



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

WINTER 2015

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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Your donations are helping children and senior citizens, just like Carmen and José

Carmen is visiting Heart to Heart Ministries, a member agency of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. After receiving a bag full of fresh groceries, including frozen chicken and daily multi-vitamins, Carmen sits down and holds her three-year-old grandson, José. José is one of Carmen's six grandchildren, and while Carmen talks, José digs through her grocery bag to find a snack— his favorite granola bars.

Carmen first heard about the food pantry from a friend who knew of her struggles. "I ran out of food; my cupboards were empty," Carmen said. "I've been working since I was 15, but now I just can't."

Living on a fixed income and having to make choices about paying necessary bills or buying groceries, Carmen appreciates the pantry and what it does for her community.

"THIS FOOD PANTRY MEANS SO MUCH TO PEOPLE. THEY KNOW THAT WHEN THEY RUN OUT OF FOOD, THEY ALWAYS HAVE A PLACE TO GO."

Almost 80 percent of those served at Heart to Heart Ministries are senior citizens, like Carmen.

At your Foodbank, almost half of all individuals served are children or senior citizens, our most vulnerable populations. This statistic comes from Hunger in America 2014, Feeding America's most comprehensive study of hunger, which has been conducted every four years since 1993.



To learn more about Hunger in America 2014, please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/hia.



THE WHY

This Foodbank FOCUS newsletter is devoted to keeping you up to date on how your donations are impacting the fight to end hunger in our community and ways you can continually be involved. We are incredibly fortunate to be able to partner with you in this cause, and we thank you for the opportunity to stand with you, together, in support of those in need.

At a recent Foodbank staff meeting, we went around the room and asked our team—**why**. Not what they do, or how they do it, but **why** they do it. What keeps Foodbankers motivated to help feed those in this community on a daily basis?

We share this with you because we want to hear your—**why**. What keeps you motivated? Email us at info@acrfb.org and your answers could be highlighted in future Foodbank pieces.

As one person, I cannot change the world, but I can change the world of one person. Just like one meal will not change our world, but it changes the world for one person.



LESLIE LETNER-GENOVESE

Everyone deserves to be loved. Feeding someone is one way we can love them.



LIBBIE DAYER

I get to see an average of 100,000+ pounds of food leave our facility each day knowing it's all going to individuals struggling with hunger.



MATT PETRICK



KAT PESTIAN

Because of Kelly, Jose, Bernadette, and all of the other individuals and families struggling to put dinner on their tables tonight.



COLLEEN BENSON

All people, especially children, need food – the most basic need – to become healthy, productive citizens.

Your Foodbank's new website is designed with you in mind

We are pleased to share with you our new website, akroncantonfoodbank.org. The website serves the person needing to find a food pantry for the first time after losing a job, the volunteer looking for new opportunities, and our donors looking for ways to give back. We welcome you to our new website.



WIN THIS GUITAR AUTOGRAPHED BY THE BLACK KEYS

In an effort to give back to their community throughout their Turn Blue World Tour, The Black Keys will be selling raffle tickets to benefit your Foodbank. Raffle Items include:

- Dan Auerbach's childhood guitar (autographed by The Black Keys) which was a gift to Dan from his father, and the instrument that the lead vocalist learned to play on. The guitar, a Supertone, was Dan's first guitar.
- An autographed poster of Guitar World, with Dan featured on the magazine's cover.

"This amazing donation has us star-struck and over-the-moon thrilled at the same time. For Dan to raffle his childhood guitar to support his Foodbank says a great deal about his heart, and the commitment The Black Keys have to Northeast Ohio, and the neighborhoods where they grew up." —Dan Flowers



Purchase Raffle Tickets Online TBKguitar.com

Harvest for Hunger campaign helps our neighbors struggling with hunger

Locally, one in seven individuals is at risk of 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 & funds drives, Harvest for Hunger. There are many ways you can support the campaign.

HOST A FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE

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

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.

MAKE A DONATION

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

ENTER TO WIN VIRTUAL IDOL

Individuals and groups of all ages and quantities are invited to compete in our third annual Harvest for Hunger Virtual Idol online singing competition.

Please register and submit your 3-minute or less singing video by March 23, 2015, and you will be entered in our 2015 Virtual Idol singing competition! Rally those around you to visit virtualidol.org to vote for your video.



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.



THANK YOU

FOR HELPING MAKE 2014 OUR **BIGGEST**



YEAR YET,
DISTRIBUTING
ENOUGH FOOD
TO PROVIDE

21.5 MILLION MEALS!

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Begins
FEBRUARY 18, 2015

Polar Bear Jump
FEBRUARY 21, 2015

Check Out Hunger Begins
FEBRUARY 22, 2015

Virtual Idol Submission Deadline
MARCH 23, 2015

Virtual Idol Voting
APRIL 1-30, 2015

LOOKING AHEAD

Operation Orange
SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2015

Selfless Elf
DECEMBER 19, 2015

For event details, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org

CORE

Young Professionals.
Making connections. Making a difference.

2015 VOLUNTEER DATES

February 11
April 21
June 24
October 8

2015 LUNCH & LEARN EVENTS

January 9
August 14

RSVP online at akroncantonfoodbank.org/core

HONOR ROLL

WINTER 2015

Akron Browns Backers
American Endowment Foundation
Ameriprise Financial Services
Andrew's Spirit of Hope
Apostolic Christian Church
Goodwill Fund
Applied Materials Finishing
Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Company
H. Peter Burg Fund of Akron
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Charitable Foundation
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund
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Recognition Partners
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Charitable Fund
Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie
Memorial Foundation
Rotary Club Of Akron
Samuel Reese Willis Foundation, Inc.
Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith
Memorial Foundation
Starbucks
Summit County Safety Council
Target Corporation
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Israel
Thompson Electric, Inc.
The Timken Company
The Venner Family Foundation
Walmart Foundation
Westfield Insurance
Woodforest Charitable Foundation

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

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Up for a swim?

SEE YOU AT THE PORTAGE LAKES POLAR BEAR JUMP IN FEBRUARY

Freezing bodies and warming hearts is the theme of the 12th annual Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump on Saturday, February 21, 2015.

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 details and to register, please visit portagelakespolarbearclub.com.



Thank you for being a Hunger Hero!

The Foodbank's Hunger-Free Families campaign took place this past 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 2014 campaign was a record-breaking success, and our neighbors in need had nourishing, holiday meals to share.

On Friday, December 12, the Foodbank partnered with 98.1 WKDD, Rock 106.9, 99.7 Canton's New Country, 640 WHLO and My 101.7 for the annual **Long Haul Against Hunger**.

Listeners of all the stations drove by Kissing, Nestico & Redick in Summit County, iHeart-Media in North Canton and The J.M. Smucker Co. in Wayne County to drop off food and financial donations all day.

Also a part of the Hunger-Free Families campaign, your Foodbank hosted **Double Your Dollar Day** on Cyber Monday. For every \$1 donated, a generous friend of the Foodbank matched the gift!



Employees from The J.M. Smucker Co. collect donations at the The J.M. Smucker Company Store and Café in Orrville.

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization recognized by the IRS. If you know anyone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Marketing Department at info@acrfb.org or 330.535.6900.



Ken Zerrusen from the Law Offices of Kissing, Nestico & Redick collects donation for Long Haul Against Hunger in Akron.

On December 2, the Foodbank was a part of **#GivingTuesday**, a global day dedicated to giving back. Community members visited participating restaurants including Bob Evans, Chipotle and The Spaghetti Warehouse, where a percentage of their purchase was donated to the Foodbank.

Your Foodbank wrapped up this spirited campaign with the annual **Selfless Elf** 5K run. More than 700 runners (including Santa!) ran the 3.1-mile course beginning and ending at the Foodbank.



Foodbankers along with Matt Fantone and Dan Stancbury from Rock 106.9 WRQK collect donations in North Canton.

A member of **FEEDING AMERICA** **OHIO** ASSOCIATION OF **FOODBANKS**