

VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

When **Joel Swirnoff** moved to St. Louis for college, he was looking for a meaningful way to connect with his new community. Volunteering with the St. Louis Area Foodbank quickly became that opportunity—offering not only a way to give back, but also a chance to build relationships and better understand the people and neighborhoods that make up the region.

Through his experience, volunteering has become deeply personal—an opportunity to live out values of empathy and justice while contributing to the wellbeing of others. One moment that stands out is from a Food on the Move (FOTM) distribution in Illinois, where Joel met a man who had walked over a mile to pick up food for his family in a suitcase. His resilience and kindness left a lasting impression and serves as a powerful reminder of the strength and humanity within our community.

Experiences like these have broadened Joel's perspective of what “community” truly means. It extends beyond immediate surroundings and differences, connecting us all through shared experiences and simple acts of care. For anyone considering volunteering, his message is simple: jump in. The impact is meaningful, the connections are genuine, and the people—staff, volunteers, and neighbors alike—are what make the experience truly special.



Joel Swirnoff loading Food on the Move before a distribution.

VOLUNTEER HOURS:
JANUARY 1, 2026 - MARCH 31, 2026

12,143

A HUGE THANK YOU TO OUR EDWARD JONES VOLUNTEERS!



Don't forget about our Volunteer Appreciation Raffle!

Each time you volunteer during the quarter, your name will be entered to win a raffle prize!

- That means the more you volunteer, the better your chances!
- Two prizes awarded for each quarter:
 - Ages 15 & under: 1 winner
 - Ages 16 & over: 1 winner
- Every volunteer shift = 1 raffle entry
- Drawing Held: The first week of the following quarter.
- Winners will be contacted directly.

3rd Quarter Winners:

Stan Allmon—Adult Winner GC Bonefish Grill
Parker Russell—Youth Winner GC TopGolf

Have a story you want to share? Contact Jennifer Nemet at jnemet@stlfoodbank.org or call (314) 227-3727.

Don't forget to tag us on your social media accounts! [@stlfoodbank](https://www.instagram.com/stlfoodbank) [#EndHunger](https://www.facebook.com/stlfoodbank) [#FeedingAmerica](https://www.facebook.com/stlfoodbank)