



FOODBANKFOCUS

A PUBLICATION OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK ■ FALL 2021



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akroncantonfoodbank.org



SERVING 8 COUNTIES
Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit,
Tuscarawas & Wayne Counties

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To know that someone cares, besides your family, they (donors) must have a big heart."

— MICHELLE



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY. MEET MICHELLE.

Michelle, 67, lives in an apartment specifically for seniors with limited financial resources. The subsidized rent helps her manage her bills, but sometimes, her social security simply isn't enough; she comes up short. When this happens, she looks to friends, family and the Foodbank for a little extra help.

Michelle has always been a hard worker. Cleaning fitness centers and hotels, working in restaurants and as a cashier — she did whatever she had to do as a single mother caring for two boys. She remembers visiting a food pantry when they were young and being grateful for the items she received. But her growing boys knew not to expect a big dinner each night — they just didn't have the resources.

Now, when Michelle needs a little extra help to extend her budget, she visits food programs within the Foodbank's network.

When asked what she would like to say to donors who support the Foodbank's work, Michelle replied with tears in her eyes.

"It takes a special kind of person, with a whole lot of love, to be able to feel the need of someone else. I'd tell them thank you very much."

On Michelle's behalf, we'd like to thank you for supporting your Foodbank and our neighbors in need.

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON

Akron Area Interfaith Council
Andrew & Jessica Alleman
Anthem Blue Cross and Blue Shield
Apple Inc.
Bill & Cindy Artman
Atlantic Food Distributors
Aultman Health Foundation
Bank of America
The Beaumier Donor Advised Family Fund
BoxLunch
BoxOut
Buehler's Fresh Foods
Cardinal Health Foundation
CARE Package Relief
Chick-fil-A Foundation
Citizens Bank
Cleveland Clinic
ComDoc
The Mary S. & David C. Corbin Foundation
Costco
D.G. Yuengling & Son, Inc.
Dalton Local Schools
The George H. Deuble Foundation
Energy Harbor
Enterprise Holdings
Famous Enterprises, Inc.
FedEx
Fifth Third Bank
FirstEnergy Corp.
The Sam J. Frankino Foundation
The Gessner Family Foundation
Giant Eagle
GOJO Industries, Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry
Donald J. Hafner
John Hinds
Kevin Tucker & Patricia Howell
Tom Jackson
Jersey Mike's Subs
Paul & Cookie Joseph
Steve & Debbie Joseph
Rick and Anita King Family Foundation
Kovatch Castings Charitable Fund
Kovatch Castings, Inc.
The Lehner Family Foundation
Nick & Kathy Lekas
Dale A. & Lucinda J.P. Leppo
Betty Levinson
W. Riley & Barbara Lochridge
Morgan Stanley
National Interstate Insurance Company
Nationwide Foundation
Harvey & Kim Nelson
Robert O. & Annamae Orr Family Foundation
Sheetz For the Kidz
Larry Shirk
Tim & Jennifer Smucker
The J.M. Smucker Co.
St. Michael Parish
Subaru of America, Inc. & Serra Subaru
Taylor Tele-Communications, Inc.
Walgreen's
Westfield

POP-UP PANTRY PARTNERS WITH FEEDING MEDINA COUNTY TO OFFER ADDITIONAL SUPPORT

A new and exciting collaboration that launched this spring aims to serve individuals in western Medina County through the Foodbank's new pop-up pantry. Partnering with Feeding Medina County, the Foodbank deploys its mobile food pantry to Lodi the first Thursday of each month for a drive-thru food distribution.

"Medina County is often viewed as an upper income area, but people don't realize that we are a rural community and that pockets of poverty exist everywhere," said Executive Director Katy Fuerst.

"Hunger tends to be hidden from view when driving through the county, but I wish people knew that poverty and food insecurity affect a lot of hardworking families here."



Executive Director Katy Fuerst helps load cars during the pop-up pantry distribution.

In addition to the pop-up program and the emergency food pantry, Feeding Medina County has a variety of programs for residents. It offers two Direct Distributions (DD) per month. DDs are an excellent way to distribute large quantities of fresh, perishable food to communities in need. The cost of all food is underwritten by the Foodbank and is quickly placed in the hands of people who need it the most.

Feeding Medina County is also committed to serving its most vulnerable populations, children and senior citizens. Each week, nearly 1,000 food bags are prepared for children to ensure they have easy-to-prepare foods over the weekend. The Staples for Seniors program delivers food boxes to more than 400 seniors each month residing in subsidized housing, many of whom are unable to leave their homes.

As the community rebounds from the pandemic, Katy has met a lot of new individuals seeking help, many for the first time. "People feel ashamed and awkward asking for help — they're afraid to reach out. But everyone needs help at some point. That's why Feeding Medina County exists."

COVID-19 has shed light onto hunger within Medina County and around the country. For individuals who have never thought they'd need to visit a pantry, they've realized how quickly their situation can change.

Katy reflects on a family living in an affluent neighborhood with two working adults. Because of the pandemic, a family member and their child moved in, expanding the family of five to seven. After a job loss, the family had to rely on one person's income, driving them to visit the food pantry to make ends meet.



The Foodbank's new pop-up pantry visits neighborhoods with limited food access.

"Our goal is to get more food to those who need it in the county, and our partnership with the Foodbank is helping us do that. Because we're all working together, we can have an even greater impact on Medina County. Our partnership is how we make the magic happen."

GROWING FOR GOOD

THE CAMPAIGN TO REACH FURTHER & FEED MORE



FOODBANK CELEBRATES OPENING OF NEW STARK COUNTY CAMPUS

The Foodbank unveiled its new Stark County Campus in Canton in July with a ribbon cutting ceremony and open house — a celebration of a monumental moment in the organization’s history. The new facility represents the culmination of the Foodbank’s five-year strategic plan to help ensure all individuals within the eight counties it serves have access to safe and nourishing food.



Foodbank Vice President Shelly Hinton shares how the vision for the new facility was a collaboration among many stakeholders.

Foodbank Vice President Shelly Hinton gave a brief history on how the new facility stemmed from extensive research that fueled a bold dream.

“It all began with a vision. A vision for community food security and collaboration around food issues. A vision to strengthen our collective response to hunger by working together. And a vision for an investment in the well-being and enhancement of an important area along one of Canton’s key downtown corridors,” she said.

Hunger-relief partners can pick up food orders at the new facility, saving partners in our southern-most counties time, resources and wear-and-tear on their vehicles. And similar to the Main Campus in Akron, community members will have the opportunity to volunteer.

Unique to the Stark County Campus will be the wraparound services it offers the community, including a food pantry and a resource center offering support services beyond food.



Growing for Good: The Campaign to Reach Further and Feed More Co-Chair Janelle Lee enjoys seeing so many stakeholders come together to celebrate the opening of the new facility.

“Together, we have constructed not only a purpose-built food bank in the heart of Canton where the need is great, but because of your generosity, we’ve built a facility that will offer wraparound services to benefit the entire community,” explained Shelly.



Foodbank President & CEO Dan Flowers thanks Keith D. Monda, a significant investor to the capital campaign and namesake of the new onsite food pantry and resource center.

Visit Growing4Good.org or call 330.777.7571 to learn more or schedule a tour.



LEARN MORE WAYS YOU CAN HELP YOUR **FOODBANK**

The Foodbank can provide food, essential items and hope to thousands of families each year because of your generosity. As we continue to expand the programs and services we're able to offer the community, we're also expanding the ways in which you can engage with and support your Foodbank. Giving to the Foodbank can be done directly by:

- Remembering the Foodbank in your will with a bequest.
- Gifting cash or property and receiving fixed payments during your lifetime through a charitable gift annuity.
- Assigning an existing life insurance policy to the Foodbank.
- Selecting the Foodbank as the beneficiary of your retirement, investment or bank account.

For more information, please contact Debra Hagarty at 330.436.3171.



JOIN OUR HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN!

Holiday memories are made around the dinner table. This year, as families gather after a long time apart, holiday traditions will feel even more special. Baking holiday treats, tasting your favorite dish — but most importantly, reconnecting with friends and family over a special holiday meal. Food brings us together; food helps make lasting memories. Help ensure all families have a very special meal by joining our Holiday Campaign. **With your support, families can find joy this holiday season.**



\$1 = 4 MEALS

Please consider making a personal donation or a corporate gift.



EMPLOYEE GIVING

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



HOST A VIRTUAL FOOD DRIVE

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



DOUBLE DOLLAR DAY November 29, 2021

On Cyber Monday, your gift will be matched! On this day, \$1 = 8 meals.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

OCTOBER 20, 2021

CORE Event for Young Professionals

NOVEMBER 7, 2021

Harvest Moon Run

NOVEMBER 29, 2021

Double Dollar day

DECEMBER 18, 2021

Selfless Elf 5k run/walk

SAVE THE DATE

MARCH 1, 2022

Harvest for Hunger Campaign
Kick-off Breakfast

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT
akroncantonfoodbank.org/events

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