

Peas and Carrots

Operation Hungry Child, Inc.

Holiday Letter to Our Friends and Supporters

Fall 2009
Volume 1, Issue 2

Dear Friends and Fellow Hunger Fighters,

It hardly seems like it has been a year since my family and I launched this venture. It has certainly been a busy one - full of personal and professional accomplishments. Being the mother of a three-month-old baby girl has brought new meaning to the term "hungry children" and a new sense of gratitude that Joe and I are able to provide for her needs. But it has also made us more concerned about the many children who do not have that kind of care.

2009 has seen SpenserNation and Operation Hungry Child grow and meet many of our objectives ahead of schedule. SpenserNation has three books currently available and has received media attention beyond our wildest dreams.

Operation Hungry Child has been able (through your generosity) to contribute to child hunger initiatives in three different states and continues to expand our reach and our exposure. We met IRS guidelines and received tax-exempt status. We launched non-profit initiatives in social media venues. And we continue to reach out to child hunger organizations across the country.

It is that time of year again - time to consider our charitable giving goals and year-end tax exposure.



We hope you will again consider Operation Hungry Child as you plan your donations. We appreciate every penny we receive and return more than 97% of our funds to child hunger problems.

We pray God's richest blessings on you and yours in the New Year.

Sincerely,



Lindsey Brooks Buck
Executive Director

Inside this issue:

El Paso Grant	2
St. Louis Launch	2
Savannah Launch	3
Food for Thought	3
Other OHC Grants	3
Ways to Contribute	4
Giving Tiers	4



9,080 Cans
Collected

El Paso Food Bank Receives OHC Grant

The El Paso branch of the West Texas Food Bank was the recipient of an Operation Hungry Child grant in August.

The West Texas Food Bank was established in 1985. With food banks in Odessa, Alpine, and El Paso, Texas, the West Texas Food Bank is dedicated to feeding the hungry in 22 west Texas counties. These counties cover more than 45,000 square miles.

Since 2005, the West Texas Food Bank has provided more than five million pounds of food annually to agencies that serve more than 117,000 hungry people. It is a proud member of Feeding America (formerly America's Second Harvest), the largest hunger relief organization in the United States.

The El Paso branch of the West Texas Food Bank, located in the Rio Grande River Valley, right on the Mexican border, provides services to the El Paso area, an

area hard hit by the forces of economic downturn and the crime wave across the river.

Mom and Spenser met with the management staff of the El Paso Food Bank when in Texas researching the next Spenser book, *Spenser Goes to El Paso*. Mom and Spenser were impressed with the challenges facing this team and their willingness to accept the challenge and fight for the hungry children of west Texas.

"Operation Hungry Child is pleased to present a grant to the El Paso Food Bank to use in support of their school nutrition initiative. It makes us happy to think of children learning good things in a fun way."

Lindsey Buck to the El Paso Food Bank, August 2009

The Kids Café program in El Paso had to close due to lack of funding. Agencies have stepped in to provide feeding programs

but the educational aspect of defeating hunger was being neglected. El Paso Food Bank hired a nutritionist and created a program for this person to take into the elementary schools. The point of the program was to teach children how to eat well without spending lots of money. One of the well-received activities in the schools was the peanut butter and banana sandwich on wheat bread session. Here the children each made a sandwich and, while enjoying it, discussed the nutritional aspects of peanut butter, banana, and whole wheat bread. Fun for all!

Kudos to El Paso for their good work and dedication.



Spenser Goes to St. Louis Book Launch

In November, the second book in the SpenserNation series was launched in St. Louis. The book features the Scouting for Food drive, a combined effort of the St. Louis Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the St. Louis Food Bank, and the firefighters of St. Louis.

This food drive which is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year collects more than 2,000,000 pounds of food for the counties in the St. Louis area.

Boy Scouts delivered more than 1,000,000 plastic shopping bags on Saturday, November 14, and collected them on Saturday, November 21.

Firefighters at forty fire stations throughout the area work to help the Scouts sort and box the food

for delivery to the food bank. Spenser and Mom talked with the Boy Scouts and with the firefighters at the Kirkwood Fire Station about the big day while



"He is not your ordinary dog."

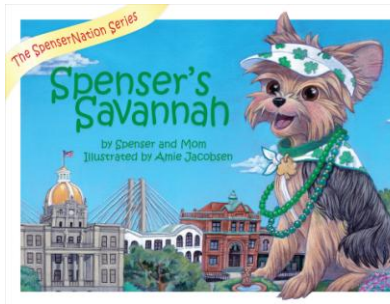
Fox KTVI, St. Louis

researching the book. Spenser was so excited that he wanted to return for Bag Distribution Day.

Also during the St. Louis launch, Spenser and Mom made an appearance on Fox 2 KTVI's morning show. They also visited Robinson Elementary School to celebrate the completion of a successful food drive. Spenser and Mom helped Clayton Academy kick-off their holiday food drive and our illustrator, Amie Jacobsen, talked with the older children at Clayton Academy about book illustration.

Another visit to St. Louis is planned for Dec 11-12 for bookstore readings and personal appearances.

In November, the SpenserNation team was excited to launch the third book in the series, *Spenser's Savannah* with television appearances, a cocktail reception, school visits, bookstore signings, and a children's festival.



The Savannah Morning News, Spenser's hometown newspaper, provided great coverage of the event. This coverage may be found at the newspaper's site:

<http://savannahnow.com/acent/2009-11-06/childrens-book-features-savannah-targets-childhood-hunger>.

The children's festival, also sponsored by the Junior League of Savannah, was called Spotlight on Hunger. With bounce houses, face painting, crafts, and games as well as story-telling and food bank tours, it was designed to help children understand the problem and dangers of child hunger. Children were given a mini-flashlight so they could "spotlight" hunger and a hunger bracelet so they would never forget. Many Savannah children and their parents enjoyed the beautiful day.

Kids Café children from the Kayton Homes Kids Café, which is featured in *Spenser's*

Savannah, were special guests.

Spenser's Savannah features the many historic firsts in our city, the beaches and rivers and sea animals all around us, the mighty military and its influence on our city, and, of course, the St. Patrick's Day parade.



Proceeds from *Spenser's Savannah* go to the Savannah food bank, America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia. Kids Café programs originated in Savannah and are now offered in cities all across the country.

Food for Thought

We are always on the lookout for kids' causes to support. Please let us know if there is one you would like to nominate to receive OHC funding.

Spenser books are available through our online store, www.spensertown.com or by calling our customer service department at 800-247-6553 or at any of the major online

stores: Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and Borders. Books are now available at all area bookstores in the cities featured in the book.

We have decided to make the coloring sheets, which are planned to be a regular feature of our newsletter, available via download at

www.spensernation.com. This one was created for the Spotlight on Hunger Children's Festival and is intended to be a macaroni craft and is perfectly okay to copy.

If you have someone you would like to add to our mailing list, please send name and address to lbuck@operationhungrychild.com.

Other OHC Grant Recipients

We are pleased to announce recipients of other OHC grants during 2009.

Hosea Feed the Hungry in Atlanta, GA, and the Food Pantry in Highlands, North Carolina, are dedicated to providing food to hungry children. OHC donated money to their holiday efforts.

Spenser and Mom visited two Boone, NC, schools and participated in food drives at both. The Boone Hunger and Health Coalition works to provide children of the North Carolina Mountains with nourishing food. OHC donated money to their Sharing Tree Project, a holiday effort to

provide meals to these children and their families.

OHC partnered with SpenserNation by sponsoring a Christmas party for the children of Kayton Homes, a community center who's Kids Café is featured in the *Savannah* book.

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Ending childhood hunger,
one city at a time.

Three Ways to Contribute to OHC

FACEBOOK DONATIONS

Use your **FACEBOOK** page to raise money for Operation Hungry Child. There are several different **FACEBOOK** applications you can use to raise money for non-profit agencies.



Spenser used Causes on **FACEBOOK** to raise money on his birthday by asking that in lieu of gifts, donations be made to Operation Hungry Child. He raised over \$300.00 from his many friends and families.

If you need help doing this, contact Lindsey at 912 660 5521 or email her at lbuck@operationhungrychild.com.



OHC CREDIT CARD

We now have an Operation Hungry Child Visa Platinum credit card available from Capital One. A percentage of every dollar put on the card goes directly to OHC.

We all have too many credit cards but we thought that getting this one and using it only when buying groceries would not just support OHC but remind us of hungry children each time we buy food.

To apply for the card, go to:
www.cardlabconnect.com/OperationHungryChild

DIRECT DONATIONS TO OHC

Operation Hungry Child Giving Tiers



\$1-\$100



\$101-\$200



\$201-\$500



\$501-\$1,000



+ \$1,001