



SUCCESS STORY

Operation Food Search

Promoting Sustainable Food Access through Partnership

Tackling a big challenge like food insecurity takes fresh thinking and great partners.

United Healthcare Community Plan of Missouri donated two Flex Farms to Operation Food Search, a St. Louis-based non-profit dedicated to ending hunger. The produce grown in the Flex Farms goes to Operation Food Search’s Fresh Rx program, which connects families experiencing food insecurity with fresh, local food and resources for a healthy household. The Fresh Rx program aligns its menus with the growing cycles so that participants are able to make recipes with produce picked that day.

The produce is also distributed through their mobile pantry, MetroMarket, and vast partner network. Each Flex Farm can serve up to 1,900 families per year with a harvest of nearly 3,400 plants. The low operating cost of the Flex Farm makes the produce incredibly affordable for the program, costing less than \$1 per pound.

“We’re really focused on looking at local food access and sustainability. We’re looking at ways to get more fresh, particularly fresh and local, produce into the hands of all of the community residents. Hydroponics is a really energy-efficient way for us to start building that capacity.”

Trina Ragain
Director of Policy and Innovation,
Operation Food Search

“We love how vertical farming creates a sustainable year-round supply of fresh vegetables for our community. If we can reduce food insecurity and improve overall nutrition for Missourians, everyone wins.”

Jamie Bruce
CEO of United Healthcare Community Plan of Missouri

\$5,488

ANNUAL FRESH FOOD COST SAVINGS

DISTRIBUTED THROUGH FRESH RX PROGRAM, MOBILE PANTRY AND MORE

5,000

ANNUAL CAPACITY OF FOOD SERVINGS