



FOODBANKFOCUS

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akroncantonfoodbank.org



SERVING 8 COUNTIES

Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark,
Summit, Tuscarawas & Wayne Counties

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Letter from President and CEO
2. Join our Holiday Campaign
3. Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry goes above and beyond
4. Thanks for supporting Hunger Action Month

“

The stronger feeling is grace, recognizing that we all do our best to contribute and sometimes it's not enough.”

-NORMAN



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY LIKE NORMAN'S

Norman, 64, a 40-year medical health professional, now working as a consultant, never thought he'd find himself at a food pantry. He's lived a successful life and loved his work, but as he gets older, it's becoming more difficult to secure work, so he currently serves as a substitute teacher when opportunities arise.

“I never thought I'd be here,” he said, referencing his first visit to a local food pantry. “It took me a year to even accept the idea of asking for help; it wasn't until I got hungry enough.”

Despite Norman's current circumstances, he says it's been an amazing surprise for him and has helped debunk his stereotype of individuals needing help.

“As I wait in line at the pantry, I've met some of the most considerate and thoughtful people,” he reflected.

“I've been on the giving end many times, but I've never been on the receiving end – it is a gift of the highest order.”

Norman is willing to talk about his situation, though it took some time. “I felt embarrassed and had to learn how to get over that,” he explained. “The stronger feeling is grace, recognizing that we all do our best to contribute and sometimes it's not enough. But I feel more a part of the community and more compassionate than ever.”

With help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and his local food pantry, Norman has been able to find the resources he needs to live a healthy life.

For more Stories of Hope, or to help community members like Norman, please visit our website. akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON!

Akron Area Interfaith Council
Aultman Health Foundation
Ball Corporation
Ken & Gerri Blum
Bridgestone Americas
Buehler's Fresh Foods
Christ Foundation
Eric & Apri Csernyik
The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation
Dave's Markets
Dominion Energy
Eaton
Faith Family Church
FirstEnergy Corp.
GAR Foundation
Giant Eagle
The Harry K. and Emma R. Fox Charitable Foundation
Ron & Dawn Hartman
Wayne Hedrick & Elizabeth Caveny
Heinen's Fine Foods
Huntington National Bank
Lexus of Akron-Canton
Macy's/Bloomingdale's
The Maynard Family Foundation
Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems
W. Paul & Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation
John D. Papp
Pro Football Hall of Fame
The Progressive Insurance Foundation
Paul & Leslie Reynolds
Mike & Jennifer Saxon
Sequoia Financial Group, LLC
Sheetz #648
The Sisler McFawn Foundation
Starbucks
Stark Community Foundation
Synchrony Financial
Thompson Electric, Inc.
Tri-County Restaurant Association, Inc.
Utility Pipeline, Ltd.
Walmart & Walmart Foundation
Wells Fargo Foundation
The Welty Family Foundation
Westfield
The Williams Companies, Inc.
Richard & Lara Wilson

Hello, friends!

As fall quickly approaches, it's a busy time of year for your Foodbank, with the annual Holiday Campaign, the Long Haul Against Hunger radiothon and the Selfless Elf 5k.

As families begin to prepare for the end of the year, it's easy to get caught up in shopping, holiday parties and family traditions. Here at the Foodbank, we'll be helping supply holiday turkeys, hams and other food items to our hunger-relief partners. Hunger doesn't take a break during the holidays, if anything, it can feel more noticeable for individuals trying to provide a nice holiday for their families. During this time of year, we turn to you for help.

The work of the Foodbank remains critical to the lives of people who are struggling with hunger. More than 263,000 people in our region experience hunger each year, and many of them do not qualify for public assistance. They have nowhere to turn but the food pantries, hot meal sites and shelters you support through the Foodbank.

Your Foodbank is an institution of compassion, fueled by your time and your financial support. When charity is given with love and empathy, it gives so much joy and happiness to both parties involved, those offering help and those receiving help. It is in these connections with each other that we see one another's goodness.

As we close 2018, please consider helping us finish the year strong. In your support of the Foodbank, we see the endless goodness and potential for positive change in our community. Thank you for helping make a difference.

Warm Regards,
Dan Flowers
President and CEO



THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HUNGER ACTION MONTH

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank had many activities planned for Hunger Action Month in September. Wear Orange Day, Hunger Action Day of Service, advocacy day, Operation Orange and Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame made for a busy month!

We welcomed nearly 2,000 volunteers to the sixth annual Operation Orange, a 24-hour volunteer event in which volunteers helped process the equivalent of more than 143,000 meals!

The 11th annual Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame was a huge success with more than 600 guests and raising enough financial contributions to provide nearly 1 million meals! The winner of the People's Choice Award was SHY Cellars, a fifth victory for them.



SHY Cellars wins People's Choice Award at Taste.



Volunteers help relabel water at Operation Orange.

GIVE A HEART-WARMING MEAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

EVERY DONATION COUNTS!

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's annual Holiday Campaign provides food for individuals and families struggling with hunger this time of year. We invite you to join hundreds of individuals, local companies, nonprofits, schools and faith-based organizations in making a donation to help feed our neighbors in need.



JOIN OUR HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN!

DOUBLE DOLLAR DAY

The Foodbank will hold its seventh annual Double Dollar Day on the largest online shopping day of the year, Cyber Monday, November 26, 2018. For every \$1 donated, a generous friend of the Foodbank will make a matching gift. On this day, \$1 = 8 meals.

DINE OUT ON GIVING TUESDAY

Gather your family, friends and coworkers and Dine Out on Giving Tuesday, November 27, 2018 for breakfast, lunch and dinner! At participating locations, 5 percent of your check will be donated to the Foodbank. For a list of participating restaurants, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/holiday.

FINANCIAL DONATIONS

A tax deductible gift is always welcome and can be made online or via mail. Every \$1 donated = 4 meals.

POINT OF PURCHASE PROGRAM

Own a local business or restaurant? Become an official Point of Purchase partner. During the month of November, place a donation container at checkout registers, sell Foodbank icons, or engage customers in giving by inserting a buck slip in check presenters. Partners will be recognized on the Foodbank's website. To sign up call 330.535.6900.

LONG HAUL AGAINST HUNGER

On Friday, December 7, 2018, the Foodbank will proudly partner with iHeartMedia for the annual Long Haul Against Hunger radiothon. Listeners of 98.1 KDD, Rock 106.9, 99.7 Canton's New Country, 640 WHLO and My 101.7 are invited to drive by and donate monetary donations and nonperishable food. To learn more, please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/longhaul or call 330.535.6900.



DECEMBER 22, 2018

Put on your festive, holiday-themed costume or running gear, and join us for the sixth annual Selfless Elf 5k run/walk benefiting the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Enjoy a morning of fun for the entire family with light refreshments and a special appearance by Santa Claus!

REGISTER ONLINE AT SELFLESSELF.COM. \$35 ADVANCE, \$45 ONSITE REGISTRATION

GREATER DOVER NEW PHILADELPHIA FOOD PANTRY GOES ABOVE AND BEYOND TO FEED MANY

The Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry is in an unmarked building. From the outside there's not much to see, a few vacant businesses and a large parking lot, but two days per week, a line of people wrap around the building waiting their turn to browse the pantry shelves.

The Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's largest hunger-relief partner, serves approximately 650 families each week. In 2017, it distributed the equivalent of more than 2.37 million meals to its community members.

Uniquely, the pantry is fully managed and operated by volunteers. Each week, more than 100 volunteers unload and organize food items, pack boxes, and assist in loading cars.

Jim Rice, the pantry's current volunteer chief



Rice rallies volunteers before the pantry doors open.

operating officer, began volunteering with the pantry more than 10 years ago when he retired to the area. What began as a mere volunteer opportunity helping unload a truck, has become his labor of love.

During his tenure, Rice has been most surprised by the frequency of the pantry usage. He says that most clients use the pantry only seven times per year.

“A lot of people believe food pantries create dependency, instead of being a lifeline for people. However, they only use it when they need it,” he explained.

The pantry also offers a weekly delivery service, providing a 30-pound box of food to approximately 70 individuals who cannot drive, have mobility issues or are home-bound. Access to food can be difficult as there is no form of public transportation available in Tuscarawas County.

The pantry also does an excellent job of providing its clients with fresh, nutritious produce, provided by the Foodbank for free. Last year, more than 1.16 million pounds of fresh fruit and vegetables



Rice has been volunteering for more than 10 years at the Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry.

were given to families. To help ensure the safety of refrigerated items, the pantry benefited from a \$10,000 grant for a refrigerated trailer secured by the Foodbank from BJ's Charitable Foundation.

“Without our partnership, there would be no pantry,” said Rice when reflecting on his relationship with the Foodbank. “We wouldn't be able to afford the quantity of food we'd need, and we would not be ending hunger in our area.”

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 10, 2018

No Muffin Left Behind sale

NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Double Dollar Day

NOVEMBER 27, 2018

Dine Out on Giving Tuesday

DECEMBER 7, 2018

Long Haul Against Hunger radiothon

DECEMBER 22, 2018

Selfless Elf 5k run/walk

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT

akroncantonfoodbank.org/events

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