

Complimentary facial and fall glamour makeovers! Let me create your new every day or glamour look or improve your skin’s appearance with an updated skin care routine featuring Mary Kay products! Contact Karen Herron at 555-1982 or karenherron@marykay.com.

Everyone deserves legal protection. With Legal Shield you have it. Everyone living under your roof is covered. For traffic tickets and accidents, Legal Shield will represent you in court and achieve the best options available to you. It’s included. You, your spouse and teen drivers are all covered. Welcome to peace of mind. Visit www.legalshield.com for more information. For City of Springfield employees it is only $15.95/mo. Contact John for more information or to sign up. 861-0323.

Stephanie Chase Cleaning Service
“Professional House Cleaning”
License and Insured
299-9034 | Stephaniechase18@gmail.com
References upon request.

Have something to buy, sell or offer as a service to your fellow City employees? Get the word out and list it in the SCENE Marketplace! Email exact wording and contact information to thescene@springfieldmo.gov.
OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

1  Jason Dean  FR
   Joe Hamp  PW
   Joel Holdman  911
   Kimberly Jones  AIR
   Keith Kenyeri  FR
   Chase Neff  PRK
   Gary Smith  IS

2  Brian Athen  FR
   Kevin Brown  POL
   Patrick Carey  POL
   Ashley Elliott  POL
   Marla Harman  POL
   Preston Ingram  POL
   Scott Owens  POL
   Patricia Steiner  PRK
   Rebecca Wilson  PRK

3  Thomas Cunningham  PRK
   Vickie Harris  WD
   Jill Larsen  PRK
   Eric Latimer  FR
   Aaron Ramsey  POL

4  Russell Davis  FR
   William Evans  PRK
   Becky Hollis  PRK
   Will Kelb  WD
   Joey Addison  FR
   Anita Baker Climer  WD
   Brandi Curl  PRK
   Joseph Lane  PRK
   Daniel Mork  PW
   Lisa Powell  PDV
   Marcia Robinson-O'Connor  PDV

5  Gregory Anderson  POL
   Virginia Essary  WD
   John Hickman  AIR
   Blanche Jones  WD
   Lawrence Ray  AIR
   Daniel Speights  PDV
   Morgan White  PDV
   Jack Davis  PDV
   Rickey Helton  PDV
   Janet Howard  PDV
   John Hickman  PDV
   Gregory Roeder  PDV
   Michael Sparlin  PDV
   Olivia Tinkler  PDV
   Lane Walden  PDV
   Dan Wichmer  PDV

6  Tristen Frizzell  PW
   Luke Green  PW
   Michele Huntley  PW
   Elizabeth Nelson  PW
   Daniel Dale  PW
   Palmer Harrison  PW
   Shane Kern  PW

7  Benjamin Lord  WD
   Wilma May  PRK
   Karen Newman  PRK
   Ethan Ramsey  PRK
   Marc Stevens  PRK
   Teresa Stevens  PRK

8  Kimberly Batson  PRK
   Mackenzie Laney  PRK
   Linda Maddux  PRK
   Timothy Moore  PRK
   Ronald Powell  PRK
   Neva Wooliver  PRK

9  Chuck Cowan  AIR
   Donnie Garrison  AIR
   Jamie Gragg  AIR
   Sean Jackson  AIR
   Kevin Marquart  AIR

10  Jennifer Cole  PRK
    Norma Ehrhardt  PRK
    John Grier  PRK
    Stephen Hoffmeister  PRK
    Wanda Joy  PRK
    Neal McAmis  PRK
    Rod Noble  PRK
    Spain Raredon  PRK

11  Darrel Baldwin  PRK
    Steve Dunagan  PRK
    Valerie Haigh  PRK
    Julie Holman  PRK
    Kalle Hoy  PRK
    Logan Hughes  PRK
    Thomas Kirby  PRK
    Pam Long  AIR
    Victoria Trampler  AIR
    Donald Travers  AIR

12  Marilyn Booker  PRK
    Brandon Bough  PRK
    Jerry Brymer  PRK
    Tommy Ganzer  PRK
    Amanda Irwin  PRK
    Jeanette McFadden  PRK

13  Joseph Payne  PW
    Daniel Stanley  PW
    Cassidy Lowe  PW
    Steven Pratt  PW
    Victor Raby  PW
    Kathleen Ruffell  PW
    Tom Rykowski  PW
    Stephen Staley  PW
    Tina Stob  PW
    Virginia Wood  PW

14  Shirley Beasley  PRK
    Heather Huff  PRK
    Robert Mallow  PRK
    Kelly Page  PRK
    Gregory Rhodes  PRK
    Don Underwood  PRK
    Scott Vreeland  PRK
    Gregory Wiley  PRK

15  Nicholas Casertano  PRK
    Steven Harter  PRK
    Carrie Lamb  PRK
    Ebbony McEccimmons  PRK
    Erick Roberts  PRK
    Alex Turner  PRK
    Carrie Wallen  PRK

16  Scott Foley  PW
    Brittany Goehr  PW
    Christopher Johns  PW
    Errin Kemper  PW
    Chaz Mayes  PW
    Timothy Whitman  PW

17  Erica Lipanovich  PRK
    Orenthal Marshall  PRK
    Bill Morrow  PRK
    Phyllicia Poelma  PRK
    Denise Ruble  PRK
    Jes Simpson  PRK
    Douglas Thomas  PRK
    Doug Thrasher  PRK
    Warren Wendler  PRK
    Samantha Williams  PRK
    Jacquelyn Woods  PRK

18  Robert Baker  PRK
    Megan Genzler  PRK
    James Rawe  PRK
    Peggy Thompson  PRK

19  Shirley Ehrenfeld  PW
    Tony Leckrone  PW

20  Robert Alcorn  PW
    Kevin Clark  PW
    Jean Hale  PW
    Raymond Hyncik  PW
    Quincy Smith  PW
    Sharon Smith  PW

21  Sara Underwood  PRK

22  Michael Howard  PRK

23  Kent Clayton  PRK

24  Clifton Anderson  PRK
    Andrea Coleman  PRK
    Larry Ford  PRK
    Richard Grube  PRK
    Dylan Highfill  PRK
    Alex Russell  PRK
    Thomas Savard  PRK

25  Vernon Armstrong  PRK
    David Byron  PRK
    Cody Williams  PRK

26  James Carr  PRK

27  Brandon Braun  PRK
    Nicholas Hartman  PRK
    Robert Jones  PRK
    Carol Knight  CM
    Cindy Mayshark  CM
    Katie McCormick  CM

28  Greg Burris  CM
    Stephanie Crutcher  CM
    Rosemary Hallman  CM
    Teresa Mitchell  CM
    Matthew Taylor  CM

29  Robert Baker  PW
    Megan Genzler  PW
    James Rawe  PW
    Peggy Thompson  PW

30  Brandon Braun  PW
    Nicholas Hartman  PW
    Robert Jones  PW
    Carol Knight  PW
    Cindy Mayshark  PW
    Katie McCormick  PW

31  Greg Burris  CM
    Stephanie Crutcher  CM
    Rosemary Hallman  CM
    Teresa Mitchell  CM
    Matthew Taylor  CM

SCENE 5
**Employee flu clinics offering free vaccinations**

Flu season is quickly approaching. The flu is more than just a bad cold and can cause high fever, headache, extreme tiredness, and body aches. The seasonal flu affects between 5% and 20% of the US population each year and spreads quickly from person to person. The best way to avoid becoming ill with the flu is to receive the flu vaccination.

In an effort to provide protection from the flu, vaccinations will be provided by the City of Springfield and Greene County at no charge to employees. Please note: retirees, employee spouses and retiree spouses will be offered vaccines through employee clinics for $13 per dose, which is the cost of the vaccine.

The **2012 employee seasonal flu clinic schedule is as follows:**

- **Monday, Oct. 8th**
  1:30 p.m. – 4 p.m.
  Westside Public Health Center
  660 S. Scenic Ave.
- **Wednesday, Oct. 10th**
  10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  Westside Public Health Center
  660 S. Scenic Ave.
- **Thursday, Oct. 11th**
  10 a.m. – 2 p.m.
  Busch Building Room L-45 - 830 N Boonville Ave. and the Environmental Health Services Building (the Church) - 320 E. Central
  (for those who do not have security badge access to the lower level of the Busch Building)

Please call **864-1112** a week before the flu clinics are scheduled to be sure there are no changes.

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**Diversity@Work**

**Diversity and Self-Awareness**

We all fall somewhere in the spectrum of accepting and dealing positively with others. Have you ever considered how agreeable you are to working or interacting with people whose background is different from yours? See the definitions below and consider which one might describe your approach to interacting with others. If you would like to view the entire self assessment, visit: www.bedfordchamber.org/pubs/selfassessment.pdf.

- **Unaware** – Those under this group don’t realize they exhibit biased behavior. They may offend others without being aware of it. They may accept stereotypes as facts. They may even unknowingly commit illegal acts!
- **Traditionalist** – This applies to those who are conscious of their prejudices and that their behavior may offend some people.
- **Neutral** – People in this category are aware of biases in themselves and others. They are working to overcome their own prejudices, but are reluctant to address inappropriate behavior by others. They avoid risk by saying nothing and this is often perceived as agreement.
- **Change agents** – This applies to individuals who are aware of biases in themselves and others and realize the negative impact that comes from acting on those biases. Change agents are willing to take action when they encounter inappropriate words, behaviors, or attitudes. They relate to people in a way that values diversity.
- **Rebels** – Individuals who are acutely aware of prejudice and bias—sometimes to a fault. At times they may come across too strong and appear to be overreacting.

Consider the following questions and rate yourself, 1 – 5, how well does this describe you?

- When I don’t understand what some one says, I ask for clarification.
- I work willingly and cooperatively with people different from me.
- I’m interested in the ideas of people who don’t think as I do, and I respect their opinions, even when I disagree.
- I’m aware of my prejudices and consciously try to control my behavior and thought processes.

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**UNITED WAY from page 1.**

**Your $1 per week payroll deduction donation can provide:**

- A deployment of volunteers and resources to serve twenty-six people in the event of a natural disaster.
- The chance for two children, who have been victims of physical or sexual abuse, to tell their story to a trained professional and begin healing.
- A nutritious, midday meal for two people in need, every day, for one year.
- Short-term, emergency shelter for five women and children escaping domestic violence.
- Quality after-school programs for one child in a safe, structured environment surrounded by caring adults.
- New, age-appropriate books for children living in poverty, in order to foster an early love of reading.
- Access to much-needed dental treatment for three low-income, uninsured individuals.
Chamber offers Facing Racism program

The Springfield Area Chamber of Commerce will again offer Facing Racism, a program teaching participants to understand the history of racism and how it still affects people today. The two-day program will take place 8 a.m. - 4 p.m., Nov. 8 and 9 at the Chamber of Commerce. The cost is $200 for non-profit participants and $300 for for-profit; need-based scholarships are also available. For more information or to register, visit www.springfieldchamber.com/facingracism.

New vehicles and equipment to aid Springfield Police in crime fighting

Two new vehicles and additional sophisticated onboard equipment will allow the Springfield Police Department (SPD) to better respond to dangerous incidents, track down and apprehend criminals, and collect forensic evidence to help solve homicides and other crimes.

Funding came from more than $300,000 in grants, combined with seized funds and savings from the City’s general fund, for an automated license plate recognition system; BearCat special purpose response and rescue vehicle; and a new crime scene van.

CreAsian donates half of proceeds from 9/11 sales to SPD, SFD

CreAsian restaurant, at the northwest corner of Chestnut and Campbell in Springfield, donated $1,688 (half of their gross sales Tuesday, Sept. 11), to the City’s Police and Fire departments. Proceeds will benefit SPD’s crime prevention and neighborhood watch programs and SFD’s fire education and prevention efforts. Restaurant co-owner Kiki Hu says her husband Johnny Tang came up with the idea because he wanted to give back to the community. “We are so blessed and he [Tang] felt that since he came here 11 years ago, he had nothing. Now he has a restaurant and a family,” she explained. “It’s now time to contribute back to society.”

Tang also owns Max Orient in the Battlefield Mall Food Court.

Springfield firefighters go to cooking school

The Springfield Fire Department and Price Cutter Culinary Director James Clary are teaming up to provide firefighters with hands-on training for how to cook healthy fare on a budget.

This training is part of an increased focus on firefighter health.

For the next two weeks, fire crews will visit the Taste Classroom inside Price Cutter at Republic and Kansas Expressway, where they will learn the essential ingredients and recipes every firefighter needs to know for cooking and eating healthy. The training lasts two hours and the firefighters are able to sample a meal prepared by Chef Clary following the event.

From the SCENE archives

10 years ago – October 2002
City Leaders Break Ground on Expo Center

A groundbreaking ceremony was held 9/20/02 to mark the beginning of construction for the Springfield Exposition Center. A few of the speakers included Missouri Governor Bob Holden, House Speaker Jim Kreider, Mayor Tom Carlson, and Councilman Ralph Manley. The new Exposition Center will have more than 91,000 usable square feet of new space, and will be able to accommodate 4,400 attendees, with a seating capacity of 3,000.

20 years ago – October 1992
Cooperation and Communication From Chief of Police Terry Knowles

“I want to recognize and personally thank our fellow City employees from the Service Center, Public Works Department, who helped us ‘recreate’ the suspect van in the missing persons investigation. We have had two separate witnesses come forward who have furnished a general description of an older model van which, in their opinion, is connected to the missing persons case involving Suzie Streeter, Sherrill Levitt, and Stacy McCall. From their descriptions, detectives located an abandoned van at a salvage yard at Aurora, Missouri. We asked the Public Works Department to assist us in restoring this abandoned van in order to place it on public display, thereby giving citizens a specific example to search for. By this investigative approach, we hope to develop new investigative leads for our detectives.”

In Brief

Do You Know...?

Pam Boyce
Executive Secretary Springfield-Branson National Airport
Pam has worked for the City since January 2012

What are you most proud of?
My son. He is my only child and the reason I live in Springfield, MO. He is married with 2 kids. He has turned into the most awesome parent and is a wonderful husband. I enjoy watching the way he and Chrissy, my daughter in law, communicate in good and bad times and I love the way they parent their kids. Their kids will grow up knowing they can become whatever they want to be!

What’s your favorite movie?
“You’ve Got Mail”, I enjoy it because it is in New York at Christmas time. Such a relaxing feel-good movie. I’ve watched it too many times to count.

What makes you smile?
Making people smile! Building relationships and making a difference in people’s lives. It is a simple thing to do through listening and encouragement.

The SCENIC Route

Public Works Director Phil Broyles has received high marks nationally as one of the Top Ten Public Works Leaders in America. His high ranking, in turn, reflects on the City as one of the top ten Springfields in America.
To: Public Works Engineering Division

On behalf of all of us at the Child Advocacy Center, let me tell you what a joy it was to have the guys from Public Works join us again this year for Day of Caring! It’s always good to see the faces of those who have been here before, and a treat to have new ones “join the forces!”

You all take such good care of us! We don’t take lightly the fact that your crew spent two days (and more!) working on our projects. We know how tough it is to put your own work aside and rearrange things! It means a great deal to us to have you here, and even more to the families that we serve. We always have folks comment on how clean and welcoming our building and grounds look! It’s part of our goal to provide a tiny space of respite and calm for little lives that have been turned upside down, and we have you to thank for helping us achieve that. We’re really excited about having a new snack spot for them!

From the fence to the brush to the picnic pad, we say “thank you!” All the projects on our list turned out wonderfully well, and we truly appreciate the hard work everyone put in. We hope you had as good a time as we did, and will want to come back again and again! You are always welcome! In friendship,

Brenda Brown
The Child Advocacy Center Inc.

To: Environmental Services Dept.

On behalf of Dairy Farmers of America and the employees at the Springfield facility, thank you for presenting the award at the Ozarks GreenScore recognition event on July 11.

We appreciate the time you took from your busy schedule to be with us and are honored to have received the Ozarks GreenScore Gold Level award.

We continue to strive to be leaders in sustainability and look forward to seeing you again when we attain our Green Level recognition.

Sincerely,
Dana Lowe, Plant Manager
Jim Hopwood, Director of Operations

To: Alex Clark and Fire Station #4

On May 10th, a 68 year old woman may have blacked out while driving on East Kearney and had an auto accident. When Quint 4 arrived, the woman was coherent, but had no idea what had happened. Mrs. Dolin is from Chadwick, MO, and every couple of months, she drives to Springfield to stock up on groceries. The crew took care of her immediate needs, she gave them her sister’s phone number, and she was taken to the hospital by ambulance. Mrs. Dolin had five large coolers and other groceries in her vehicle. The crew took the groceries back to the station, contacted the sister, cleaned up the spilled or broken packages, and re-iced the coolers. Mrs. Dolin’s sister arrived a couple of hours later to pick up the groceries.

Here is the actual note that was written by Mrs. Dolin:

Dear Alex Clark and the crew of Fire Station #4,

There are no words to thank you for all you did on May 10. The groceries you so generously secured and took care of until my sister could pick them up fed my husband and myself for ½ months. I am sorry it has taken so long to write and thank you. With the broken bone in my hand, I could not write. My husband had knee replacement surgery before the wreck, and it has not gone well – with infections, not being straight, and much trouble to begin with. Please accept our gratitude and appreciation.

You show so much of old fashioned human kindness. May God Bless and keep each one of you!

George and Garnet Dolin

To: City of Springfield - Busch Building 4th Floor

We can’t thank you enough for volunteering at Ozarks Food Harvest on the 20th annual United Way Day of Caring! Thanks to you, someone will eat today.

Collectively, the four businesses who gave time to the Food Bank, sorted more than 4,780 pounds of canned food items, packed 1,300 Weekend Backpacks Program bags, assembled 912 Hygiene Kits for Backpack kids, created hundreds of Backpack “Hope Notes” and collected 1,454 pounds of food - and $220 - at two drives held at the Walmart Neighborhood Markets. Together, our Day of Caring volunteers provided more than 14,310 meals for neighbors struggling with food insecurity - 1 in 6 in southwest Missouri!

One of our member food pantries recently shared with us, “Demand has increased 40 percent, and it’s the most we have ever seen in the last ten years of operating the main food pantry in the region.”

Their client, 28-year-old Cynthia, said, “We try to make ends meet, but sometimes we cannot afford to buy food.”

Thank you for Transforming Hunger into Hope for Cynthia and the 170,000 Ozarkers accessing OFH food pantries, feeding sirs or direct-service programs throughout the year.

Kindest Regards,
Jennifer Sickinger
Coordinator of Volunteer Services
Ozarks Food Harvest