



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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With help from her local senior center, Julia cares for her brother, a Korean War veteran.



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY LIKE JULIA'S

Julia has a long history with her local senior center, dating nearly 20 years. She began as a volunteer and has served on its board of directors for more than six years. She's advocated for its programs and services and understands the importance of the companionship it offers residents.

Julia wishes she could persuade her brother to get involved at the center. Harold, 80, lives alone in their childhood home and relies on her to run errands and grocery shop. As a Korean War veteran, he held a job for a short period of time after returning but found it difficult to acclimate back into society. He prefers solitude and enjoys taking long walks throughout the countryside.

Harold is lucky that many of his expenses are taken care of for him, but his grocery budget can be tight, especially

with his active lifestyle. He receives a senior food box each month, filled with enough food to prepare 25 meals, and meals delivered daily directly to his home. All of this is provided free of charge by the senior center and is delivered by the center or Julia.

"I love the center- it's like family. I'm so thankful and appreciative for all they do," she said.

Julia continues to check in on her brother and care for him in the ways he'll allow. Though his life doesn't look like hers, she's happy knowing he's content, safe and satisfied in his own way.

READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE.

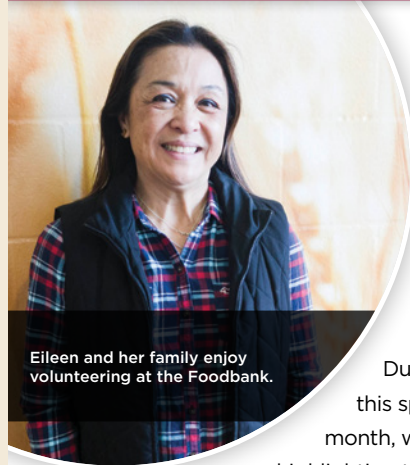
akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON!

415 Group
Akron Community Foundation
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Staff
Tony & Becky Alexander
The Parke K. and Josephine B. Allensworth Memorial
Fund of Stark Community Foundation
Altered States
American Wood Reface
Apostolic Christian Church Goodwill Fund
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Peter & Heidi Augustin
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Bell Music Company
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BoxLunch
Brechtbuhler Truck Sales, LLC
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David & Cynthia Brunner
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H. Peter Burg Fund of the Akron Community
Foundation
Gina Campbell
Andrew Carson Memorial Foundation
Lynn Cavalier
Citizens Bank
Robert & Carrie Clark
Alex & Kelly Clarke
Cleveland Clinic
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
Riley Counahan Memorial Foundation Fund
Day Ketterer Ltd.
Deluxe Corporation Foundation
Diebold Employee Charitable Fund
Dietz & Watson
DRB Systems, Inc.
Richard Edwards & Marcia Adair
Enterprise Holdings Foundation
The First Congregational Church of Hudson
Dan & Holly Flowers
David A. George
The Gessner Family Foundation
Giant Eagle
GOJO Industries, Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Bill & Lynda Grieves
Harwood Rubber Products, Inc.
Sandra L. and Dennis B. Haslinger Family Foundation
Health Foundation of Greater Massillon
Michelle & George Hinton
W. Henry Hoover Fund
The Howland Memorial Fund
Humana
Huntington National Bank
HzW Environmental Consultants, LLC
Insurance Services Office, Inc.
The Betty V. & John M. Jacobson Foundation
JAH Foundation
Daniel Kellogg
M. James Kozak
Richard & Christine Kramer
Richard & Lisa Laubacher
The William J. Lemmon Charitable Fund
Lindsay Precast
W. Riley & Barbara Lochridge
Making Smiles Foundation
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APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH



Eileen and her family enjoy volunteering at the Foodbank.

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS

NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH ALLOWS US TO SHOW OUR GRATITUDE FOR OUR VOLUNTEERS AND THEIR TIRELESS COMMITMENT TO OUR COMMUNITY MEMBERS STRUGGLING WITH FOOD INSECURITY.

During this special month, we enjoy highlighting the individuals who give their time and talents to fight hunger locally each and every day.

Last year, the Foodbank hosted nearly 11,000 volunteers who donated more than 66,000 hours of service, the equivalent of 31 full-time employees.

Eileen is one of nearly 150 dedicated individuals who has already earned her Very Important Volunteer (VIV) status this year. To earn this recognition, a VIV must visit the Foodbank at least five times in a calendar year. Although they only make up a small portion of annual volunteers, VIVs account for nearly 50 percent of all service hours completed at the Foodbank.

A retired friend introduced Eileen to the Foodbank after she was laid off. She began volunteering in 2017 and has been visiting the volunteer center 2-4 times per month ever since! Eileen enjoys the convenience and flexibility of volunteer opportunities at the Foodbank, but even more so, she loves being a part of the Foodbank family.

“There’s a great sense of community here. Everyone knows your name and you become a part of the team. You’re helping the greater good.”

Eileen especially enjoys seeing students and children earning their service hours by sorting and inspecting donations. She believes it’s important for them to see that many families in the community are confronted with hunger on a daily basis. She encourages her own daughter and son to give back as well.

In addition to their work at the Foodbank, Eileen and her children participate in Buddy Up Tennis, a local program that pairs volunteers with adults and children with Down syndrome to keep them active and thriving. She also recently started substitute teaching for her local school district.

We are very lucky to have such caring volunteers like Eileen and her family. To our volunteers, thank you for being such integral members of our Foodbank family! We appreciate all you do!



JOIN YOUR LOCAL HUNGER WALK

May 5, 2019, in Fairlawn & North Canton

The diverse faiths of the world share a common passion to nourish our neighbors struggling with hunger. That shared belief is celebrated during the Akron Area Interfaith Council’s Hunger Walks. On May 5, 2019, join hundreds of community members with walking locations in Fairlawn and North Canton. For more information, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/events.

FOODBANK FEEDS COMMUNITY THROUGH NEW DISTRIBUTIONS

IN 2018, YOUR FOODBANK HELPED PROVIDE 105,000 MEALS EVERY DAY TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY THROUGH OUR COLLABORATION WITH NEARLY 500 FOOD PANTRIES, HOT MEAL SITES, SHELTERS AND OTHER HUNGER-RELIEF PROGRAMS WITHIN OUR NETWORK.

Until recently, the Foodbank has managed food procurement, warehouse storage and food distribution to its hunger-relief partners.

Last year, the Foodbank piloted a Neighborhood Distribution for Summit County residents. The new monthly food distribution occurs in the Foodbank warehouse, in a neighborhood with few food options available for its residents. The distribution is strategically scheduled toward the end of the month, when food assistance benefits tend to run low for families.

Foodbank dock operations cease in order to

prepare the warehouse, check-in stations are staffed with volunteers and staff members, and families in need of food assistance gather in the building to receive a cart filled



Linda is grateful to take home a full cart of groceries from the Neighborhood Distribution.

with fresh produce, bakery items, milk and other essentials to stock their pantries.

Volunteers help each family unload the cart into their vehicles. The quick, stream-lined style distribution allows the Foodbank to serve approximately 300 families, 800 individuals, within a 2-hour time frame.

The Foodbank needs your support to help provide this end-of-month safety net for people struggling to make ends meet. If you are interested in supporting a Neighborhood Distribution, please contact Jo Dangel at 330.535.6900.

SENIORS STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER FIND HELP IN HOLMES COUNTY

MAY IS OLDER AMERICANS MONTH, AN OPPORTUNITY FOR THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK TO RAISE AWARENESS AND SHOW SUPPORT FOR THE 4.9 MILLION SENIOR CITIZENS WHO SEEK FOOD ASSISTANCE ACROSS THE COUNTRY.

According to Feeding America's State of Senior Hunger report, though seniors tend to live on fixed incomes, 1 in 5 work at least part-time to try to make ends meet. Many low-income seniors must make difficult choices, like choosing between groceries, housing, medical care, transportation and utilities. As budgets are strained, 81 percent of people struggling with hunger purchase the cheapest food available, even if they know it's not the healthiest option.



Ura appreciates the company of others over a meal at the senior center.

More than 10 percent of all individuals served by your Foodbank are seniors. In 2018, the Foodbank demonstrated its commitment to reaching even more seniors by increasing the amount of senior food boxes distributed across its network through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

The Darb Snyder Senior Center in Holmes County is a hunger-relief partner of the Foodbank, serving more than 200 senior citizens each month.

The small staff of nine, prepares 2,300 meals each month through its daily congregate meals, home-delivered meals and CSFP boxes. Their partnership with the Foodbank saves \$1,000-\$2,000 each month in groceries.

"We wouldn't be able to keep operating if it wasn't for our involvement with the Foodbank, since we work solely on donations," said Georgianna Cool.



Bev and friends share a meal and conversation.

Cool, who has volunteered as the director for the past 12 years, says the people served by the senior center rely heavily on its food programs. She knows people choosing between their medications and food, while waiting for their next social security check to come in.

"Our seniors, they need the help. There's a lot of cracks they can fall through, and they don't qualify for much assistance," she said.

THANK YOU, POLAR BEARS

On February 23, 2019, 700 human polar bears traded their mittens and winter coats for swim suits and water shoes at the 16th Annual Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump benefiting your Foodbank.

Thank you to the volunteers at the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club for all their hard work in making the event a success! The courageous jumpers raised more than \$125,000, helping provide 500,000 meals for our local community.



Foodbank supporters from KNR raised \$30,000 to feed people and fight hunger.



A group of Foodbank staff and family poses for a photo before their icy plunge.



IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO GET INVOLVED WITH HARVEST FOR HUNGER

HARVEST FOR HUNGER IS THE FOODBANK'S LARGEST FUNDRAISING INITIATIVE AND HELPS SUPPORT FOOD DISTRIBUTION ALL YEAR LONG.

Your support is vital in helping us provide more than 5.3 million meals for our local community through this campaign.

Make a donation: \$1 = 4 meals! Make an individual or corporate gift and consider offering employees the opportunity to give through an employee giving campaign.

Fundraise online: It's now easier than ever to collect donations for your Foodbank from friends, family members and coworkers. Simply create your own personalized online fundraiser and share the link via email and through your social networks.

Host a food & funds drive: Join hundreds of local companies and organizations in hosting a food & funds drive. Register your drive and download a coordinator kit online.

New this year! The Week of Giving is a joint effort among the four food banks that participate in Harvest for Hunger and will consist of a variety of activities the week of April 1, 2019.

No matter how you choose to support Harvest for Hunger, please remember that 100 percent of every dollar raised in the Campaign goes directly to providing free food for people in need. For more information on how you can get involved, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/hfh.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

APRIL 16, 2019

CORE Event for Young Professionals

APRIL 22 - MAY 20, 2019

Walmart's Fight Hunger. Spark Change. Campaign

MAY 11, 2019

Stamp Out Hunger Annual Letter Carriers' Food Drive

MAY 16, 2019

CORE Event for Young Professionals

MAY 17, 2019

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Celebration

JUNE 18, 2019

CORE Event for Young Professionals

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT
akroncantonfoodbank.org/events

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