



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
More than 9,000 volunteers donated more than 53,000 hours of service to the Foodbank in 2015.

FALL 2016

# 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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## Thank you for helping our hungry neighbors in need, like William

Standing outside the doors of Canton Calvary Mission's food pantry, William waits in line for groceries with dozens of other families. William spent his entire life working, supporting his family and living comfortably. When he retired and began living on a fixed income, he found himself choosing between which bills to pay.

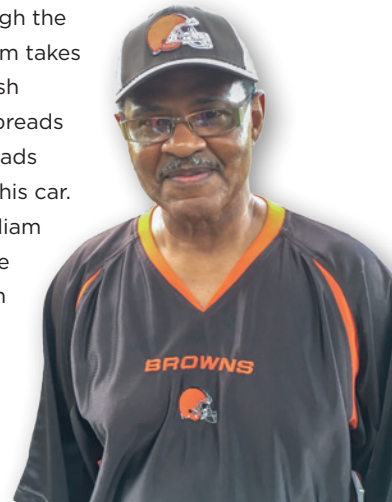
Three months ago, William found the Canton Calvary Mission, a partner hunger-relief program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, and is proud to share his gratitude.

"This pantry helps me get through the month," said William. "Nobody should feel less of themselves when they need help, and they are here with no judgment for people who need them."

I'm so thankful for the different types and abundance of food I receive here for my family."

After going through the pantry line, William takes his cart full of fresh produce, meats, breads and treats, and loads them carefully in his car. Driving away, William waves and has the brightest smile on his face.

Thank you for helping families like William's!



**EAT, DRINK & FEED MANY.**

Help us feed our neighbors in need this holiday season.

**DETAILS INSIDE**

**Selfless Elf**

Join our fourth annual 5K Selfless Elf run/walk on Saturday, December 17, 2016.

**DETAILS INSIDE**

# EAT, DRINK & FEED MANY.



## Help us feed our neighbors in need this holiday season

Each year, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank joins with community members during the holiday season to provide food to families in need. The Foodbank's annual holiday campaign aims to take action for these children and their families facing hunger.

Join us! This holiday season you are invited to join hundreds of local companies, non-profit organizations, governmental bodies, schools, social groups and faith-based organizations in hosting food & funds drives to help feed our neighbors in need.

Every donation matters! It's easy to participate in your own food & funds drive. Please visit [akroncantonfoodbank.org/holiday](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/holiday) or contact Stephanie Knori, [sknori@acrfb.org](mailto:sknori@acrfb.org) for more information.

### SUPPORTER SPOTLIGHT

ComDoc employees recently hosted a unique fundraising drive, **Hungry for Hunger**. The team fasted for 30 hours to raise awareness on local hunger and collected pledges for each hour they fasted— then donated enough to provide 56,000 meals! "The fast started for us at 6:00am and went for 30 hours," said Mike Kraus of ComDoc. "We said one of the keys to getting through this was to eat breakfast prior to beginning, so we met with a dozen colleagues an hour before the fast began. The sun was coming up as we finished breakfast and when we walked out the front door we all saw the Foodbank semi-truck passing right in front of us. It was a beautiful moment that solidified for us why we are doing what we are doing."

If you're like ComDoc employees and want an experience that goes beyond your normal fundraiser and truly boosts moral, please contact our team at 330.535.6900. We look forward to partnering with you!



## WAYS TO GET INVOLVED

### FINANCIAL DONATIONS

A tax-deductible gift is always welcome, which can be made online or via postal mail. With the partnerships and strong purchasing power of the Foodbank, every \$1 donation to the Foodbank = 4 meals.

### POINT OF PURCHASE DONATION PROGRAM

Own a local or small business?

Show your support of the Foodbank by proudly displaying a donation container at your check-out register. A custom container will be designed with your business' name, while thanking customers for supporting their Foodbank! We have a community goal to provide 40,000 meals with our box program, with an individual goal of 1,000 meals or \$250 per container! With your support, you will be recognized on the Foodbank's website and its social media outlets, and be designated as an official public collection location.



### DOUBLE YOUR DOLLAR DAY

The Foodbank will hold its sixth annual "Double your Dollar Day" on the traditionally largest online-shopping day of the year, Cyber Monday, November 28, 2016. For every \$1 that is donated, a generous friend of the Foodbank will make a matching gift. On this day, \$1 = 8 meals.

### LONG HAUL AGAINST HUNGER

On Friday, December 2, 2016, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank will proudly join with local radio stations 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, where listeners of the four stations are invited to drive by and drop-off non-perishable food and monetary donations in Akron and Canton.



Dear friends,

The work of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank remains critical to the lives of people who are struggling with food insecurity. More than 234,000 people in our region experience hunger each year, and many of them do not qualify for public assistance and have nowhere to turn but the food pantries, hot meal sites and shelters you support through the Foodbank.

One of the things that has made the Foodbank successful in meeting community needs over the years is the collaborative culture that is at the heart of all we do. This is an organization that was simply founded on the belief that we can do more when we work together.

In 2015, after months of focus groups and planning sessions, we adopted a new strategic plan, Foodbank 2020. The central goal of this plan is to, for the first time, commit to providing enough meals to meet the needs of everyone in our region struggling with hunger. We hope you'll take a minute to revisit the past year with us in this annual report and read more about our strategic plan at [Foodbank2020.org](http://Foodbank2020.org).

I want to close by telling you how grateful we are for your support and how valued you are. The Foodbank is an institution of compassion for the hungry, sick, and struggling—fueled by you, your time and your financial support.



Dan Flowers  
President & CEO



Mark Purtilar  
Chair, Board of Directors

View our Annual Report online at [akroncantonfoodbank.org/resources](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/resources).



**DECEMBER 17, 2016**

In the spirit of the holidays, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank invites you to participate in the fourth annual 5K Selfless Elf run/walk on Saturday, December 17, 2016. Selfless Elf is an exciting way to embrace the holiday season while celebrating the success of the Foodbank's holiday campaign.

Dress up in your favorite festive holiday themed costumes or running gear, and run or walk the 3.1-mile course beginning and ending at the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Participants registered by December 2 will receive a long-sleeve special edition race t-shirt and coordinating striped elf socks. Join the Foodbank and become a Selfless Elf for those who are struggling with hunger in Northeast Ohio. For additional information or to register, please visit [selflesself.com](http://selflesself.com), or contact Megan Birman at [mbirman@acrfb.org](mailto:mbirman@acrfb.org) with any questions.

North  
Coast  
99  
WINNER

**THANK YOU** to our employees and our entire community for helping us achieve NorthCoast 99 award for the third year in a row, which recognizes the Foodbank as one of Northeast Ohio's best places to work! The award commends organizations for their ability to maintain great workplaces that support the attraction, retention and motivation of top performers.

## HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll recognizes our top supporters of the season.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Ada C. & Helen J. Rank Charitable Foundation  
Akrochem Corporation  
Akron Area Interfaith Council  
Akron Children's Hospital Employee Foundation  
Akron General Medical Center  
Ameriprise Financial Services  
Aultman Health Foundation  
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Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Company  
Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund  
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Cardinal Health Foundation, Inc.  
Charles Robert Jelms Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Citizens Bank  
Chicken Open  
Commercial Timesharing, Inc.  
Community One Credit Union  
Compass Group, North America  
Darden Foundation  
Diebold Associate Charitable Fund  
Dominion  
Donovan Family Fund of Akron  
Community Foundation  
East Central Ohio Building &  
Construction Trades Council  
FirstEnergy Foundation  
Huntington National Bank (formerly  
FirstMerit Bank)  
FirstMerit Foundation  
GOJO Industries, Inc.  
Goodyear Tire and Rubber Company  
Huntington National Bank  
Kovatch Family Charitable Fund  
Lisle M. Buckingham Endowment Fund  
of Akron Community Foundation  
Marni & Morris Propp II Family Foundation  
Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust  
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Novak Family Charitable Fund  
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The Roger & Susan L'Hommedieu Family Fund  
The Sisler McFawn Foundation  
The Thomas L. and Margaret  
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The Welty Family Foundation  
Williams Company  
W. Paul & Thora J. Mills Memorial Foundation  
Walmart Store #1895  
Walmart Store #2323  
Walmart Store #2361  
Wells Fargo Foundation  
WesBanco Bank, Inc.  
WITAN



Savor from Canton was crowned the People's Choice Award winner at the event for serving blackened dry sea scallops over purple polenta with blue cheese and candied bacon, garnished with wheat grass.

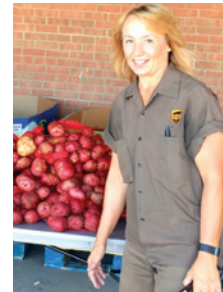


## THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING TASTE OF THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME AND OPERATION ORANGE

Because of your support of Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, the largest fundraiser of the year for the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, the Foodbank will be able to provide enough food for nearly 700,000 meals! Thank you to our title sponsor, WQMX/WONE/WAKR/WNVV.

During Operation Orange, the Foodbank's 24-hour volunteer marathon, more than 1,500 volunteers worked (and danced!) through the day and night at the Foodbank repacking 234,000 lbs. of fresh produce like apples and sweet potatoes.

A tremendous thank you to the Dominion Foundation for donating \$15,000 to make this event possible in honor of Hunger Action Month and Operation Orange.



"Pulling in to make a delivery, I saw the Foodbank's truck along with apples and carrots—the same items I'd worked on at Operation Orange," said Kim Dodd (pictured left). "I stopped to say hello and was thrilled to know the items I helped to pack were being distributed just days later to families in our community."

## We need volunteers, like you

BY KAT PESTIAN

Bruce is a volunteer driver for the Foodbank, whom I've seen dozens of times. We've waved in the parking lots, said hello in the hallways, but for the hour I spent on a ride along with him, I came to understand his kindness and the joy he brings to the life of others—and now I'm proud to call him a friend.

Bruce began volunteering at the Foodbank three years ago as "something to keep him busy," but soon, he found a passion. "I saw a Foodbank semi-truck down my street and I remember thinking, 'There's no way a little Foodbank could fill that semi,'" Bruce recalled. "So I decided to tour the Foodbank's facility where I learned that they actually have SIX semi-trucks and two box trucks. Every day, it amazes me the magnitude of food that would be wasted if the Foodbank wasn't here."

Bruce is one of the few people I've met who gets to see every aspect of hunger-relief in our community. Not only does he volunteer to pick up donated food almost daily for the Foodbank, every Wednesday, he volunteers at his church's food pantry where he gives the food from the Foodbank to families struggling with hunger. And at the end of that shift, he delivers food to strangers and friends who can't make it to the pantry.

After my ride along was over, I had a moment of clarity: Last year at the Foodbank, we enjoyed the efforts of more than 9,000 volunteers. Let me say that again—9,000 volunteers who, like Bruce, came into our Foodbank because they care about our mission and those we serve, and because they have a love for our community.



And what if each of those volunteers had a heart like Bruce's? What if every person I see in this building has a deep connection with family and friends and showed that love by volunteering, donating their time and talents.

Then it hit me—they do.

So if you're like Bruce and are looking for something to "keep you busy" or simply want to experience genuine kindness all around you, come take a tour of your Foodbank.

We truly look forward to welcoming you.