

# FOODBANKFOCUS

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SUMMER 2022



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[akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org)

### MAIN CAMPUS

350 Opportunity Pkwy.  
Akron, OH 44307

### STARK COUNTY CAMPUS

1365 Cherry Ave. NE  
Canton, OH 44714

### SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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



## Every meal has a story. Meet Joe.

If Joe, 63, makes one person laugh each day, he's accomplished his mission. He's a jolly guy, so jolly that around the holidays he dresses as Santa Claus to spread joy to children and their families. He'll do anything to brighten someone's day.

Life hasn't always been easy for Joe. When times get tough and he doesn't know how he'll feed his family, he visits the food pantry at the Foodbank's Stark County Campus. This helps alleviate his stress and is one less thing he needs to worry about.

Joe has a large household to support. He used to work at H-P Products doing strenuous, manual labor, but he had to retire early. His wife works, but with a large family all living under one roof, her pay goes to utility bills or filling up her gas tank to get to and from work. Not much is left over for groceries.

"I have six people in the house; most of them are kids; my kids and my grandkids. I'm retired because of my [bad] knees. My wife is working, but all the bills keep going up. It makes buying food very hard," he said.

No family should have to choose between having running water or the lights on and food. The pantry simplifies things for Joe and helps lessen his worries about his grandchildren not being able to get the nourishing food they need to grow and live healthy lives.

**Joe is so grateful to everyone who ensures that he and his family have food on the table every single day. "I am really glad to get all of the help. Thank you. Thank you very much."**

# Honor Roll

## THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON

1127 Construction, Inc.  
3M Company  
Andrew & Jessica Alleman  
Jon & Kitty Antalvari  
Atlantic Food Distributors  
Thomas Bevan  
Canton Outside of Canton  
Barry Chiron  
Estate of Billie R. Coile  
Stephen Comunale  
Fairway Independent Mortgage Corp  
FirstEnergy Corp.  
Albert W. & Edith V. Flowers  
Charitable Foundation  
Fresh Thyme Market & Fresh  
Thyme Giving Tree Foundation  
GOJO Industries, Inc.  
The Goodyear Tire &  
Rubber Company  
Frederick & Jane Griech  
Thomas A. Haught  
The Hillier Family Foundation  
The Hoover Foundation  
Huntington National Bank  
IRG Realty Advisors  
Jersey Mike's Subs  
Paul & Cookie Joseph  
Steve & Debbie Joseph  
John S. and James L.  
Knight Foundation  
Nick & Kathy Lekas  
Bill & Pearl Lemmon  
Roger & Susan L'Hommedieu  
Laura R. & Lucian Q.  
Moffitt Foundation  
The Keith D. Monda Family  
National Interstate  
NJM Insurance  
Keith & Susan Novak  
The M.G. O'Neil Foundation  
Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie  
Memorial Foundation  
River Valley Paper Company  
RPM3 Charitable Fund  
Sequoia Financial Group, LLC  
Kenneth T. Siloac  
Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith  
Memorial Foundation  
The J.M. Smucker Co.  
Tim & Jennifer Smucker  
State and Federal  
Communications Inc.  
Summa Health Systems Hospital  
Medical Staff Account  
Taylor Tele-Communications, Inc.  
The TJX Companies  
Kevin Tucker & Patricia Howell  
David & Cheryl Venarge  
Walmart & Walmart Foundation  
Westfield  
Woll Family Foundation  
Richard Zellers

# Inflation impacts families and Foodbank

As the community rebounds from the pandemic, families who lost everything and are trying to replenish their emergency funds, are now dealing with the cost of inflation. Increased prices for food, gas and other essentials can make it difficult for families to stay within a budget.

During the last 12 months, inflation rose to nearly 9% in the U.S., the steepest rise in prices since 1981. Though families are paying more for household necessities, in most cases, wages haven't increased to help make up the difference. Many are forced to make difficult decisions, like choosing between nourishing groceries and filling their gas tank, paying for rent, childcare, medication and more.

Thankfully, there are 600 hunger-relief programs within the Foodbank's eight-county region that can help offer families support during this difficult time.

But inflation also impacts the Foodbank. Rising costs, coupled with supply chain issues, have made it hard for the Foodbank to secure food donations. Typically, the Foodbank receives donations by the truckload from manufacturers, retailers, wholesalers and farmers. But manufacturers are not overproducing food, and what is being produced is selling at the retail level.

Additionally, food donations from the USDA and national food donors were down 17% in 2021 compared to 2020.

The Foodbank has responded to a shortage in donations by purchasing more food than ever using financial contributions from generous donors. With a 10-15% increase in food purchase prices, as well as increased cost for shipping and freight, this support means all the difference for your Foodbank and families facing hunger.

"Food banks are having a really difficult time navigating the current economic climate. We believe staffing shortages, cost of fuel and freight, materials shortages, and high demand are all contributors to these shifts in the food industry, making it extremely difficult to procure and distribute food to our network of hunger-relief partners," said Dan Flowers, Foodbank president and CEO. "In the end, our neighbors facing hunger will feel this strain, and we simply can't let that happen. We'll do whatever we need to do to ensure access to nourishing food for families in Northeast Ohio."

Thank you for supporting your Foodbank throughout this trying time. Your financial contributions help feed the 1 in 7 individuals in our community who may struggle with food insecurity.

## INFLATION IMPACTS LOCAL FAMILIES



### Gallon of Milk

<b>2021</b>	\$3.35
<b>2022</b>	\$3.92

17% increase



### Pound of Ground Beef

<b>2021</b>	\$3.35
<b>2022</b>	\$3.92

18% increase



### Gallon of Gas

<b>2021</b>	\$2.90
<b>2022</b>	\$4.20

45% increase

# Your support makes a big impact!






Because of faithful Foodbank supporters, the 1 in 7 individuals in Northeast Ohio who may struggle with hunger has a place to turn during their time of need. Thank you!

	<b>Meals Provided</b>	22,523,010
	<b>Produce Pounds Distributed</b>	5,430,187
	<b>Volunteer Hours*</b>	54,437
	<b>Miles Driven by Our Fleet to Rescue Food</b>	257,740
	<b>Programs in Our Network Serving the Community</b>	602

\*Members of the Ohio National Guard contributed 32% of these hours.

## New campus serves community for one year this summer

Since opening its doors in July 2021, the Stark County Campus has been used for internal and external meetings, cooking demonstrations, informational roundtables for the Foodbank's hunger-relief network, volunteer opportunities, serving community members through the Keith D. Monda Family Food Pantry & Resource Center and so much more.

-  Nearly 6 million pounds of food was distributed from its warehouse through 3,400 hunger-relief partner pickups.
-  The Danbury Senior Living Teaching Kitchen has been the site of nearly a dozen cooking demonstrations for hunger-relief partners, staff and community members. Chefs from Danbury and OSU Extension have used food from the Foodbank's menu to make simple, nourishing meals.
-  The Keith D. Monda Family Food Pantry served nearly 9,600 families and distributed close to 270,000 pounds of food. The pantry allows the Foodbank to test new innovations and concepts in pantry operations. Key takeaways and learnings are shared with the Foodbank's hunger-relief network.
-  New partnerships with five area nonprofits were established to meet the needs of neighbors beyond food. These partners provide health screenings, education, referrals, community connections, legal services, job assistance, housing and more in the Aultman Health Foundation Resource Room. 165 sessions have been held in the resource room for community members seeking help from our new partners.
-  The new campus has welcomed hundreds of volunteers who have donated more than 16,000 hours of service to help community members facing hunger.



# Loaves and Fishes provides families comfort through meals

So many families served by your Foodbank and our hunger-relief network face uncertainties. Some might not know where their next meal is coming from. Others are choosing between feeding their children and paying a dozen other bills necessary to stay afloat. As inflation increases gas and food prices, families are making difficult choices every day. But a Carrollton food pantry, Loaves and Fishes, works diligently to help alleviate these worries for many families.

The pantry has been a partner of the Foodbank since 1989, just seven years after the Foodbank was founded. For more than three decades, community members have found comfort and nourishing food at Loaves and Fishes.



**If someone comes knocking on my door and they say, 'I'm out of food. I don't know what I am going to do,' it feels good knowing we can meet those needs."**

Gordon Warner, program director at Loaves and Fishes food pantry

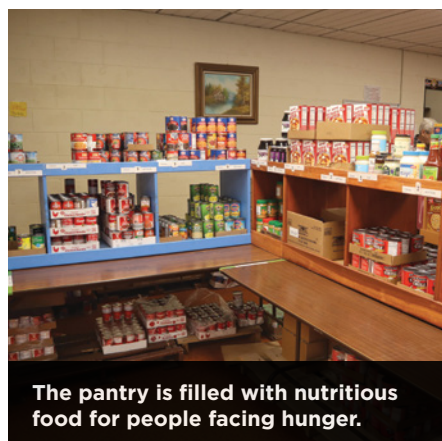
In Carroll County, nearly 4,000 people, including 18% of children, may face food insecurity this year. Loaves and Fishes opens their pantry doors several times a month to ensure that families experiencing hunger have food on the table. Each month they serve nearly 200 families through a grocery store-like setup, allowing people to choose what food to take home.



**Robin and Gordon help pack boxes full of food.**

The Foodbank encourages partners to be a choice pantry, allowing families to shop pantry shelves with dignity and respect. Choice pantries also help eliminate food waste, since families are taking items they like, know how to prepare, and can eat because of dietary restrictions or other personal health reasons.

"Loaves and Fishes is an asset to Carroll County in many ways," said Brooke Duro, partner relations coordinator at the Foodbank. "The dedicated hunger-relief partner is open three weeks out of the month, making them accessible for everyone in the community, no matter what their schedule looks like."



**The pantry is filled with nutritious food for people facing hunger.**

People experiencing food insecurity should never feel ashamed when visiting a food program. There are countless reasons an individual may find themselves needing access to free groceries. Robin Wilkin has been volunteering with the pantry for nearly 15 years. Before he was helping fill families' boxes with groceries, he was stopping in to get food himself.

"At one point I was a person in need. I injured my hand and lost everything but my finger and thumb. I used this food pantry to get supplemental food, and now I want to give back to the pantry that I once needed," Robin said.



**Janet volunteers to help her community.**

With volunteers who have experienced hunger firsthand, Loaves and Fishes creates a warm and welcoming environment for their neighbors in need.

"You shouldn't be afraid, and you shouldn't feel bad about visiting a food pantry. The door is always open, and nobody is going to turn you away," said Robin.

# Penske proves to be a dedicated partner helping fight local hunger

The Foodbank is grateful for the variety of donors and contributors that support local hunger relief. A unique supporter that might not be an obvious partnership, is the international logistics and trucking company, Penske Logistics.

The local Penske facility in Macedonia stores and manages the supply chain for Starbucks stores in Ohio and neighboring states. Penske oversees the inventory of the prepared food available in stores, including breakfast sandwiches, lunch boxes, sweets and more. Sometimes, there's a surplus of these items and rather than send them to the landfill, this nourishing food is donated to the Foodbank. In 2021, Penske donated 52,000 pounds of food to the Foodbank, helping provide more than 43,000 meals for Northeast Ohioans.



**Penske employees enjoy a cookout while also raising funds for the Harvest for Hunger Campaign.**

Starbucks donates food to food banks all across the country because of its relationship with Feeding America, the nation's largest charitable response to hunger relief comprised of 202 food banks in the U.S.

But Penske Logistics chose to engage with the Foodbank on an even deeper level. "Seven years ago, we took a vote amongst our associates to learn what local charitable organization they'd like to start working with, and the Foodbank was chosen," said Joy Martin, senior operations manager at Penske.



**We think it's very important to give back to our local community. All of our associates are from the community, and we want them to be proud of the company they work for."**

Joy Martin, senior operations manager at Penske Logistics

In addition to helping manage Starbucks food donations, Joy and her team at Penske send volunteers to the Foodbank. They've participated in the former 24-hour volunteer



**Joy's team at Penske collected food donations for the Harvest for Hunger Campaign.**

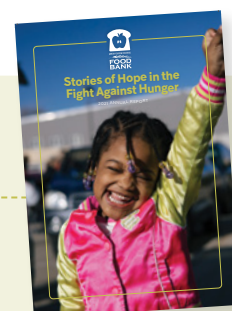
event, Operation Orange, and they coordinate a Harvest for Hunger Campaign.

Penske's 100+ associates love to participate in food-centered activities to support the Campaign. Bake sales, catered lunches and cookouts are always crowd-pleasers. They also organize a silent auction. This year's big-ticket items include a smart TV, a weekend getaway in Cleveland, a prime parking spot and a stylish pair of sunglasses.

Joy plans all these activities for her associates because hunger relief is important to her. "Hunger is prevalent, and it affects more people than we realize. And I'm very concerned about kids — I can't imagine being a child who's hungry trying to sit in school. No one should go hungry, especially since there's so much food available."

## VIEW THE 2021 ANNUAL REPORT

See your impact in action by reviewing the 2021 annual report at [akroncantonfoodbank.org/resources](https://akroncantonfoodbank.org/resources)



# Mark Your Calendar

## SEPTEMBER 13, 2022

15th annual Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

## SEPTEMBER 21, 2022

Stark County Medical Society 21st Annual Golf Outing

## DECEMBER 17, 2022

10th annual Selfless Elf 5k

# Board of Directors

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# Thank you, Foodbank Major Partners!

## VISIONARY PARTNERS 1 MILLION+ MEALS



## LEADERSHIP PARTNERS 200,000+ MEALS



Andrew & Jessica Alleman



The Keith D. Monda Family

Morgan Stanley



Repository



Elizabeth Skavish & Michael Rubenstein



Taylor Tele-Communications



## MISSION PARTNERS 80,000+ MEALS

Anonymous

Citizens Bank

Rick and Anita King

Sandridge Gourmet Salads

Akron Area Interfaith Council

The Mary S. & David C.

Family Foundation

Save-A-Lot

Akron-Canton Regional

Corbin Foundation

Kisling, Nestico &

Mike & Jennifer Saxon

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Foundation

Bala Venkataraman

Christ Foundation

John Hinds

Alan Pendergrass

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