



DID YOU KNOW?
Tours of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank are available during regular business hours.

SPRING 2016

THE FOODBANK FOCUS

A publication of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

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



AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL

FOOD BANK

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HARVEST
for HUNGER

THERE IS STILL TIME TO JOIN THE CAMPAIGN!

Thank you for helping families like Naomi's

Naomi and her husband have been happily married for 35 years. Naomi's husband works full time on an assembly line, but due to lingering health issues Naomi is unable to work.

A few years ago Naomi had emergency gallbladder surgery and because of the unforeseen medical bills, her family was forced to file bankruptcy. "I lost my house, and my husband and I had to stay with my sister for a while," said Naomi. "But we saved every penny and were finally able to get back on our feet and into an apartment."

A few months after moving into their apartment Naomi and her husband were on their way to a local restaurant to celebrate their wedding anniversary when their car died.

"We need to have a running vehicle because I take my grandchild to school," said Naomi. "When you live tightly like we do, but need to have your transmission checked and alternator checked and pay your rent, you make choices about which bills to pay. We



chose to pay all of our bills, but that won't put dinner on the table tonight."

With her cupboards nearly empty, Naomi is visiting Barberton Area Community Ministries, a member hunger-relief program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for the very first time.

"This is the only time I plan to use the pantry, and I'm so thankful it's here. **If you could tell the people who donated this food today that they made more of a contribution than they realized.** They aren't just proving food, they are helping families," said Naomi.



During the Foodbank's Harvest for Hunger kick-off breakfast, Dan Flowers, Foodbank President & CEO introduced Foodbank 2020, the Foodbank's highly collaborative, multi-tiered strategic plan aimed at providing access to food for everyone struggling with hunger in our region.

"This is a stake in the ground," said Flowers. "We are not coming back to you year after year with no end in sight. We want the community to know we are engaged in focused work toward a specific achievement. And we're asking for more because we have a plan to realize something very special."

At the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank we believe in a community where all people live healthy and hunger-free lives. It's because of that belief the Foodbank embarked on a strategic journey to transform the path to its next level of work for this community.

With the goal of thinking innovatively about how the Foodbank can have the greatest impact on food security for its local communities, four main strategic initiatives were developed:

GOAL 1: To provide enough food for all

Each county is unique, and therefore requires unique responses to hunger-relief. This goal will allow the Foodbank to strengthen relationships in its eight-county service area and will create opportunities for the Foodbank to develop and implement new effective and efficient methods for the distribution of food.

GOAL 2: To leverage food as a community catalyst

Food is the core of the Foodbank's mission, but to advance the health of the communities it serves, this goal focuses on the necessity to go beyond food and to collaborate and be in conversation around issues connected to food insecurity.

GOAL 3: To be connected in service

This goal emphasizes the Foodbank being focused on building a strong, sustainable, collaborative network within the communities it serves in order to optimize its collective work.

GOAL 4: To strengthen a strong community asset

The Foodbank belongs to you, and we are proud to be a community asset. This goal focuses on building and maintaining an organization for the future while enhancing internal infrastructures and operating systems to sustain the organization today and support growth for tomorrow.

The Foodbank's promise to you is that distributing food will remain the heart and soul of its mission. This work is a collective result of more than 100 people who shared their wisdom and personal visions. **Join us!**

We invite you to be a part of the future work that is threaded throughout this plan. The accomplishments we're looking towards making in the next five years will be possible because of your support and commitment.

Make your mark. See how your personal power can enable our communities to thrive. For more information about Foodbank 2020, please visit Foodbank2020.org.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Akron Area Interfaith Council
Hunger Walk in Medina,
North Canton and Fairlawn
MAY 1, 2016

Cookies for Kids
MAY 11, 2016

Harvest for Hunger
Campaign Celebration
MAY 13, 2016

Stamp Out Hunger Annual
Letter Carriers' Food Drive
MAY 14, 2016

CORE Event for
Young Professionals
JUNE 7, 2016

LOOKING AHEAD



AUGUST 30, 2016



SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2016



DECEMBER 17, 2016

For event details, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org

HONOR ROLL

SPRING 2016

415 Group

Akron Community Foundation
Akron General Partners Physician Group
American Endowment Foundation
American Legion 44 Memorial Fund
Apostolic Christian Church Goodwill Fund
Applied Industrial Technologies
The Augustin Family Charitable Fund
The Beaver Excavating Company
Brechtbuhler Truck Sales, LLC
Bridgestone Americas
Buckeye Corrugated, Inc.
Church of the Lakes
Cleveland Clinic Akron General
Diebold, Inc.
Erie Indemnity
FirstEnergy Foundation
FirstMerit Bank N.A.
GAR Foundation
General Mills, Inc.
GOJO Industries, Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Harwood Rubber Products, Inc.
Haslinger Family Foundation
W. Henry Hoover Fund
HzW Environmental Consultants, LLC
JAH Foundation
Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation
Kokosing Materials, Inc.
Kovatch Family Charitable Fund
Lambda Chi Alpha Fraternity
Laurel Lake Retirement Community
Leadership Akron Alumni Association
Making Smiles Foundation
John A. McAlonan Fund of Akron
Community Foundation
Harry & Anne Mestel Foundation
Miller Transfer and Rigging Company
National Electrical Contractors Association
Nationwide Insurance
Northeast Ohio Eye Surgeons
The Pampered Chef
The Pastore Foundation
Sequoia Financial Advisors, LLC
Stark County Board of MRDD
The Sterling Family Foundation
Synchrony Financial
Taylor Tele-Communications, Inc.
The TJX Companies, Inc.
Wagler Foundation
Wayside Furniture, Inc.
Westfield Insurance
Willard E Smucker Foundation
Wolff Family Charitable Foundation Trust

The Honor Roll recognizes our top supporters of the season. Together we are the difference between hunger and hope.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



You still have time to join the Harvest for Hunger campaign



The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's Volunteer Center was filled with the energy of more than 250 community members as the 25th annual Harvest for Hunger campaign kicked off during a sold out breakfast on Feb. 26, 2016.

Harvest for Hunger is the Foodbank's largest fundraising initiative and is one of the largest food & funds drives in the nation. The campaign is a collaborative effort of four food banks serving 21 Ohio counties.

There is still time to get involved with this year's Harvest for Hunger campaign!



Host a food & funds drive: Nearly 200 businesses, schools, community organizations and families are holding

food & funds drives throughout the months of March and April. To host a food & funds drive, simply register and download a coordinator's kit from the Foodbank's website, akroncantonfoodbank.org.

The biggest impact in the fight to end hunger is made through financial donations. Every \$1 donation provides four meals for those in need.

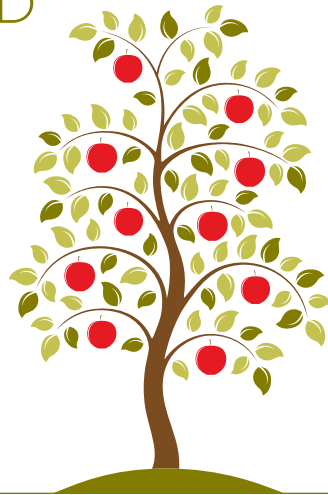


Check Out Hunger: Local retailers including Buehler's Fresh Foods, Dave's Supermarkets, Fishers Foods, Giant Eagle, Ace Hardware and Heinen's Fine Foods participate in Check Out Hunger, which allows shoppers to scan coupons and make donations of \$1, \$5 or \$10 at the checkout register.

One hundred percent of all Harvest for Hunger donations will go directly toward providing food for hungry men, women and children in our community.

HAVE YOU CONSIDERED YOUR LEGACY?

Do you ever think about leaving your fingerprints on something meaningful to our community, even after you have passed away? The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank will continue to feed people and fight hunger, far into the future. Please consider helping us, and those in need, by including us in your will or other estate plans. Working with us now, you can ensure that your vision and commitment will be an investment in a hunger-free community. Please contact Jo Dangel with your plans and questions at 330.777.2319 or jdangel@acrfb.org.



Timken is powering two Foodbank semi-trailers



The Foodbank unveiled the Timken Company's logo on two of its large semi-trailers, signifying the local partnership between these two companies. With a total donation of \$25,000 for each trailer, the Timken Company is the Foodbank's first transportation program sponsor.

The transportation program enables the Foodbank to keep 8.3 million pounds of edible food from going to waste each year from community grocery store partners— putting what grocery shoppers leave behind on the tables of those in need.

The Foodbank will rescue food from more than 100 retail locations in Carroll, Holmes, Portage, Medina, Tuscarawas, Wayne, Summit and Stark counties to collect almost-expired food and donate it through the Foodbank's network.

On an average day, each truck in the Foodbank's fleet drives 100 miles to rescue approximately 4,360 pounds of food!

When you see a Foodbank's trailer, please tag us on Facebook or Instagram and let us know where you are by using the hashtag #ACRFB. We look forward to seeing our trailers throughout our community.

APRIL IS NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

THANK YOU TO OUR INCREDIBLE VOLUNTEERS!

Although the Foodbank celebrates the work of their volunteers all year long, April is National Volunteer Month, a month dedicated to showing gratitude for those who give their time and talents. Just last year, the Foodbank hosted more than 9,000 volunteers who donated more than 53,000 hours of service.

On a daily basis, our committed volunteers inspect, clean, sort and repack every non-perishable food and essential item that is donated to the Foodbank to maintain the highest food safety standards.

Under the supervision of teachers and coaches, a majority of the Foodbank's repacked items are done so by an incredible team of special needs students from area high schools.

"My students work their hearts out for the Foodbank," said Ken Salzzbrenner, Coach from Mogadore

High School. "They love coming here, especially because they know the work they're doing is making a huge difference in our community. They look at their work here as a true job, and they gain practical skills while giving back. They're the hardest workers you'll find!"

To all of our volunteers, thank you for being such an important part of the Foodbank's family!



Students from Mogadore High School volunteer weekly at the Foodbank with their coaches Kim Hurley and Ken Salzzbrenner