

# THE ADVANTAGE OF PARTNERSHIPS

HUNGER RELIEF

## Promoting sustainable nourishment throughout the community

Developing strategic partnerships with organizations that work to create happier and healthier communities is important when tackling complex issues such as food insecurity.

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 will go to Operation Food Search's Fresh Rx program to provide nutritious meal kits for expectant parents. The Fresh Rx program aligns its menus with the growing cycles so that participants will be able to make recipes with produce picked that day.

The produce will also be used in their culinary training and skills-based classes. Any remaining produce will be distributed to their pantry network. Each system 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.



5,488

Save \$5,488 in fresh food costs annually

5,000

Capacity to grow over 5,000 servings annually



Used in Fresh Rx Program



“ 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

