



FOODBANKFOCUS

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akroncantonfoodbank.org

SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

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“

This help means
we get to eat
another day.”

-MELODIE



YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS PEOPLE LIKE MELODIE

It was a sunny day in April when Canton Calvary Mission opened its doors for its grocery distribution. Neighbors were chatting with one another and families were waiting for the bus under the shade of a tree. It seemed like a peaceful, spring day, but approaching the church doors it was clear things were not running as normal — everyone was wearing a protective mask.

In the weeks after the coronavirus pandemic shut down businesses, schools and restaurants, families have been struggling to make ends meet. People with full-time jobs who have never had to ask for help before are standing in food lines or reaching out to the Foodbank looking for assistance.

This is where we met Melodie. She learned of the grocery distribution from a family member. She was loading her car

with a cartload of pantry staples and fresh produce. She was a first-time visitor to the church's food program.

“I really appreciate these people being here. I'm thankful for the green veggies and fresh produce.”

Melodie had a steady job that paid the bills but was laid off two weeks ago. When we spoke with her, she had not yet received an unemployment check and was having a difficult time keeping up on bills while also buying groceries. “We're not in a good financial place right now, so I really appreciate this help.”

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
Atlantic Food Distributors, Inc
Ayco Charitable Foundation
Bank of America
Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund
Eileen Burg
H. Peter Burg Fund of Akron Community Foundation
Cardinal Health Foundation, Inc.
Lynn Cavalier
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Cleveland Clinic
CSO Control Systems for Building Automation
The Paul & Carol David Foundation
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Shearer's Snacks Charity Foundation
Sisters of Charity Foundation of Canton
Stark Community Foundation
Willard Stephenson Foundation
Mike Swiatkowski and Summit Food Solutions
Andrea Rose Teodosio Memorial Foundation
Tri-County Restaurant Association, Inc.
Kevin Tucker & Patricia Howell
United Way of Summit County
Westfield



Private First Class Hunter Morrow and Specialist Megan English help Canton Calvary Mission serve families during its grocery distribution.

SERVING ON THE FRONT LINES DURING THE COVID-19 CRISIS

YOUR SUPPORT THROUGHOUT THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC HAS BEEN FELT AND APPRECIATED ACROSS THE EIGHT COUNTIES WE SERVE.

Because of financial donations from both local and national supporters, the Foodbank has been able to provide our hunger-relief network the necessary resources it needs to continue serving our community. Due to your generosity, more food was made available on our menu than ever before. And with the support from the Ohio National Guard, we were able to offer their help at food programs and had the capacity to deliver food directly to programs.

We never faltered in our passion and dedication to feeding our neighbors in need. Instead, we locked arms, rolled up our sleeves and together, as a community, we were resolute in our determination to feed our friends, coworkers, families and neighbors. This was all made possible because of you. **THANK YOU!**



Suspending volunteer activities for safety reasons meant all hands on deck. Foodbankers help build emergency food boxes.



Specialist Taylor Golston fills bottles with hand sanitizer.



Guardsmen support food programs in our hunger-relief network.



Your Foodbank increased the frequency of its grocery distributions to help feed local families.

THANK YOU FOODBANK MAJOR PARTNERS!

VISIONARY PARTNERS 1 MILLION+ MEALS



LEADERSHIP PARTNERS 200,000+ MEALS



MISSION PARTNERS 80,000+ MEALS

Akron Area Interfaith Council

Akron Children's Hospital

Akron Community Foundation

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Staff

American Wood Reface

Anonymous

Bauhart Family Charitable Fund

The Beaver Excavating Company

Bimbo Bakeries

BJ's Wholesale Club

Citizens Bank

Enterprise Holdings

Frito Lay

The Gessner Family Foundation, Inc.

Health Foundation of Greater Massillon

Heinz Frozen Food Company

John Hinds

Kovatch Family Charitable Fund

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Massillon Cable TV

Northern Ohio Golf Charities

Penske Logistics

Sandridge Gourmet Salads

Save A Lot

Mike & Jennifer Saxon

Sequoia Financial Group

The Sisler McFawn Foundation

Smith Dairy Products

Subaru of America, Inc. & Serran Subaru

Tri-County Restaurant Association

WAKR, WONE, WQMX, WN WV W. W. Grainger, Inc.

MINERVA COMMUNITY OUTREACH SERVES FAMILIES AFFECTED BY FOOD INSECURITY

When a family arrived on the doorstep of St. Paul's Lutheran Church weary and looking for food, church members and community volunteers realized that though they lived in a small community, the poverty and need within their little town was great. Something needed to be done.

From the dedication of three original founding members and the church congregation came the creation of Minerva Community Outreach. Offering a variety of services, the ministry began with a food pantry in 2008. In addition to the pantry, the Outreach also delivers food boxes to senior citizens who are home-bound and to the local senior center.

The grocery distribution is offered the fourth Friday of each month, which is extremely helpful for the people being served. Individuals using food stamps to feed their families tend to have a difficult time making ends meet toward the end of the month when benefits have been depleted. Having a reliable source of fresh and nourishing food allows families to eat



Volunteers help pack bags full of food.

well without sacrificing paying other bills, like rent, utilities or transportation costs.

"Knowing that we're helping someone who's fallen on hard times, it warms your heart," explained Steve Fletcher, a founding member of the Outreach and inventory manager for 10 years. "The look of joy when someone tells you they're not going to have to go without — seeing that joy — that's payment enough."

Steve is all too aware of the situation families are facing. Years ago, he was injured on the job and couldn't work for seven months. Steve was very reluctant to receive public benefits, but in the end, he realized he needed to put his family first.

In order to provide for his family, he relied on unemployment and food benefits during that difficult time.

Steve's own hardship helped show him that you can't tell what people are going through simply by looking at them. "For us, times were good, and then all of a sudden I'm injured and bankrupt." As he serves families at the pantry now, he realizes it's difficult to know someone's circumstances that brought them there.

"Helping somebody when they can't help themselves, that's what it's all about. You simply can't give away enough food."



Dennis takes home a variety of fresh and shelf-stable items.

SCHOOL ENDED EARLY & FAMILIES ARE OUT OF WORK: WHAT DOES THAT MEAN FOR THE KIDS FACING HUNGER?

SINCE SCHOOLS CLOSED IN MARCH DUE TO THE CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC, FAMILIES HAVE BEEN PUT IN A VERY DIFFICULT POSITION. IN THE FOODBANK'S EIGHT-COUNTY SERVICE REGION, 1 IN 5 CHILDREN STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER.

More than 100,000 children in our area receive one, if not two meals while at school each day. Most of these students rely heavily on free or reduced-price meals, and some are recipients of backpack programs; they receive easy-to-prepare meals for weekends and holiday breaks.



Since schools closed early, families who depend on school meals to ensure their child receives enough nourishing food have been struggling to make ends meet. Though some school districts still offered meals, if parents were lucky enough to still have a job, transportation without school buses was complicated.

Now that summer is here, families still dealing with the effects of COVID-19 and already overextended budgets are forced to continue to make up for lost school meals, in addition to childcare costs and, in many cases, lost wages.

Summer hunger is a problem, especially now with all the financial burdens families are experiencing. Your Foodbank seeks to meet the needs of these children struggling



with food insecurity. In partnership with our hunger-relief network, we are here to help by providing nutritious meals and snacks when school is not in session. Food pantries will serve as a much-needed resource for these families and will help them continue feeding their children.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 16, 2020

AUGUST 11, 2020

SEPTEMBER 17, 2020

OCTOBER 13, 2020

CORE Event for Young Professionals

SEPTEMBER 23, 2020

Stark County Medical Society
19th Annual Golf Outing

SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

NOVEMBER 8, 2020*

Harvest Moon Run

DECEMBER 19, 2020*

Selfless Elf 5K

*Registration now open

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT

akroncantonfoodbank.org/events

Thank you for helping provide meals to children during summer break.

Your support means the difference to so many!



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