

DID YOU KNOW?

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief charity.

SUMMER 2017

THE FOODBANK FOCUS

A publication of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

Serving Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne Counties



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Your support helps so many like Melissa

Outside the Barberton Salvation Army, those facing hunger wait in line for the direct food distribution to begin. Simply stated, a direct food distribution is when the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's trucks pull into a designated location with nourishing food for families to take home.

Inside of the building preparing tomatoes to be handed out to those in need is sixty-seven-year-old Victoria Evans from New Franklin, OH.

As Victoria hands out produce to families struggling with hunger, she shares how welcomed she hopes people feel, and that because of the direct distributions, people can receive nutritious foods that they need.

"We have tomatoes, potatoes, onions - all kinds of veggies," Victoria said. "The food here is enough for several meals for the people who are down on their luck and need the help."

Of the hundreds of people Victoria will see today, it is her goal to make them feel welcomed and give them a sense of community inside the Salvation Army's doors. Victoria will see families, like Melissa's, a hard-working mom of two, who drives a bus for a local public school system.

"I'm at that line where I can buy food— but I can't afford healthier items," Melissa said. "I'm considered the working poor."



Melissa

Waiting in line, this is the second time Melissa has come to the Barberton Salvation Army's food distribution. Melissa said she appreciates not only the convenience and organization of the direct food distribution but loves being able to receive healthy food for her two children.

"I liked getting the carrots and cucumbers," Melissa said. "I was also able to get bags of lunch meat which is good for the kids' school lunches. I was given meats like pastrami and black forest ham, which I couldn't afford to buy because it's too expensive. My kids actually got to experience the good stuff."

Melissa says she is also grateful for the funding that helps pay for the direct distributions.

"If I could say anything to the people who provided the food today, I would say thank you for helping my kids eat healthy food," Melissa said.

This is just one story of two families out of the hundreds who found themselves looking for help at the Barberton Salvation Army, an Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank food distribution site.



CALLING ALL YOUNG PROFESSIONALS





CORE is made up of motivated, energetic young professionals interested in growing their professional network while helping feed those struggling with hunger in our area. We hope that you will join us at our remaining events in 2017 for various volunteer projects, opportunities to learn more about the Foodbank and a chance to network and meet other CORE members.

AUGUST 10, 2017
SEPTEMBER 19, 2017
OCTOBER 10, 2017

Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/core to learn more or sign up. Please contact Megan Birman at mbirman@acrfb.org or 330.777.2318 with any questions.

FOLLOW THE FOODBANK ON SOCIAL MEDIA

Following your Foodbank on social media is a great way to stay up to date with the latest news and events in the local fight against hunger. Look for the official social media channels for the Foodbank on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube, and let us hear from you!

-  Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
-  @ACRFoodbank
-  @ACRFoodbank
-  Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

Box program helps seniors in need

Your Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has proudly implemented a senior box program aimed at distributing nourishing boxes of food to low-income residents of Medina, Wayne, Summit, Stark and Tuscarawas Counties who are 60 years old and older.



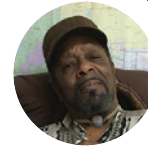
The Foodbank's goal is to improve the nutrition of older low-income individuals by enrolling them in the senior box program, also known as the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP). Each box contains an assortment of food including cereal, juice, canned items like vegetables and fruit, shelf-stable milk, pasta, cheese, and a variety of proteins like meat and peanut butter.

The Foodbank kicked off the program in March and is currently serving more than 600 seniors each month, like Cornell and Robert.



"Receiving the senior boxes means a great deal because a lot of times I'm not always able to get a lot of assistance with my social security check. These senior boxes help me to spread my food out over the month. My favorite items in the box are the orange juice and the fruit. I have diabetes, and these items help me stay healthy."

CORNELL AGE 62



"Receiving the senior boxes is helpful to me because I do prepare my own meals. I fall asleep reading cookbooks. I used to drive buses for Metro RTA and public schools, but I had some health problems back in 2010, and I'm currently looking for work again."

ROBERT AGE 69



The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has been enrolled as a participating organization in Thrivent Choice. By directing Choice Dollars®, eligible Thrivent members can recommend which non-profit organizations they feel should receive charitable grant funding from Thrivent. If you have Choice Dollars available to direct, please consider directing to Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank.

To learn more about Thrivent Choice, visit Thrivent.com/thriventchoice.

COMING UP SOON



SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH.

WE DID IT!

HARVEST for HUNGER

THANKS TO YOU, WE EXCEEDED OUR HARVEST FOR HUNGER GOAL!



During Harvest for Hunger, we provided more than 5 million meals towards hunger-relief efforts in our community. We celebrate you—our partners, friends and supporters, who gave so freely and openly. Thank you for supporting Harvest for Hunger, a

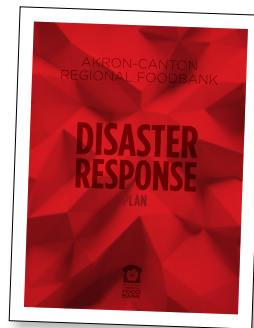
campaign fueled by collaboration, where pancake breakfasts, dollar dress-down days, donations at grocery store lines and gifts sent to the Foodbank are the difference between hunger and health for thousands of neighbors in our region. **THANK YOU!**

Foodbank announces new Disaster Response Plan

Your Foodbank recently announced the release of its Emergency Preparedness Plan, a key component of its Foodbank 2020 strategic plan, which positions the Foodbank as a significant responder during disaster situations in coordination with local emergency management organizations.

During the past year, the Foodbank went above its work of responding to the daily crisis of hunger, to bring a team of local emergency management experts and a Feeding America Disaster Capacity Advisor together, to ensure a comprehensive disaster plan focusing on emergency food was developed.

Dan Flowers, President & CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. “We assembled a planning team comprising of local and national experts, partners and responders, and completed a year-long, collaborative deep dive into the preparedness process. We now have a coordinated plan that represents a best practice in our industry.”



Thank you to the Foodbank’s Emergency Preparedness Committee, that included experts from the Summit County Emergency Management Agency, American Red Cross, The University of Akron Emergency Management, Oswald Companies, Homeland Security Department and the Ohio Military Reserve.

“Over the past two decades, food banks across the country have emerged as key responders in disasters of all kinds, and the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank wants to be ready to answer the call to serve our community if a disaster occurs,” said

HONOR ROLL

The Honor Roll recognizes our top supporters of the season. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

Affinity Medical Center
Akron Beacon Journal
Akron Community Foundation
Ameriprise Financial Services
Atlantic Food Distributors, Inc
Aultman Health Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Company
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Stark County Medical Society
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Westfield Insurance
Wooldredge Family Foundation of Hudson Community Foundation

THANK YOU FOR JOINING US AT THE FOODBANK + COMMUNITY HARVEST APPRECIATION PARTY

On Thursday, June 1, 2017, your Foodbank and Community Harvest hosted an Appreciation Party to celebrate its merger. We honored all hunger-relief partners, donors, volunteers, community members and contributors who helped us make this merger possible!

Congratulations to Temple Israel, Outstanding Community Support Award recipient; LA Office Solutions, Inc., Outstanding Business Support Award recipient; Anthony Huprich, Outstanding Youth Volunteer; and Mark Samolczyk of Stark Community Foundation, The Deloris M. Cope Humanitarian Award recipient.



PLEASE MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS

TASTE OF THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
Celebrating 10 Years

PLEASE JOIN US!
August 29, 2017

5:30 - 9:00 P.M.
VIP LOUNGE OPENS AT 5:00 P.M.

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
2121 GEORGE HALAS DR NW, CANTON

PRESENTED BY
Citizens Bank®
AND WQMX/WONE/WAKR/WWV

OPERATION ORANGE
SEPTEMBER 8-9, 2017

Join us for the fifth year of this annual 24-hour volunteer event, when approximately 125 volunteers will be sorting and inspecting donated food in the Foodbank's 83,000 square-foot warehouse every 2 hours.

COMMUNITY HARVEST MOON RUN COMMUNITY HARVEST
OCTOBER 1, 2017

Join us at Varian Orchards for a unique event designed to promote healthy lifestyles while bringing families together.

SELFLESS ELF 5K RUN/WALK
DECEMBER 16, 2017

Grab your favorite festive holiday-themed costume or running gear and embrace the holiday season by running or walking the 3.1-mile course beginning and ending at the Foodbank.