



FOODBANKFOCUS

A PUBLICATION OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK ■ FALL 2020

MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

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akroncantonfoodbank.org

SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

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“

People are trying to do the best with what they have.”

-CARLA



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY. MEET CARLA

It's a warm summer day when we meet Carla. She's taken two buses to get to St. Joseph's Catholic Church: an hour commute.

“When I get to sit down and have a meal with the friends I've found here, it makes me feel good.”

The coronavirus has shifted hot meal programs to a grab-and-go style to safely distribute food. Unfortunately, this means people who find companionship over a community meal are left without the socialization and personal connections they're looking for.

The coronavirus has impacted Carla. Her 21-year old son, who is a big eater, used to help pay for groceries before he lost his job. And her husband who is a subcontractor isn't receiving as much work as he used to. Though their

family receives some help, it's simply not enough to get by. “It's a real struggle to make it through the end of the month. I eat less now so my son can eat.”

Carla's family has been through a lot. Years ago, a surgery put her out of work for six months. Their savings couldn't handle the loss in wages, and soon they couldn't keep up with rent. The family of three found themselves living in motels, with friends and family, and eventually, homeless. Before the virus, she felt they were back on their feet.

“This place is such a blessing and is so important to me. Saying ‘thank you’ just isn't sufficient enough.”

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

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON

3i Solutions
Akron Area Interfaith Council
American Electric Power
Peter & Heidi Augustin
Bemis Company Foundation
Ken & Gerri Blum
Brookwood Management
Buehler's Fresh Foods
Lynn Cavalier
Buckeye Health Plan
Christ Community Chapel
Christ Foundation
Costco
Crum & Forster Insurance
CVS Health
The Paul & Carol David Foundation
James Deroche & Debra Eisenstat-Deroche
Dunkin' Joy in Childhood Foundation
Encova Foundation of Ohio
Famous Enterprises, Inc.
William & Karen Feth
Fifth Third Bank
Fishers Foods
Kevin & Peggy Gaffney
GEMCORE Holdings, Inc.
General Atomics
The Gessner Family Foundation
Giant Eagle
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
GPD Group
Donald J. Hafner
Thomas A. Haught
The Hillier Family Foundation
Steven & Peg Hirsch
Home Savings
Huntington National Bank
Richard & Sharon Juve
James R. Kolp
James & Joanne Komos
Richard & Christine Kramer
The Lehner Family Foundation
Nick & Kathy Lekas
William Lemmon
Roger & Susan L'Hommedieu
Gary & Susan Lichten
Andrew & Emily Little
Michael & Kelly Livesay
LyondellBasell
Craig & Mary Makrucki
The Maynard Family Foundation
C J McCollum Enterprises, Inc.
James & Diana McCool
Nationwide Foundation
Harvey & Kim Nelson
NOPEC Foundation, Inc.
The M.G. O'Neil Foundation
Robert O. & Annamee Orr Family Foundation
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund of
Akron Community Foundation
Anthony M. Pastore
Alan & Kelly Pendergrass
Charles & Patricia Perrin
Debra Perry
Gary & Cheryl Prather
David & Julie Pratt
Quanex Foundation
Scott & Kim Read
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Joseph & Annette Ruby
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Stark County Hunger Task Force
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The TJX Companies
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Walmart & Walmart Foundation
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Woodforest National Bank



Holiday memories are made around the dinner table. Baking holiday treats, tasting your favorite dish - but most importantly, connecting with friends and family over a special holiday meal. Food brings us together; food helps make lasting memories. For families facing hunger in our region, holiday meals might not feel as special. **But together, we can help. Let's ensure all families can gather over a very special meal. With your support, families can find joy this holiday season.**

JOIN OUR HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN!



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Please consider making a personal donation or a corporate gift.



EMPLOYEE GIVING

A few dollars from each pay can make a lasting impact.



START AN ONLINE FUNDRAISER

Create a personalized online fundraiser, and share the link via email and through your social networks.



HOST A FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE

Collect food and financial contributions for your Foodbank.



IRA/STOCK ROLLOVER

Contact Debra Hagarty at 330.535.6900 to learn ways you can support the Foodbank through deferred gifts.



DOUBLE DOLLAR DAY

November 30, 2020

On Cyber Monday, generous friends of the Foodbank will match your gift. On this day, \$1 = 8 meals!



LONG HAUL AGAINST HUNGER

December 2020

Drive by and donate monetary donations and nonperishable food items while iHeartMedia radio personalities broadcast live! Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/longhaul or call 330.535.6900 for more information.



HOLIDAY MATCH

December 14-18, 2020

Help families find joy this holiday season. Thanks to several friends of the Foodbank, your donation can be matched to help twice as many families on December 14-18, 2020.



HARVEST MOON

VIRTUAL RUN

November 8, 2020

Support the prepared and perishable food rescue program of the Foodbank, Community Harvest, through the annual Harvest Moon run. This year is a 5k only.



SELFLESS ELF 5K

VIRTUAL RUN/WALK

December 19, 2020

Dress in your favorite, festive holiday-themed costumes or running gear. For more information on the virtual race, visit selflesself.com.

Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/holiday for more information.

MASSILLON COMMUNITY RALLIES TOGETHER TO SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER THROUGHOUT PANDEMIC

THE CITY OF MASSILLON IS A SMALL TOWN WITH A BIG REPUTATION. HOME OF THE MASSILLON TIGERS, THE CITY HAS RECEIVED NATIONAL RECOGNITION FOR ITS HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM FOR YEARS. BUT THIS CITY HAS MUCH MORE TO BE PROUD OF, INCLUDING THE WAY IT TAKES CARE OF ITS RESIDENTS WHO STRUGGLE WITH HUNGER.

St. Joseph's Catholic Church, a hunger-relief program within the Foodbank's network, has been serving the community since the '70s. Funded by church parishioners and its St. Vincent de Paul Society, the food program offers a hot lunch, groceries and clothing to community members in need.

Serving 200 meals and packing 100 bags of groceries on average each week, the program is managed by three volunteers and run by 30 dedicated church members and the court's community service program. One of those parishioners is Judge Eddie Elum of the Massillon Municipal Court, a 35-year volunteer at the weekly program.

"The need is greater today than it was 35 years ago when we started this program. Hunger and food insecurity are real and many people don't realize that," said Judge Elum.

As COVID-19 stripped many people of their



Stephanie packs grocery bags for people checking in.

savings and livelihoods, St. Joseph's has seen an increase in need from people they've never served before.

"We've had a lot of new people due to the circumstances who don't have any resources right now. We're just glad we're able to help as much as we can," said Stephanie Ilg, one of the three volunteers who manages the program.



Judge Elum and his son, Paul, have volunteered with the program for years.

The program primarily serves senior citizens, veterans and people with mental health and addiction issues. But now, Stephanie and her volunteers are providing hope to many more, including entire families who have moved in together and grandparents taking care of grandchildren.

"It's more than just food; it's part of creating a sense of community. **Our clients know us, and they like to come talk to us each week.**"

Because of the coronavirus, the food program has shifted to a takeout-style hot meal, limiting the amount of time people get to spend with one another. The feeling of welcome and togetherness isn't completely lost as community members stand in line, though most will be happy when they can get back to business as usual.

We're so grateful for the food program at St. Joseph's Catholic Church in Massillon and for their dedication to local hunger-relief efforts. Because of your support, we can continue to fight hunger together.



Kitchen volunteers are hard at work packing individual to-go meals.



FOODBANK SEES INCREASE IN FOOD INSECURITY

Because of COVID-19, Feeding America estimates the following impact on food insecurity in the Foodbank's 8-county region. Food insecurity refers to USDA's measure of lack of access, at times, to enough food for an active, healthy life for all household members and limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate foods.

+41%
INCREASE IN OVERALL FOOD INSECURITY
271,990
INDIVIDUALS ARE FOOD INSECURE



+51%
INCREASE IN CHILD FOOD INSECURITY
91,040
CHILDREN ARE FOOD INSECURE



LOCAL COUPLE MAKE LASTING IMPACT ON HUNGER RELIEF

THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK HAS SEEN AN OUTPOURING OF SUPPORT FROM THE COMMUNITY THROUGHOUT THE PANDEMIC, HELPING IT QUICKLY AND EFFECTIVELY RESPOND TO THE INCREASE IN NEED FROM LOCAL FAMILIES STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER.

Harry and Cathy have been long-time supporters of the Foodbank's hunger-relief efforts. They're members of the Sustainer Circle, donating monthly through automatic, electronic payments.

Cathy describes Harry's story as having a powerful impact on her, and that she has always been surrounded by people facing hardships. As a teacher and then a pastor for 20 years, she's fielded many phone calls from families seeking help. One of the churches she worked at organized its own food pantry for local families.

"We like to give to the Foodbank because it can do so much more with a dollar - donations are used wisely and they multiply," explained Cathy.

"Parents choosing not to eat to provide for their children—to see the struggle; it was heart-wrenching."

Supporting the fight against hunger is a cause that's extremely personal for the couple. Harry shares stories from his childhood about preparing ketchup sandwiches, cornmeal skillet or dousing bread with milk for dinner.

Though years have passed since Cathy has retired, she had the very same feeling of sorrow as she saw the lines of people waiting for food because of COVID-19. She believes the coronavirus has raised the community's awareness of how closely families live paycheck to paycheck.



Harry's dad, a house-framing carpenter, had steady work when weather was agreeable; his mother cleaned homes. During the winter, their local grocery store would extend his family a credit so they could eat.

To help offer hope to families facing hunger, the couple recently established a charitable gift annuity (CGA) for the Foodbank. A CGA will provide them partially tax-free and fixed payments during their lifetime. CGAs terminate when the donor(s) passes away, and the Foodbank receives the residual funds.

For more information on CGAs, please contact Debra Hagarty at 330.535.6900.

LEAVE A LASTING LEGACY BY PLANNING YOUR GIFT

THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS YOU CAN SUPPORT LOCAL HUNGER-RELIEF EFFORTS.

Bequest: Remember the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in your will.

Charitable Gift Annuity: Make a gift of cash or appreciated property and receive fixed payments during your lifetime.

Life Insurance: Assign an existing policy to the Foodbank or designate the Foodbank as a beneficiary of a new policy.

Retirement Assets: Select the Foodbank as the beneficiary of your 401(K) or traditional IRA.

For more information on any of the above options, please contact Debra Hagarty at 330.535.6900.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 13, 2020
CORE Event for Young Professionals

NOVEMBER 8, 2020
Virtual Harvest Moon Run

NOVEMBER 30, 2020
Double Dollar day

DECEMBER 19, 2020
Selfless Elf 5k virtual run/walk

SAVE THE DATE

FEBRUARY 16, 2021
Harvest for Hunger Kick-off Breakfast

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT
akroncantonfoodbank.org/events

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