



# FOODBANKFOCUS

A PUBLICATION OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK ■ WINTER 2019

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

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phone: 330.535.6900 fax: 330.996.5337  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org)

## SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Introducing Charitable Gift Annuities
2. 2019 Polar Bear Jump Details
3. Join the Harvest for Hunger Campaign
4. Community Bible Church feeds people while creating community
5. Join the Sustainer Circle

“

The pantry feels a lot like family. You feel loved and respected.”

**-DARLENE**



## EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY LIKE DARLENE'S

Darlene is extremely engaged in her three grandchildren's lives. She encourages healthy eating habits, helps with homework and attends school meetings. She's also their full-time caregiver.

Darlene has seen much heartache during her 57 years. She's lost a husband, survived divorce and battled cancer. As a single mother of four, she has a child with mental health issues and another in prison due to drug use. She has full custody of three of her grandchildren, ages 4 to 9 years old.

Darlene receives some help from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), but providing for a family of four on a fixed income can be difficult.

“The end of the month is a little tight. It means no extra things for the kids; no recreational activities.”

Her grandson, Cameron, is a student at the newly-opened I PROMISE School in Akron. In partnership with the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public Schools, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank operates a food pantry within the Family Resource Center at the school.

Darlene enjoys fresh produce, bread, milk and healthy food options from the pantry. “The pantry feels a lot like family. You feel loved and respected.”

When looking toward the future, Darlene hopes her grandchildren find success in anything they do. “I want them to have the chances that other kids have. I want them to have a dream and go for it.”

**READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE.**

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

# HONOR ROLL

## THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON!

Akron Children's Hospital Employee Foundation  
William G. & Lisa Albrecht  
Mark & Shelly Allio  
Andrew's Spirit of Hope  
Jon & Kathryn Antalvari  
Brian & Katie Ash  
Barberton Community Foundation  
Todd & Cherie Blackledge  
Mark & Dr. Elizabeth Butterworth  
Butterworth Foundation  
C J McCollum Enterprises, Inc.  
Kenneth L. Calhoun Charitable Trust  
Campbell Construction, Inc.  
Barry Chiron  
Community Health Resources, Inc.  
Timothy K. & Nancy Cooley  
Chris & Michelle Counahan  
CSE Federal Credit Union  
Fran Donovan  
FirstEnergy Foundation  
Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation  
Veronica E. Frank  
GateHouse Media Ohio  
The Gessner Family Foundation, Inc.  
The Giant Eagle Foundation  
GOJO Industries, Inc.  
Stacey K. & Jeffrey Gonzalez  
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company  
Frederick G. & Jane Griech  
Hagar Family Foundation  
Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park  
John L. Hinds  
Daniel Hoehn  
The Hoover Foundation  
Kevin Tucker & Patricia Howell  
Huntington National Bank  
InfoCision Management Corporation  
Charles R. Jelm Charitable Foundation, Inc.  
Ralph R. and Grace B. Jones Foundation  
Kisling, Nestico & Redick, LLC  
Kovatch Family Charitable Fund  
LA Office Solutions, Inc.  
Dale A. & Lucinda J.P. Leppo  
Andrew & Emily Little  
Edward A. & Louise Mahoney  
James & Claudia Markwald  
Meggitt Aircraft Braking Systems  
Mindy & Stephen Morris  
The R.C. and Katharine Musson Charitable Foundation  
Nationwide Insurance  
Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund of  
Akron Community Foundation  
Debra J. Perry  
Bill & Ginny Post  
Gary L. & Cheryl Prather  
Jeffrey & Danial Rand  
RKD Group  
Rotary Club of Fairlawn  
Joseph L. & Annette Ruby  
C. M. Rutherford  
Joseph & Ruth Samuels  
Terence C. Seikel  
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Temple Israel  
Theodore F. & Maureen Unton  
James & Linda Venner  
Visconsi Companies  
Norm & Denise Wells  
Frank & Linda Wenthur  
Westfield  
Alan J. & Janice Woll  
Woodforest Charitable Foundation



The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank and Feeding America have teamed up to provide an opportunity to make a meaningful gift to support the work of your Foodbank. If you are 65 years of age and older, have a passion for fighting hunger and would like to receive fixed payments during your lifetime, a charitable gift annuity (CGA) may be something to consider.

A CGA is an agreement through which you make a gift of cash or appreciated property for you, or you and another person, to receive fixed payments for the remainder of your life.

A CGA is another way to support your Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's mission of feeding people and fighting hunger. To learn more or request a sample gift annuity illustration based on your specific age(s), please call Debra Hagarty at 330.436.3171.

### BENEFITS OF A CHARITABLE GIFT ANNUITY:

- You or another person receive fixed payments for life
- Fixed payout rates
- An income tax deduction
- A portion of each gift annuity payment is tax free

YOUR AGE	GIFT ANNUITY RATE
65 - 70	5.1 - 5.6%
71 - 75	5.7 - 6.2%
76 - 80	6.4 - 7.3%
81 - 85	7.5 - 8.3%
86 - 90	8.5 - 9.5%

## COME MAKE A SPLASH AT THE 16TH ANNUAL POLAR BEAR JUMP

Will you take the icy plunge? Bring your swimsuit and mittens and get ready for the 16th annual Polar Bear Jump presented by the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club on February 23, 2019. If you're not brrrrave enough to jump, it's okay to be a chicken! Polar bears and chickens alike can still gather friends and family to support them and the Foodbank through pledges.

**FOR DETAILS & TO REGISTER, VISIT**  
[portagelakespolarbearclub.com](http://portagelakespolarbearclub.com)







You're invited to the  
**HARVEST FOR HUNGER**  
**CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF BREAKFAST**  
**FEBRUARY 26, 2019**

7:30am Networking & Breakfast  
 8:00 - 9:00am Program

John S. Knight Center  
 77 E. Mill St., Akron

**PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE**  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org/rsvp](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/rsvp)

Presented by



**JOIN THE 28TH ANNUAL HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN**

Join the 28th annual Harvest for Hunger Campaign to help provide 5.3 million meals for our community members struggling with hunger. This campaign is a collaboration between four food banks that collectively serve 21 counties in Northeast Ohio. It is one of the largest food and funds drives in the country and is the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's largest fundraising effort, helping support food distribution all year long.

**JOIN US FOR BREAKFAST**

Come to an exciting breakfast to celebrate this year's Harvest for Hunger Campaign on Tuesday, February 26, 2019. Learn about ways to get involved, meet the campaign co-chairs and hear campaign updates. Let's rally together and inspire our community to get involved!

**CHECK OUT HUNGER**

One of the easiest ways to participate in the campaign is to scan a \$10, \$5 or \$1 donation coupon as you Check Out Hunger each time you visit a participating supermarket.

**HOST A FOOD AND FUNDS DRIVE**

Gather your friends, family and co-workers and join hundreds of local companies, schools and social organizations in hosting a food and funds drive to help individuals in need in our community. For campaign materials and to register your drive, please visit [akroncantonfoodbank.org/harvest](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/harvest).

**HONORARY CAMPAIGN CO-CHAIRS**

Special thank you to our 2019 Honorary Campaign Co-Chairs, Dr. Brian Harte from Cleveland Clinic Akron General and Robert Roland from Day Ketterer.

**MAKE A DONATION \$1 = 4 MEALS**

Whether donating online or by mailing a check, your donation goes a long way.

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CHURCH FEEDS PEOPLE AND CREATES COMMUNITY**

It's the last Sunday of the month and Community Bible Church is filled with volunteers and community members, all happy to see one another. Everyone is greeted with a warm smile as they take a seat and enjoy a hot meal together, while volunteers begin gathering food orders from the pantry.

Community Bible Church is located in Rootstown, a rural community in Portage County, where nearly 14 percent of the population struggles with hunger. Although the church has provided food baskets around the holidays for many years, it wasn't until they partnered with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, that the program truly began to take form.

In 2008, former church member Holly Flowers created a food pantry after seeing opportunity to expand the church's outreach services. It was a natural fit, considering her

husband Dan Flowers' role as president and CEO of the Foodbank. Current food pantry coordinators Mitch and Darlene Lambert just celebrated the program's 10th anniversary in October.

*"I hope they feel comfortable to come in. We're here for anybody in any situation," said Mitch.*

Darlene wanted to create a space that allowed everyone to join the conversation and foster meaningful connections with the community. "This is about spending time with people and letting them know we care. Just as valuable as the food we give out, are the connections they make with one another."

When asked about the need in Portage County, Mitch described the variety of circumstances that bring people to the pantry. Although they serve a large number of senior citizens living on a fixed income, they

welcome a lot of families with children as well, and no two stories are the same.

In addition to providing groceries, the church runs backpack programs at several local schools in the area and offers a hot meal at each pantry distribution.

Thanks to community support and its partnership with the Foodbank, Community Bible Church hopes to distribute more than 50,000 pounds of food in 2018, the equivalent of nearly 42,000 meals.





Volunteer Mike Bryk from Meyer DC helps unload donations at Long Haul Against Hunger.



Kiddos are our most generous donors!



Shale Brewing donated 20 cases of macaroni and cheese to Long Haul Against Hunger.

## THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

**DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON, THE NEED FOR FOOD FOR FAMILIES STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER SEEMS MAGNIFIED.**

Though hunger affects our community all year long, the Foodbank is thankful for the support it received during its annual Holiday Campaign.

Nearly 100 organizations coordinated food and funds drives with their schools, churches, friends and family, and nearly 1,000 elves participated in the Foodbank's sixth annual Selfless Elf 5k.

During the Long Haul Against Hunger drive by and donate radiothon, the equivalent of 468,000 meals was raised! We're tremendously grateful for you and your dedication to fighting hunger in our community. **THANK YOU!**



## JOIN THE SUSTAINER CIRCLE AND MAKE A YEAR-ROUND IMPACT

Hunger is not a short-term problem, it doesn't just go away. Every day, more than 1 in 5 children in the Foodbank's eight-county service area will experience hunger. The Foodbank depends on reliable, steady support to help feed hungry people, every day of the year.

Please consider joining the Sustainer Circle, a group of dedicated individuals committed to feeding people and fighting hunger in our community year-round. The Sustainer Circle is a monthly giving program that allows supporters to easily help families struggling with hunger.

**TO JOIN THE SUSTAINER CIRCLE, CALL 330.572.3102 OR VISIT [akroncantonfoodbank.org/monthlygiving](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/monthlygiving)**

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 22, 2019

CORE Lunch & Learn for Young Professionals

### FEBRUARY 23, 2019

Portage Lakes Polar Bear Jump

### FEBRUARY 26, 2019

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast

### MARCH 10 - APRIL 20, 2019

Harvest for Hunger: Check Out Hunger

### MARCH 21, 2019

CORE Volunteer & Networking Opportunity

### APRIL 1 - 7, 2019

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Week of Giving

### APRIL 9, 2019

Annual Volunteer Celebration

### APRIL 16, 2019

CORE Volunteer & Networking Opportunity

**FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT [akroncantonfoodbank.org/events](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/events)**

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