



FOODBANKFOCUS

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MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

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akroncantonfoodbank.org

SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

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“

You don't understand tragedy until you go through it yourself.”

-ASIA



YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS FAMILIES LIKE ASIA'S

Asia smiles as her children scramble to the produce table, they keep her busy throughout the day, as childcare costs are too expensive for her family. Once they go to school, she plans to enter a GED program and hopefully find a job she enjoys.

Growing up in the foster care system and not graduating from high school impacted Asia's ability to find work. At one point, she and her husband were homeless, living with family and then a hotel when they felt they had overstayed their welcome. Once their money ran out, they found themselves at a local homeless shelter, living apart.

Fortunately, an Akron organization that helps homeless families stay together and achieve sustainable

independence welcomed Asia's family. With their help, they secured a car and house, and her husband found a job.

“Being there was a humbling experience. You take things for granted and when tragedy hits, you don't know what you'll do.”

Now, the family of four relies on her husband's income. Asia has become a strategic budgeter, buying some items in bulk, stocking her pantry when she can, and visiting a local pantry when her food benefits run out toward the end of the month.

READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE.

akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON!

Akron Area Interfaith Council
Alan & Janice Woll
Costco
David & Cheryl Venarge & Family
Dominion Energy
FirstEnergy Corp.
Frederick & Jane Griech
GAR Foundation
Giant Eagle
GOJO Industries, Inc.
Heinen's Fine Foods
Huntington National Bank
Kevin Tucker & Patricia Howell
Kraft Heinz Company Foundation
Marathon Petroleum Company - Ohio Refining Division
Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems
Mike & Jennifer Saxon
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
Sally Bernhardt
Synchrony Financial
Sysco Corp.
The Darden Restaurants, Inc. Foundation
The Huntington Foundation
The Sisler McFawn Foundation
Tri-County Restaurant Association, Inc.
Walmart



Network partners ask questions about the Foodbank's future work.

NETWORK PARTNERS COME TOGETHER FOR BIENNIAL FOODBANK MEETING

THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK IS THE SOURCE OF FOOD FOR NEARLY 500 FOOD PANTRIES, HOT MEAL SITES, SHELTERS, BACKPACK PROGRAMS, AND OTHER HUNGER-RELIEF PROGRAMS IN AN EIGHT-COUNTY SERVICE AREA.

It's this network of partners that fight hunger on the front lines, serving families in neighborhoods and communities where people need food.

Throughout the year, the Foodbank offers the network a variety of opportunities for engagement, including collaborative networking events with other food programs, trainings, cooking demonstrations, and roundtable discussions covering helpful topics, such as grant writing, marketing and board/volunteer development.

Every other year, the Foodbank also hosts a Network Summit with the goal of bringing all its partners together to learn from one another, share best practices, and brainstorm ways to grow and evolve their programs.

This year, more than 120 attendees representing 80 hunger-relief partners joined us in August at NEOMED for the Summit. President and CEO, Dan Flowers, welcomed the group, the majority being volunteers, thanking them for being the hearts and hands of the network.

cardiologist who takes a spiritual approach to all facets of his life after nearly losing his son in a car accident.

Gordon discussed the difficulties programs may face in service to others and gave examples of how to overcome obstacles and find the positive in all situations. He motivated attendees by inspiring them to continue to work hard within their communities, as he worked hard to transform his personal suffering into life lessons.

"If we are to grow, we must face greater and greater obstacles. It's only by overcoming those obstacles, that we grow."

The Director of the Network Partners and Programs department, Jill Oldham, highlighted updates about the Foodbank's work and shared future plans that will enhance regional hunger fighting efforts for generations to come.

"We believe our work in creating thriving communities is ensuring that everyone has the food they need. We'll do this by reaching further into areas that need it most and by feeding more people," she said. "We can solve the problem of hunger. Unlike other illnesses, we have the cure. Our vision of a community where there is enough food for all, where there is access to healthy, affordable foods and where children have the energy and nutrients needed to grow, develop, think and learn is possible."

The keynote speaker was Dr. Terry Gordon, a nationally recognized



Network partners share best practices with one another.

selfless elf
5k
run ♥ walk
12.21.19
register online at
selflesself.com

GIVE A HEART-WARMING MEAL THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

As colder weather and the holiday season quickly approach, people are often forced to choose between heating their homes and groceries for their family. The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's annual Holiday Campaign provides food to families struggling with hunger this time of year – and we need your support!



JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Please consider making a personal donation or a corporate gift. \$1 = 4 meals



EMPLOYEE GIVING

A few dollars from each pay can make a lasting impact.



ONLINE FUNDRAISERS

Create a personalized online fundraiser and share the link via email and through your social networks. Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/holiday for more information.



FOOD & FUNDS DRIVES

Gather your coworkers, schools, faith-based organizations, social groups and family and collect food and financial contributions for your Foodbank.



IRA/STOCK ROLLOVER

Contact Debbie Hagarty at 330.535.6900 to learn more about ways you can support your Foodbank through planned giving.



DOUBLE DOLLAR DAY | December 2, 2019

Donate to your Foodbank on Cyber Monday and a generous friend of the Foodbank will match your gift.



LONG HAUL AGAINST HUNGER | December 2019

Drive by and donate monetary donations and nonperishable food items at Giant Eagle Portage Crossing Market District or Giant Eagle at The Strip. iHeartMedia radio personalities will be onsite broadcasting live while accepting your donations! Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/longhaul or call 330.535.6900 for more information.



HOLIDAY MATCH | December 16-21, 2019

Help give a heart-warming meal this holiday season. December 16-21, 2019 you have a special opportunity to help change lives. Thanks to several friends of the Foodbank, your donation helps twice as many families.



SELFLESS ELF 5K RUN/WALK | December 21, 2019

Dress in your favorite, festive holiday-themed costume or running gear and run or walk the 3.1-mile course, beginning and ending at the Foodbank.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HUNGER ACTION MONTH!

In September, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, along with 200 Feeding America food banks, celebrated Hunger Action Month, raising awareness about food insecurity and hunger in our community.

Leaders throughout the community joined the Foodbank by going orange, the color of hunger relief, including Akron Children's Hospital, the Pro Football Hall of Fame, your Foodbank and many more!

Hunger Action Month wrapped up with the 12th annual Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame event. Nearly 700 guests raised enough financial contributions to provide 772,000 meals! The winner of the People's Choice Award was The Rail, a second victory for them.



Staff and board members wear orange in honor of Hunger Action Day.

DOYLESTOWN COMMUNITY FOOD CUPBOARD SERVES COMMUNITY FOR MORE THAN 40 YEARS

MORE THAN 40 YEARS AGO, A GROUP OF TEACHERS JOINED TOGETHER TO PROVIDE FOOD ITEMS TO LOCAL FAMILIES STRUGGLING DURING THE HOLIDAYS IN DOYLESTOWN, A SMALL VILLAGE IN WAYNE COUNTY.

Functioning for many years on an as-needed basis, the hunger-relief program housed in the local Methodist church was approached by two eager Boy Scouts in 2014. They had a vision for their senior Eagle Scout project to help the pantry move into a larger space they could call their own.

Now, the Doylestown Community Food Cupboard offers groceries to nearly 60 families. A five-day supply ensures individuals and families managing on a tight budget have the help they need to get through the end of the month.

“The families we serve are trying to provide three meals a day and I think a lot of them aren’t able to do that,” said Maureen Martin, the director of the pantry. “Some are making unhealthy food choices to stretch their dollar even further. We’re glad to be able to help.”

Martin and her volunteers typically see grandparents taking care of grandchildren and senior citizens coming through the pantry in need of help. More than half of the people served through the Foodbank’s network of hunger-relief partners are

children under the age of 18 and seniors living on a fixed income.



Each family receives a 5-day supply of groceries.

The Food Cupboard is a choice pantry, meaning people can take food items they know they’ll use and eat. In addition to offering groceries, the program also offers monthly senior food boxes and a weekly backpack program to the three public schools and the parochial school in Doylestown. On average, volunteers help pack 165 bags each week for the backpack program.

“Until you’re involved in this work you don’t realize the need in this community, especially the kids. The kids are the ones suffering.”

The Food Cupboard sends notices and schedules home with children through the school system to help create awareness about its food programs, but Martin notices that some parents are reluctant to ask for

help. Understandably, it can be difficult to seek help when a stigma still surrounds people in need.

The issue of hunger is near and dear to Martin’s heart. Though she’s worked at the local church for 20 years and has managed the Food Cupboard for the last 12, acknowledging difficult times came at an early age for her. “It’s been a part of me for so long now. I remember growing up with five siblings and you knew mom and dad were struggling. This is my passion.”

Because of the Food Cupboard’s relationship with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, the program can provide even more nourishing food to its community members. “We’re able to provide fresh products, and more healthy and nutritional selections. Because of our partnership, we’re able to offer an incredible benefit to our clients.”



Volunteers help load groceries for a community member.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

NOVEMBER 2, 2019

No Muffin Left Behind

NOVEMBER 3, 2019

8th annual Harvest Moon Run*

DECEMBER 2, 2019

Double Dollar Day

DECEMBER 21, 2019

Selfless Elf 5K*

*Registration now open

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT
akroncantonfoodbank.org/events

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