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NEWS RELEASE

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School Districts and Organizations Team Up to Fight Food Insecurity Over Long Winter Break *The Little Bit Foundation and Operation Food Search Serving Thousands of Meals in Partner School Districts Including Jennings*

(Jennings, MO) On Wednesday morning, December 17 at 9 a.m., the Jennings School District's J-Town Food Market, located at 2545 Dorwood Drive (63136), will host a major food distribution, organized by The Little Bit Foundation and Operation Food Search. The initiative's goal is to make the holidays just a little bit brighter, not only for Jennings families, but for families in several partner districts as well. St. Louis County Children's Services Fund provided the funding for many of the food resources being distributed at this distribution event and others this week.

Jennings' Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Paula D. Knight, expressed her excitement and appreciation saying, "For many students and families across our region, long winter breaks bring devastating uncertainty—empty pantries, missed meals and the constant stress of not knowing where the next meal will come from. Food insecurity doesn't pause when school is out; it deepens, affecting students' health, learning and family stability. That's why our partnerships with The Little Bit Foundation and Operation Food Search are so essential. Together, we are providing more than food—we are delivering stability, dignity and hope during the holidays. These partnerships are critical not only for the families we serve, but for the strength and well-being of the entire St. Louis region, because when our students and families are supported, our communities are stronger."

As part of Little Bit's school partnership network, Jennings families will receive 200 fresh produce boxes and 480 food boxes, packed with supplies and ingredients for several meals and healthy snacks. In addition, the team has planned drops at schools across the region. The Little Bit Foundation President and CEO Miranda Walker Jones said, "The Foundation has been working tirelessly with our partners to deliver food to students who attend our partner schools throughout the region. In addition to Jennings, we will provide meals for families in Riverview Gardens, Hancock Place and more."

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Portrait of a JSD Warrior



Jones added, “We will distribute a total of 4,300 meal and produce kits in partnership with Operation Food Search, which includes a special distribution to North County partner schools and 1,500 meals through our Sunny’s Closet program. This is in addition to serving several hundred households through Little Bit’s Mobile Food Market in partnership with St. Louis Area Food Bank. Together, our efforts will support approximately 8,000 families this week, helping ensure students return after the holiday break nourished, supported, and ready to learn.”

Operation Food Search President and CEO Kristen Wild said, “Many are feeling the impact of rising costs. The uncertainty around SNAP benefits and the lingering impacts of the May 16th tornado have put an added strain on family budgets. During a long winter break from district resources, these joint food distributions are a critical source of stability, relief, and reassurance when it’s needed most.”

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Photo op: Jennings' families will receive the food boxes via 9 a.m. Dec. 17 drive-up distribution at the J-Town Food Market. The generously-stocked boxes will include several types of shelf-stable meats, meal kits, pasta, milk, cereals and a variety of healthy snack items.

All leaders will be on hand for interviews at the Jennings distribution at 9 a.m. on Wednesday, December 17.

If you have any additional questions, please reach out to the media contacts:

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About Operation Food Search: Founded in 1981, Operation Food Search is a local, independent hunger relief organization that provides food, nutrition education and innovative programs in order to reduce food insecurity and increase equitable access to food. We serve more than 200,000 people every month through a network of 330 partners in 25 counties in Missouri and Illinois. We use a combination of immediate food assistance and supportive services, while also working on long-term solutions and systemic changes to help solve the problem of hunger. For more information, call (314) 726-5355 or visit www.OperationFoodSearch.org.

About The Little Bit Foundation: Founded in 2001, the mission of The Little Bit Foundation (www.thelittlebitfoundation.org) is to break down barriers to learning for under-resourced students through partnerships and programs that serve the needs of the whole child and provide access to essential services and educational experiences. Embedded in 60+ school communities where 90-100% of students qualify for the free and reduced lunch program, our Whole Child Model spans across every grade level and addresses basic needs, provides health intervention and education, and expands academic and career exploration opportunities for 17,500+ students across the region. As we approach our 25th anniversary in 2026, we remain committed to supporting students throughout their educational journey so they can graduate and become contributing members of a stronger St. Louis community. Follow The Little Bit Foundation online at www.thelittlebitfoundation.org, on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

About Jennings School District: Founded in 1871, the [Jennings School District](#) serves 2,320 students Pre-K-12 across four elementary schools, Hanrahan, Woodland, Northview and Fairview (Primary and Intermediate), Rose Mary Johnson Jennings Middle School and Jennings Senior High School. JSD spans three communities, Jennings, Country Club Hills and Flordell Hills. Follow us on Facebook and Instagram.