



Hello WUNS Parents!

During this upcoming season of giving, WUNS will host a food drive for the St. Louis community organization, **Operation Food Search**. Did you know there are enough St. Louis kids at risk of experiencing hunger that they could fill Busch Stadium 4 times over? When a family is challenged financially, its members are forced to make difficult decisions about what bills to pay. Do they pay rent/mortgage, continue insurance coverage, buy medicine or keep up the utilities? Most of the time, buying food is one of the last priorities because it is an expense a family can "control." Consider what's at stake: The child who doesn't have enough to eat isn't going to do well in school and is likely to get sick more often. She is less likely to graduate and go on to college, which will have a negative impact on her economic future. If this happens, then 20 years from now, she is much less likely to be able to earn enough money to feed her family.

This is where our kids can help! Everyone at WUNS is invited to bring in a non-perishable food item and/or personal care item. I have attached a flyer from Operation Food Search that lists their "Most Wanted Food Drive Donations." Participation is voluntary. Donations will be accepted starting Thursday, December 1 through Friday, December 16. Each classroom will have a large blue barrel to collect their classes' donated items.

And because many of Operation Food Search's educational programs run on money rather than granola bars, you're encouraged to donate financially, too -- tax-deductible donations can be directed to Operation Food Search online at <https://interland3.donorperfect.net/weblink/weblink.aspx?name=ofsearch&id=1>. The organization is able to translate every \$1 donation into \$21 worth of food services (via picking up and distributing leftover hot meals, for example), so even your child's piggy bank change makes a difference!

Our kids are incredibly lucky to have so many of their needs taken care of by their families. Thanks for allowing our kids to help others without the same advantages.