



FOODBANKFOCUS

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akroncantonfoodbank.org

SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

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What might seem like a small donation can make a big impact in somebody else's life.”

-BETH



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY. MEET BETH.

Beth has arrived at the Foodbank around 9am for a food distribution taking place later in the afternoon. She and hundreds of other cars wrapped around the block are waiting for the drive-thru to begin.

After a major health incident, Beth found herself on disability, living on a fixed income.

“I've been on my own since I was 17 years old, so I like to be independent. Having to go on disability was difficult.”

Beth reserved her limited resources for her mortgage, insurance and utilities, relying on her family to help supply her pantry with the necessary staples.

Then she learned local food programs in her area could offer some relief. “At first, it was very humbling, as I had always been self-supporting. And I was worried I was taking food off another person's table. And then I just became grateful.”

Since Beth's life has changed, she's much more aware of the hardships others face. “Hunger is much more widespread than anybody realizes. And if someone can afford to donate food or money, they should know it's going to people who actually need it; it's not a wasted expense. And don't ever think that what you're doing is not necessary, because it is critical for a lot of us.”

READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE.
akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON

1127 Construction, Inc.
Akron Community Foundation
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Staff
James & Irene Aldrich
Andrew Alleman
Mark & Shelly Allio
The Nancy Andrews Family Foundation
Jon & Kathryn Antalvari
Richard & Linda Arter
Peter & Heidi Augustin
Simon Badinter
Dominic Bagnoli & Vivian von Gruenigen
Barberton Community Foundation
The Beaver Excavating Company
Bemis Company Foundation
Brian & Kathy Miller
Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund
Brubaker Family Foundation
Buckeye Corrugated, Inc.
James & Patrice Burkle
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust
Cargill, Inc.
Circle K Great Lakes Division
The Mary S. & David C. Corbin Foundation
David & Susan Cornet
Christopher & Taraline Coughlin
CVS Health
Diebold Foundation
Dominion Energy
James & Lynne Dougherty
DRB Systems, Inc.
Estate of Frank Walter Green
Barbara Faiss
FirstEnergy Corp.
Dan & Holly Flowers
Michael Foley
Fresh Thyme Market & Fresh Thyme Giving Tree Foundation
Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust
GAR Foundation
The Giant Eagle Foundation
Giant Eagle
Stacey & Jeffrey Gonzalez
Ann Harry
Harwood Rubber Products, Inc.
Sandra L. & Dennis B. Haslinger Family Foundation
Heinen's Fine Foods
John Hinds
The Home Depot Foundation
The Hoover Foundation
Huntington National Bank
IRG Realty Advisors
JAH Foundation
Charles R. Jelm Charitable Foundation
Kisling, Nestico & Redick, LLC
Cynthia L. Knight
Kovatch Castings, Inc.
M. James Kozak
Kroger
Lebron James Family Foundation
Nick & Kathy Lekas
Dale A. & Lucinda J.P. Leppo
Gary & Susan Lichten
Lindsay Precast
Andy & Emily Little
Phillip & Peggy Lloyd
Gregory & Kathryn Long
The Lucky Irishman Charity Account
Malco Products, Inc.
James & Claudia Markwald
Joan Marsh
Susan Martin
Cynthia Parker Matthews Family Foundation
Harry & Anne Mestel Foundation
Metropolitan Vet Hospital
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Keith D. Monda
Sherri & Frank Monaco
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Nagaprasad Nagajothi
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PGA Tours, Inc. & Bridgestone SENIOR Players Tournament
PNC Foundation
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Wayne County Community Foundation
Richard Weidrick
Joseph Weinstein
Wells Fargo
Werner-Marsh Family
Westfield
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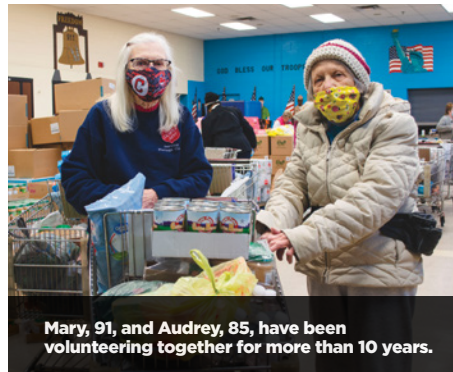
Captain Hardy helps load vehicles with food at their grocery store distribution, Red Shield.

SENIORS FIND SUPPORT AT THE SALVATION ARMY IN PORTAGE COUNTY

May is Older Americans Month, where we celebrate our senior citizens and create awareness about senior hunger. Thousands of seniors are served through your Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's hunger-relief network, some trying to live on a fixed income, others still working to help make ends meet. Thankfully, we have wonderful partners helping feed our seniors all year long.

The Salvation Army of Portage County is a Foodbank partner diligently serving seniors through the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). CSFP, a federally funded program, works to improve the health of low-income seniors by supplementing their diets with nutritious USDA foods.

Each month, 50 CSFP boxes are distributed by The Salvation Army through a contactless, drive-thru pickup. Some boxes are delivered directly to people who are home bound or lack access to transportation.



Mary, 91, and Audrey, 85, have been volunteering together for more than 10 years.

The Salvation Army also offers food to individuals and families through its food pantries in Ravenna and Windham and its Red Shield direct distributions. Since the pandemic affected many local families, its pantries serve approximately 600 families

each month; Red Shield distributions serve 500 families each month.

"Food has always been a primary focus for us," said Commanding Officer Captain Hardy. "And now we're seeing about a 33 percent increase in new families seeking our services. Families are having to make choices like paying for rent or providing food, and food is the first thing to be put on the back burner."

Seniors make up 40 percent of the individuals served through The Salvation Army's food programs, but in Windham, approximately 70 percent of the people served are seniors. Captain Hardy also mentioned there are 30 grandparent families utilizing their services - grandparents struggling financially because they're serving as the primary caregiver for their grandchildren.

Captain Hardy has seen his fair share of hardships, serving with The Salvation Army for nearly 13 years, but he remains positive and optimistic.

"We are the hope. When somebody tells you how happy they are and when we see a family eat, **it makes it all worth it.**"

FOODBANK CELEBRATES VOLUNTEER EFFORTS DURING VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION MONTH

Volunteers are a vital part of accomplishing our hunger-relief efforts. We are eternally grateful for their endless support and the energy they bring to our organization. Every year, we hold a volunteer celebration during Volunteer Appreciation Month in April to recognize the great work of our fellow community members, highlighting three specific winners. Unfortunately, due to COVID-19, we weren't able to publicly recognize our 2020 recipients.



Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year

Burns & McDonnell

NICK ESCHBACHER

Assistant Project Manager

How long has Burns & McDonnell been involved with the Foodbank?

We began supporting the Foodbank three years ago and have kept a withstanding commitment of volunteering the third Wednesday of the month. We also continued to volunteer during the COVID-19 pandemic as often as we were able to.

Why are hunger-relief efforts important to Burns & McDonnell?

One of our biggest principles at Burns & McDonnell is health. We enjoy supporting organizations that are an advocate for health because the health of our community is important to us.

How does it feel to win Corporate Volunteer Group of the Year?

It's a great feeling. Burns & McDonnell prides itself on giving back to local communities and we are trying to become more involved in the Akron community.



Organizational Volunteer Group of the Year

NEOMED's Student-Run COVID-19 Relief Initiative

POOJAJEET KHAIRA

NEOMED Student

How long has your student-led group been involved with the organization?

This initiative started during the summer of 2020 as a way for me and my fellow students and friends to help during the pandemic. We held a food drive, prepared food kits, donated homemade masks and volunteered at the Foodbank between the months of June and August.

Why are hunger-relief efforts important to you?

During this pandemic, I heard about a lot of people who were losing their jobs, making it harder for families to put food on the table. Through this process, I've learned that hunger affects more people than you would think.

How does it feel to win Organizational Volunteer Group of the Year?

It's amazing. We had so many students who came and helped with these projects, not to get recognized, but because they genuinely wanted to help the community.



Individual Volunteer of the Year

JOHN RUTH

Community Harvest Program Volunteer

How long have you been involved with the Foodbank?

I have been volunteering for five or six years. I drive and pick up food from various restaurants and grocery stores on behalf of Community Harvest, the Foodbank's food rescue program.

Why are hunger-relief efforts important to you?


It gives me a sense of doing something good and being part of the solution, not part of the problem. I wish more people realized how great the need is. There are so many people struggling, especially with COVID-19.

How does it feel to win Individual Volunteer of the Year?

It feels really good. My favorite part of volunteering is doing something positive for the community.

YOUR IMPACT IN 2020:

 **3,703** volunteers

 **61,700** hours of volunteer service*

 **1,830,063** meals processed through volunteer efforts

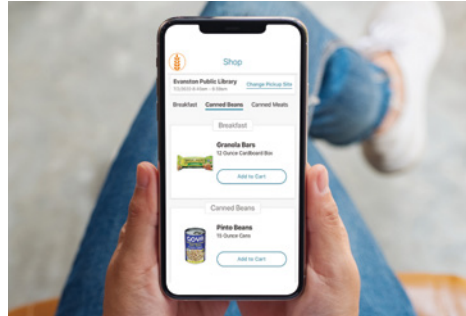
*Members of the Ohio National Guard contributed nearly 50 percent of these hours.



FOODBANK PILOTS E-ORDERING DELIVERY PROGRAM FOR LOCAL FAMILIES

Many people order dinner, groceries and so many other services online from the comfort of their own home. E-ordering platforms not only save time but offer contactless interactions in a time where social distancing is safest.

The Foodbank worked with local hunger-relief partners to identify 100 local families in need of food assistance who may be home bound or lack access to transportation. Piloting the program for six months will enable Foodbank staff to learn the new system before scaling it for larger ventures. The order-ahead model may be used for the new Stark County Campus food pantry.



“The e-ordering pilot has allowed us to explore innovations in the charitable food sector, focusing on meeting people where they may be more comfortable — in their homes, online,” said Katie Carver Reed, director of network partners and programs.

The Foodbank recently joined the e-ordering phenomenon through grant funding from Feeding America. The new, order-ahead software allows families in need to shop Foodbank items online and schedule the delivery directly to their homes.

“We hope this model will reach more people struggling with hunger while reducing the stigma associated with needing help.”

YOUR SUPPORT OF HARVEST FOR HUNGER MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE

Harvest for Hunger is the Foodbank’s largest fundraising campaign and helps support food distribution all year long. Your generosity helps to provide millions of meals for your local community. No matter how you choose to support Harvest for Hunger, please remember that 100 percent of every dollar raised in the Campaign goes directly to providing free food for people in need. For more information on how you can get involved, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/hfh.



HOST A VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

Create a personalized online fundraiser and share with your social networks.



MAKE A DONATION

Make an individual or corporate gift. Allow employees to give through payroll deduction. \$1 = 4 meals!



HOST A FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE

Collect food and financial donations.



DINE IN OR DINE OUT TO FIGHT HUNGER!

In lieu of Celebrity Cuisine, support your Foodbank’s Community Harvest program and local restaurants by contributing to this online fundraiser!

Learn more at akroncantonfoodbank.org/tcra.

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EVENT DATES



Each CORE event consists of a volunteer opportunity in our warehouse from 5-7pm.

- April 21, 2021
- May 19, 2021
- June 16, 2021

akroncantonfoodbank.org/CORE