



# FOODBANKFOCUS

A PUBLICATION OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK ■ WINTER 2018



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[akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org)

## SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Retiree dedicates time to Foodbank
2. Make a year-round impact, join the Sustainer Circle
3. Join the 27th Annual Harvest for Hunger Campaign
4. Good Samaritan Hunger Center serves as pop-up pantry
5. Thank you for supporting the Holiday Campaign

“

I'm thankful to come to a program like this, to feel worthy, to be fed, and to not worry where my next meal is coming from.”

-KIM



## EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY LIKE KIM'S

Kim moved to the Akron area 10 years ago. She realized in order to save herself, to separate herself from her addiction, she would need a change of pace with different scenery and friends. When she arrived in Akron, she didn't have a home or a support system to help her. She relied heavily on a local shelter before checking into rehab. Though she is unable to work and receives disability, sometimes she still needs a little help at the end of the month. She's able to cover her other expenses by having a meal or two at the local hot meal site in her neighborhood.

“I'm not beyond needing some help every now and then,” she explains. “I feel that some people have lost hope,

but I'm thankful to come to a program like this, to feel worthy, to be fed, and to not worry where my next meal is coming from.”

Kim is grateful for those who have helped her put her life back together. She is an active member of her church, and has been volunteering with its pantry program for the past few years.

“I am abundantly blessed, and now I want to give back to my community in any way I can.”

**FOR MORE STORIES OF HOPE, OR TO HELP THOSE LIKE KIM, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE.**

[akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories)

# HONOR ROLL

## THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON!

Akron Community Foundation  
Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation  
The Parke K. and Josephine B. Allensworth Memorial Fund  
Alliance Data  
Ameriprise Financial Services  
Andrew's Spirit of Hope  
The James V. and Velia Armogida Charitable Fund  
The Anonymous Charitable Fund #3  
Boggs Chiropractic  
Campbell Construction, Inc.  
CBIZ  
Charles R. Jelm Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Christ Foundation  
The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation  
The Ronald F. and Mary L. Davis Advised Charitable Fund  
Deluxe Corporation Foundation  
Dominion Energy  
DRB Systems, Inc.  
Fairlawn Rotary Foundation, Inc.  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
GAR Foundation  
GateHouse Ohio Media  
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund of Akron Community Foundation  
The Giant Eagle Foundation  
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
GOJO Industries, Inc.  
Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park  
The Hoover Foundation  
John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron Community Foundation  
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust  
Lambda Chi Alpha  
Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust  
Laurel Lake Retirement Community  
The Lehner Family Foundation  
Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation  
The James K. and Carol Luntz Charitable Fund  
Ohio Department of Commerce  
The Pastore Foundation  
Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation  
Riley Contracting, Inc.  
RKD Alpha Dog  
Samuel Reese Willis Foundation, Inc.  
The Thomas W. and Angela L. Schervish Family Philanthropic Fund  
Sequoia Financial Group, LLC  
Shearer's Snacks  
Stark Community Foundation  
Stark County Medical Society  
Summa Health  
Synchrony Financial  
Temple Israel of Akron  
The Timken Company  
The W.R. Timken, Sr., Memorial Fund  
Visconsi Companies  
Westfield Insurance  
Woodforest Charitable Foundation  
The Wright Family Charitable Fund at Stark Community Foundation

# RETIREE DEDICATES TIME TO FOODBANK



When Paul Martell retired five years ago, he began looking for meaningful ways to give back to the local community. He learned of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank through college friends and his wife and decided to register as a volunteer. Five years later, you can still spot Paul in our Volunteer Center donating his time and talents twice per week!

Although Paul has volunteered with other organizations, the Foodbank quickly became his favorite place to donate his time. He also volunteers weekly at Riverwood Chapel, one of the Foodbank's partner programs.

"Food and shelter are, to me, the two most important issues for people, and when you don't have them, it puts you at a horrible disadvantage." Paul contributes more than 200 hours of service to the Foodbank each year!

He enjoys working alongside other regular volunteers, which include his wife, Susan, and Foodbank staff.

"If you volunteer or contribute in any way, it's very rewarding. The donated food is handled carefully, and the enthusiasm surrounding the work is tangible."

**LEARN ABOUT VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES ON OUR WEBSITE.**  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org/volunteer](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/volunteer)



## MAKE A YEAR-ROUND IMPACT JOIN THE SUSTAINER CIRCLE

**Hunger is not a short-term problem. Every day, more than one in five children will go hungry in the Foodbank's 8-county service area.**

There is no short-term solution to hunger. The Foodbank depends on reliable, steady support to help feed our hungry neighbors in need, every day of every month.

Please consider joining a very special group of people dedicated to feeding people and fighting hunger in our local community. The Sustainer Circle monthly giving program

allows Foodbank supporters to easily help year-round with regular monthly donations. Sustainer Circle members are the backbone of our efforts to end hunger in our community.

**TO JOIN THE SUSTAINER CIRCLE, PLEASE CALL 330.572.3102 OR VISIT**  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org/monthlygiving](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/monthlygiving)

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 9, 2018

CORE Lunch & Learn for Young Professionals

### FEBRUARY 15, 2018

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast

### MARCH 15, 2018

CORE Volunteer & Networking Opportunity

### APRIL 17, 2018

CORE Volunteer & Networking Opportunity

**FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT**  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org/events](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/events)



JANUARY 18, 2018 ■ 5:30 - 8:30 P.M.  
THE VILLA GRANDE AT GERVASI VINEYARD  
**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE**  
[gervasivineyard.com/Events/GV-Events](http://gervasivineyard.com/Events/GV-Events)

# HARVEST FOR HUNGER

## JOIN THE 27TH ANNUAL HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN

Each spring, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank hosts its annual Harvest for Hunger campaign in collaboration with three other food banks that together serve 21 counties in Northeast Ohio. This campaign represents one of the largest food and fund drives in the country and is the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's largest fundraising effort, which helps support food distribution all year long.

### JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

Come to an exciting kick-off breakfast to celebrate the 27th anniversary of the Harvest for Hunger campaign on Thursday, February 15, 2018. Learn about ways to get involved, meet the campaign co-chairs, and hear campaign updates. Let's rally together and inspire our community members to come together and get involved!

### CHECK OUT HUNGER

One of the easiest ways to participate in the



campaign is to scan a \$10, \$5 or \$1 donation coupon as you Check Out Hunger each time you visit a participating supermarket.

### HOST A FOOD AND FUNDS DRIVE

Gather your friends, family members or co-workers and join hundreds of local companies, schools and social organizations in hosting a food and funds drive to help those in need in our community. Visit [akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org) for campaign materials and to register your drive.

### MAKE A DONATION \$1 = 4 MEALS

Whether donating online or by mailing a check, your donation goes a long way.

You're invited to the

## CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

**FEBRUARY 15, 2018**

7:30 a.m. Networking & Breakfast  
8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Program

John S. Knight Center  
77 East Mill St, Akron

### PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE

[akroncantonfoodbank.org/rsvp](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/rsvp)

### HONORARY CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS

Jim Porter, Gatehouse Ohio Media  
Dr. Brian Harte, Cleveland Clinic Akron General

Presented by

 **Huntington**  
Welcome.™

## GOOD SAMARITAN HUNGER CENTER SERVES AS POP-UP PANTRY

The Good Samaritan Hunger Center has been serving the Akron community since 1982. Founded by Sister Jordan Haddad, a Dominican Sister of Peace, her goal was to ensure that "one day no man, woman or child would go hungry."

35 years later, the legacy continues through its Executive Director Michele Smith, coincidentally second cousin of Sister Haddad. The program is a wonderful addition to the Foodbank's hunger-relief network.

"We continue to do what we do because there are still people who are hungry in our community," explained Michele.

"I don't want people to have to choose between feeding their family and paying their rent."

The Good Samaritan Hunger Center has evolved its programming to reflect the community's needs. It functions as a pop-up pantry, taking its services to communities that need it most, meeting people where they are.

The last three Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays of each month, the Good Samaritan administers its grocery bag program in North Hill, Summit Lake, and the Akron Urban League. Averaging 170 bags per week, it consists of a three-day food supply and includes meat, fresh produce and homemade soup.

Relatively new to Good Samaritan's programming is its backpack program with Findley Community Learning Center. When Michele heard Foodbank President & CEO Dan Flowers speak at an event last spring, she learned that more than one in five children in our service area struggles with hunger.

"When I heard him say that, not only did it break my heart, but it stuck with me. I keep it in mind for everything we do here," she said.

Michele and a group of volunteers meet each Wednesday to assemble 220 backpacks filled with two breakfasts, lunches and snacks for the weekend. In many cases, the students served by this program rely heavily on the food served in school, and therefore may go hungry during the weekend.





# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

During the holiday season, the need for food for families struggling with hunger seems magnified.

Though hunger affects our community members daily, all year round, the Foodbank is extremely grateful for the support it received during its annual Holiday Campaign.

More than \$103,000 was collected on this single day along with food donations, which, together, totaled the equivalent of more than 415,000 meals.



The campaign was a huge success and helped provide our neighbors in need with a heart-warming meal to share with those they love.

Another component of the Holiday Campaign included nearly 100 organizations coordinating a food and funds drive with their schools, churches, friends and family, or conducting a Point of Purchase program at their local business.

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

On December 1, 2017, the Foodbank partnered with iHeartMedia radio stations, 98.1 KDD, My 101.7, Rock 106.9, 640 WHLO, Fox Sports 1350 and 99.7 Canton's New Country for the annual Long Haul Against Hunger. Listeners of the stations were encouraged to drive by and donate non-perishable food items and monetary donations at two live broadcast locations in Akron and Canton.

To wrap-up the Holiday Campaign, the Foodbank welcomed more than 1,300 guests for the fifth annual Selfless Elf 5k. Runners, walkers, families and furry friends alike dressed in holiday-themed costumes and the iconic striped elf socks. The race began and ended at the Foodbank and all who participated had the chance to meet Santa!



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