



DID YOU KNOW?

The Foodbank serves approximately 263,200 different individuals each year.

WINTER 2016

THE FOODBANK FOCUS

A publication of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

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



350 Opportunity Parkway
Akron, OH 44307-2234
main: 330.535.6900
fax: 330.996.5337
akroncantonfoodbank.org



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Thank you for bringing hope to families like Tabitha and Elijah's

Walking into the Barberton Area Community Ministry, a member hunger-relief program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Tabitha holds the hand of her four-year-old son Elijah, and in her other hand she holds the car seat of her three-week-old baby.

Tabitha and her husband both work full-time, but due to her unpaid maternity leave, her family's budget is extremely tight.

Through tears Tabitha says, "I am so thankful for this place, and the people here are so kind. The first time I visited the pantry, I couldn't believe how healthy and fresh the food is. As a mom, it's an incredible feeling to give my children the nourishing foods they need."

Tabitha has five children from ages three weeks to 23 years old, and like most kids,



Elijah, 4 years old

they can never eat enough. "My kids love the chicken nuggets and apples that we get here. I love the fresh breads, meats and canned vegetables."

Elijah heard his mom say "chicken nuggets" and runs over to say, "I love those! Can we have them today?"

She looks down at him and with a big smile and says, "Sure, sweetheart."

YOUR IMPACT IN 2015



Because of supporters like you, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank had another record-breaking year. Learn more about the impact of the Foodbank in 2015 inside.

HONOR ROLL

WINTER 2016

Akron Children's Hospital
Employee Foundation

Mark and Michele Allio Family Fund
of Akron Community Foundation

Ameriprise Financial Services

The Sue and Mal Ames Fund of the
Akron Community Foundation

Andrew's Spirit of Hope

Glenn R. & Alice V. Boggess
Memorial Foundation

Buehler's Fresh Foods

Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust

Community Health Care, Inc.

Community of Saint John

The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation

The Paul & Carol David Foundation

FirstEnergy Corp.

FirstMerit Bank N.A.

Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers
Charitable Foundation

The Giant Eagle Foundation

GoJo Industries, Inc

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

The Grainger Foundation

The Hoover Foundation

Charles Robert Jelm Charitable
Foundation, Inc.

The Lehner Family Foundation

Main Street Gourmet

Marietta Community Foundation, Inc.

Medical Mutual Investment Fund of
Akron Community Foundation

Laura R. & Lucian Q. Moffitt Foundation

The R.C. and Katharine Musson
Charitable Foundation

Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund
of Akron Community Foundation

Kurt and Tammie Packer Charitable
Fund of the Cleveland Foundation

People's Bankcorp Bank Foundation

PNC Foundation

Red Nose Day Fund

Samuel Reese Willis Foundation, Inc.

Shearer's Foods, LLC

Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith
Memorial Foundation

Temple Beth Shalom

Thompson Electric, Inc.

The Timken Company

Walmart Foundation

Westfield Insurance

WITAN

The Honor Roll recognizes our top supporters of the season. Together we are the difference between hunger and hope.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!



Harvest for Hunger provides nourishing food that is distributed to those in need each year through our network of hunger-relief partners. Join the Foodbank and help us celebrate 25 years of this vital campaign!

Harvest for Hunger runs the entire months of March and April and is the collaborative effort of four food banks covering 21 counties across Northeast Ohio.

There are several ways you can support the campaign, which helps support food distribution all year long.

JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST

Please join us for an exciting breakfast to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the Harvest for Hunger campaign on Friday, February 26, 2016 at 8:00 AM. You'll meet the campaign co-chairs and hear ways to get involved this year. Please visit

akroncantonfoodbank.org/Feb26 for event details, tickets or available sponsorship opportunities.

CHECK OUT HUNGER

Shop at participating supermarkets and ask your cashier to scan a \$10, \$5 or \$1 donation coupon as you "Check Out Hunger." Please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org to find a list of participating grocery stores near you!

HOST A FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE

Join more than 200 businesses, schools, churches and other organizations by conducting a food & funds drive. Visit our website for food & funds drive details and to learn how to register your drive.

MAKE A DONATION

Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org to make a donation online or mail your check today.

HARVEST for HUNGER

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF
BREAKFAST
FEBRUARY 26, 2016

You're invited!

7:30 AM Doors Open for
Networking & Breakfast

8:00 - 9:00 AM Program

Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank
350 Opportunity Parkway, Akron

\$25/individual
\$300/table sponsor includes 8 seats

Register Online by February 22
akroncantonfoodbank.org/Feb26

WHY we do what we do

We are incredibly fortunate to be able to partner with you in this cause, and we thank you for the opportunity to stand together, in support of those in need.

We recently asked a few staff members, donors and volunteers—**why**. Not what they do, or how they do it, but **why** they do it. What keeps people in this community motivated to help those struggling with hunger on a daily basis? And the answers amazed us.

We share this with you because we want to hear your—**why**. What keeps you motivated? Email us at info@acrfb.org and your answers could be highlighted in future Foodbank pieces.

Interested in volunteering at the Foodbank? Contact our volunteer team at 330.535.6900 or volunteer@acrfb.org. You can also sign up to volunteer online at akroncantonfoodbank.org/volunteer.

I volunteer at the Foodbank for a selfish reason... it makes my day brighter! The Foodbank staff is so passionate about helping others and their passion is contagious! The work that is accomplished here is very rewarding, as a volunteer or employee; it's evident in the positive, cheerful, caring environment created.



CHESLA PURTILAR

Every day, I come to work and can give back to the community. Because our team is here, families facing hunger will have meals to share; it just doesn't get better than that.



JIMMY MASHBURN

I have been volunteering for seven years now, and I can say that I truly love being here at the Foodbank with my friends. After surviving two major heart attacks, it is my privilege to be able to help others.



JIM MACDONALD



GINA CAMPBELL

I was raised in a family that demonstrated philanthropy before I knew the meaning of the word. When she was young, my mom had shelves of food in the basement due to her own food insecurity, and always packed bags of food for our relatives, church members, or neighbors that were going through hard times. I can still hear her voice in my head, "No one should ever have to go hungry."



JO DANGEL

Our Foodbank is one of our best community assets, serving friends and neighbors in need while providing an everyday example of the generosity and compassion of people who live in this region! I am proud to be a new Foodbanker!

WE COULDN'T DO IT WITHOUT YOU!



23 MILLION
MEALS WORTH OF FOOD

In 2015, the Foodbank distributed more food than ever to its network of 500 food pantries, hot meal sites, shelters and other hunger-relief programs—enough for 23 million meals.



7 MILLION
POUNDS OF PRODUCE

The Foodbank distributed more than 7 million pounds of fresh produce in 2015, making up nearly one-third of the total food distributed to its network of member hunger-relief programs.



1,250
SNAP APPLICATIONS

The Foodbank assisted clients to complete more than 1,250 SNAP Applications in 2015, which yielded approximately 1,061,000 meals for our hungry neighbors in need.



9,000
VOLUNTEERS

The Foodbank hosted more than 9,000 volunteers, who donated more than 52,000 hours of service in 2015. That's the equivalent of 25 full time employees.

CORE

Young Professionals.
Making connections. Making a difference.

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. This year, we are looking forward to growing the program and adding more opportunities to work with your Foodbank. We hope that you will join us in 2016 for various volunteer projects and opportunities to learn more about the Foodbank.

FEBRUARY 9

Lunch & Learn

FEBRUARY 26

Attend the Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast

APRIL 13

Volunteer Opportunity & Networking

JUNE 7

Volunteer Opportunity & Networking

AUGUST 10

Volunteer Opportunity & Networking

AUGUST 30

Attend Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

SEPTEMBER 9

Volunteer during Operation Orange

OCTOBER 12

Volunteer & Year End Celebration

For additional details, or to register for any CORE event, please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/core.

Hunger Heroes rally together

Thank you for making the holidays brighter for so many in our community by participating in our holiday Hunger-Free Families campaign! Approximately 200 companies and organizations became Hunger Heroes for the Foodbank by hosting food & funds drives.

Our community rallied together for this holiday campaign, and we were able to provide so many much-needed meals to families in need.

Two of our largest events were the Long Haul Against Hunger and the Selfless Elf 5k!

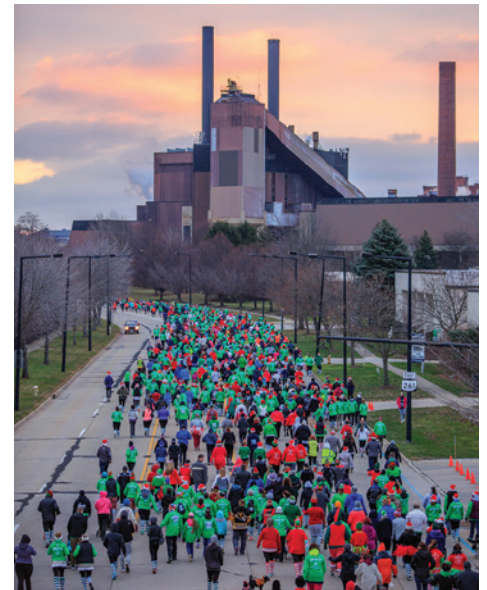
On Friday, December 4, 2015 the Foodbank partnered with radio stations 98.1 KDD, My 101.7, Rock 106.9, 99.7 Canton's New Country, 640 WHLO and Fox Sports 1350 for the annual Long Haul Against Hunger.



Listeners of the six stations drove by and dropped off non-perishable food and monetary donations in Akron and Canton.

The Foodbank wrapped up this spirited campaign by hosting the third annual Selfless Elf 5k run. More than 1,200 supporters embraced the season and dressed up in festive holiday-themed running gear and striped elf socks. The race began and ended at the Foodbank and all who participated ended the race with cookies and milk, and a chance to meet Santa!

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in the Hunger-Free Families campaign! Because of your participation, many families struggling with hunger this holiday season had a nourishing meal to share.



The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization recognized by the IRS. If you know anyone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact the Marketing Department at info@acrfb.org or 330.535.6900.