



DID YOU KNOW?

81 percent of those we serve report purchasing the cheapest food available, even if they know it's not the healthiest option.

WINTER 2017

THE FOODBANK FOCUS

A publication of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

Serving Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties



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A new chapter in our ongoing mission to serve more people than ever before

Here at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, we feel tremendously thankful for you and our ability to work together to improve the lives of the people in our community by providing them with nutritious meals.

We are thrilled to announce, effective January 1, 2017, Community Harvest has become a program of your Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

Community Harvest was one of the first non-profit groups in Stark County to establish an innovative food rescue program. In Stark County, Community Harvest collects excess prepared and perishable food and donates it to community groups that serve families struggling with hunger at no cost. This simple concept began with a goal of preventing food waste while helping the hungry and has evolved into a collaboration of numerous resources and agencies dedicated to providing more than 80,000 meals a month for those in need in Stark County!

The Foodbank and Community Harvest share the same goal, so formally teaming up is a natural step. This is truly a special moment, and we're proud to share it with you! While the Foodbank's operations won't change, we're confident this merger



will drive efficiencies while creating new energy and innovation centered on unique ways of solving hunger in our community.

We think daily about the one in four children in our community who live in households that experience hunger. By joining forces, our combined organization will expand our reaches and provide more food than ever before. Together, we will continue to provide high-quality, nourishing food to those in need.

We look forward to sending you regular communications that update you on our progress and how you can stay involved with us. Thank you for all you do!

For additional information about the merger, please visit our website, akroncantonfoodbank.org/CommunityHarvest.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump
FEBRUARY 18, 2017

Harvest for Hunger Campaign
Kick-off Breakfast
MARCH 1, 2017

Taste of the Pro Football
Hall of Fame
AUGUST 29, 2017

Operation Orange
SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2017

Selfless Elf 5K
DECEMBER 16, 2017



Young Professionals.
Making connections. Making a difference.

CORE is made up of motivated, energetic young professionals interested in growing their professional network while helping feed those struggling with hunger in our area. This year, we are looking forward to growing the program and adding more opportunities to work with your Foodbank. We hope that you will join us in 2017 for various volunteer projects and opportunities to learn more about the Foodbank.

FEBRUARY 10, 2017
Lunch & Learn

MARCH 15, 2017
Volunteer Opportunity

APRIL 13, 2017
Volunteer Opportunity
& Networking

For event details, visit
akroncantonfoodbank.org

You are helping people like Sandra!

Although Sandra came to the hot meal site alone, sitting in a room with more than 100 people enjoying a meal, she doesn't feel alone. During dinner at Refuge of Hope, a child next to Sandra finishes his meal early, and asks her if she's going to finish her fruit. She smiles, pushes it toward him, and tells him to enjoy it. What the child doesn't know is that Sandra has diabetes, and the fresh fruit and healthy options available during the meal help sustain her health.

For 17 years, Sandra worked for a Fortune 500 company, but due to health reasons, she was let go. Because of the job loss and a fallout with her family, she's been homeless and forced to spend a few nights



sleeping on a park bench. But no matter the situation, she continues to talk about the blessings in her life.

Refuge of Hope receives food from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and Community Harvest, and gives Sandra more than a meal when she needs it most; it gives her strength, and belief in herself. Sandra hopes to remain a light for those around her, and continues to be the best neighbor she can be—even if that means simply sharing her fruit.

Clean Room ready for volunteers

Your Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank recently opened a 670 square-foot state-of-the-art Clean Room that will allow the Foodbank to purchase bulk quantities of foods like pastas and cereals that can be repackaged in smaller serving sizes for families facing hunger.

The Clean Room is a separate enclosed room in the Foodbank's warehouse that is designed with the highest standards of food safety. Outside expertise from area corporations like The J.M. Smucker Co. and The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. helped with the strategy and implementation of the room that now features its own air filtration system and temperature controls for optimal food freshness.

Since opening in October, teams of volunteers, like those from Allstate Insurance, Westfield, Dunkin Donuts and Fedex, have repacked more than 40,000 pounds of bulk product that was made available to our network of hunger-relief partners!

What does this mean for you? Your dollars are going further than ever before! Repacking bulk product is less expensive than purchasing pre-packaged product.

Not only does the Clean Room allow us to bring in more products for our network, it also provides an additional hands-on opportunity for volunteers.

Join us by signing up to volunteer, and your volunteer project could take place in the new Clean Room. Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/volunteer or call our volunteer team at 330.535.6900 to schedule your volunteer opportunity today!



Harvest for Hunger campaign helps our neighbors struggling with hunger

In an effort to continue to fight hunger in our community, we need your help! Join us this spring by participating in one of Ohio's largest food & fund drives, Harvest for Hunger. The annual Harvest for Hunger campaign happens because individuals, families, businesses and corporate partners, rally around their Foodbank to support those in our community struggling with hunger.

THERE ARE MANY WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN.

Join your Foodbank for breakfast

Please join us for an exciting breakfast to celebrate the 26th anniversary of the Harvest for Hunger campaign on Wednesday, March 1, 2017. You'll meet the campaign co-chairs, hear campaign updates, and learn about ways to get involved in this year's Harvest for Hunger campaign. Doors open for networking and breakfast at 7:30 a.m. and the program will run from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m. To register, please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/hfh.

YOUR DONATION FEEDS FAMILIES.

It's hard to ignore hunger. Doing even the simplest task seems impossible on an empty stomach. Together, we're not just feeding people—we're feeding minds.

Check Out Hunger

Shop at participating supermarkets and ask your cashier to scan a \$10, \$5 or \$1 donation coupon as you Check Out Hunger. Then, take a selfie and tag your picture on social media, #ICheckedOutHunger

Host a food & funds drive

Gather your friends, family or coworkers together and join the more than 200 local organizations who host food & funds drives. Simply visit our website, akroncantonfoodbank.org for campaign materials and to register your drive.

Make a donation

Please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org to make your donation online or mail your check today. \$1 = 4 meals



UP FOR A SWIM? THE 2017 POLAR BEAR JUMP IS SET FOR FEBRUARY!



We're looking for warm-hearted people willing to freeze their bodies to raise money to feed people and fight hunger during the 14th annual Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump on Saturday, February 18, 2017. This year, you can be a part of the annual jump benefitting your Foodbank by signing up to jump, gathering support and collecting pledges. For additional details and to register, please visit portagelakespolarbearclub.com.

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll recognizes our top supporters of the season.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation
Andrew's Spirit of Hope
Applied Industrial Technologies
Aultman Health Foundation
Auto-Owners Insurance Co.
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Barbicas Construction Co., Inc.
BJ's Charitable Foundation
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Christ Foundation
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Gatehouse Media
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund of Akron Community Foundation
The Giant Eagle Foundation
Giant Eagle, Inc.
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Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation
Main Street Gourmet
Marietta Community Foundation, Inc.
Mark and Michele Allio Family Fund of Akron Community Foundation
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation
Novak Family Charitable Fund
Ohio Farmers Insurance Company
The Paul & Carol David Foundation
Paul and Leslie Reynolds Charitable Fund
People's Bankcorp Bank Foundation
PNC Foundation
The R.C. and Katharine Musson Charitable Foundation
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Robert O. & Annamae Orr Family Foundation
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Shearer's Snacks
Sisters of Charity Foundation
Stark Community Foundation
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Taylor Tele-Communications, Inc.
Temple Israel of Akron
Thompson Electric, Inc.
The Timken Company
Trinity Lutheran Church
Westfield Insurance
William and Ginny Post Family Charitable Fund
Woodforest Charitable Foundation

Thank you for being a Hunger Hero!

The Foodbank's Holiday Campaign took place last November and December to create awareness, take action and help provide food to families facing hunger during the holiday season.

Thanks to you and Hunger Heroes across the community, the 2016 campaign was a record-breaking success, and our neighbors in need had nourishing, holiday meals to share.

Two of our largest events were the Long Haul Against Hunger and the Selfless Elf 5k!

On Friday, December 1, 2016, the Foodbank partnered with radio stations 98.1 WKDD, My 101.7, Rock 106.9 WRQK, 99.7 Canton, 640 WHLO and Fox Sports 1350 for the annual Long Haul Against Hunger. Listeners of the four stations drove by and dropped off non-perishable food and monetary donations in Akron and Canton.

The Foodbank wrapped up this spirited campaign by hosting the fourth annual Selfless Elf 5k run. More than 1,000 runners embraced the season and dressed up in festive holiday-themed running gear and striped elf socks. The race began and ended at the Foodbank and all who participated ended the race with cookies and milk, and a chance to meet Santa!



DOES YOUR COMPANY MATCH DONATIONS?

Many companies offer matching gift programs encouraging employees to contribute to charitable organizations. Most of these programs match contributions dollar for dollar, and some will even double or triple the amount of your gift!

Please check with your company to see if it offers a matching gift program that will match your gift to your Foodbank. Simply obtain a form from your employer, complete your portion of the form and send it in with your donation!

In our community, did you know, Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co., FirstEnergy Corp, The Grainger Company, Home Depot, KraftMaid Cabinetry, Inc., Lubrizol Corp, Nestle, Rubbermaid Inc., Starbucks Coffee Co., Subaru of America and the Timken Company all match gifts?

DOUBLE YOUR DONATION WITH MATCHING GIFTS!

ADDISON IS A SECOND-GRADER WITH A BIG HEART

Addison Lockwood raised more than \$650 for the Foodbank's Selfless Elf 5k race, making her the Foodbank's youngest VIP Elf!

To raise donations, Addison made a video of herself explaining why she wanted to participate in Selfless Elf and then asked for \$5 which could provide as many as 20 meals to people in need. Addison's family, friends and teachers were so excited

that she was participating in such a fun, philanthropic event, they happily donated the \$5 and more! Soon, Addison had met her original goal.

After raising enough for more than 2,600 meals for the Foodbank, Addison is glad that she raised the money because she knows that other kids like her are struggling with hunger. She believes it's important for her to help them if she can.

"I feel bad for the kids who don't have the same things I do," she said. "I want to make sure that we can share."

Already looking ahead, Addison says she wants to raise even more money next year.

"Maybe \$1,000!" she said.

