



# FOODBANKFOCUS

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

MEMBER OF  
**FEEDING  
AMERICA**

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

## SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

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“

I'm amazed by how many people are helped by this pantry. We really appreciate it and thank you.”

-MIKE



## YOUR GENEROSITY HELPS PEOPLE LIKE MIKE

When Mike was a young man, he worked on boilers for the government, traveling frequently and exploring new cities. But at the mere age of 26, he was in a catastrophic car accident that impacted the rest of his life.

Mike was in a coma for 98 days suffering significant head trauma and was hospitalized for a year. In rehab, he had to learn how to walk and talk again. Though he lives independently, he has a difficult time getting around and still experiences mental health complications.

Twenty years later, Mike has a positive outlook on life, greets everyone with a smile, and doesn't hesitate to remove his cap to show the large scar on his head.

But it can be difficult for Mike to make ends meet while

living on a fixed income. He openly talks about needing to 'scrimp', save and adhere to a strict budget. Sometimes, he needs a little extra help to get him through the end of the month, and that's when he visits his local pantry.

“I've met a lot of good people here. This place means a lot to me. It gets me through the last two weeks of the month when I need it.”

When reflecting on the generosity of others, Mike says, “There's a lot of people who experience hunger in our community.”

**READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE.**  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories)

# HONOR ROLL

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

Anthony M. Pastore

Austin-Bailey Health and Wellness Foundation

C.J. McCollum & Family

Cargill, Inc.

Charles R. Jelm Charitable Foundation, Inc.

Dale A. & Lucinda J.P. Leppo

Faith Family Church

FirstEnergy Corp.

Gertrude F. Orr Trust Advised Fund of Akron Community Foundation

GOJO Industries, Inc.

Hicks Development LLC

Insurance Industry Charitable Foundation

John & Karen Bartley

John Hinds

Joseph & Annette Ruby

Julian & Kerry Steinberg

Kisling, Nestico & Redick, LLC

Laura B. Frick Charitable Trust

Lloyd L. and Louise K. Smith Memorial Foundation

Mark & Shelly Allio

Mike & Jennifer Saxon

Milton Wiskind

Nick Changer Jr. Jeweler

PGA Tours, Inc./Bridgestone Senior Players Tournament

Publication Listing

Sequoia Financial Group, LLC

Stacey K. & Jeffrey Gonzalez

Starbucks

Stark County Medical Society

The Gessner Family Foundation

The Giant Eagle Foundation

The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company

The Hoover Foundation

The Joy in Childhood Foundation

The Mary S. and David C. Corbin Foundation

The TJX Companies

Timothy & Nancy Cooley

Wayne County Community Foundation

Westfield

# JOIN THE 29TH ANNUAL HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN

Help provide 5.3 million meals for our neighbors struggling with hunger by joining your Foodbank's largest fundraising effort, the Harvest for Hunger Campaign, helping support food distribution all year long!

**For more information about this year's Campaign, please visit [akroncantonfoodbank.org/harvest](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/harvest).**



## KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

Join us on February 25, 2020 and learn how to get involved with this year's Campaign!



## MAKE A DONATION

\$1 can help provide 4 meals.



## CHECK OUT HUNGER

Scan a \$10, \$5, or \$1 donation coupon each time you visit a participating supermarket.



## START AN ONLINE FUNDRAISER

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



## HOST A FOOD AND FUNDS DRIVE

Collect food and financial donations.

# HARVEST FOR HUNGER

YOU'RE INVITED!

## HARVEST FOR HUNGER CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF BREAKFAST

**FEBRUARY 25, 2020**

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)



## Join CORE this year!

CORE consists of motivated young professionals interested in growing their professional network while helping feed people and fight hunger.

Sign up online at  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org/CORE](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/CORE)

# HEART 4 THE CITY POURS LOVE INTO COMMUNITY

IT'S BEEN NEARLY A DECADE SINCE PASSIONATE COMMUNITY MEMBERS CAME TOGETHER TO CREATE HEART 4 THE CITY, AN OUTREACH CENTER FOCUSED ON FEEDING THE COMMUNITY. NOW, IT'S A FREE-STANDING CHURCH CONTINUING TO PURSUE ITS MISSION WHILE SERVING THE GOODYEAR HEIGHTS COMMUNITY.

"When we first started, we wanted to do more for our community in a tangible way," says Pastor Brett. "We were adamant and passionate about feeding people and restoring their dignity, offering a hand up, not a handout."



Pastor Brett hands out produce.

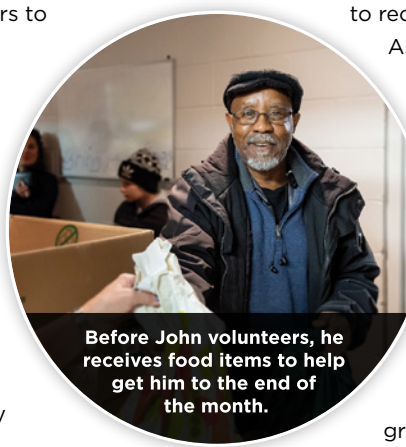
The pantry used to serve families once a month, but because of its partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, it has increased its capacity and now serves families every Thursday. Food programs include regular pantry days, serving 65-70 families, and a large Direct Distribution in which thousands of pounds of food are

distributed in a few hours to 125 families.

"There's no way we could exist without our ongoing partnership with the Foodbank. We could not afford to do what we do without them," said Brett.

Last year, it helped provide access to nearly 92,000 meals for the families it serves.

Pastor Brett explains that many of the individuals and families served live right above the threshold to receive government assistance, meaning they make too much



to receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, and yet, not enough to fully provide for their families.

"Working with the pantry has really changed my perceptions on hunger and who is hungry," explained Tammy, food pantry director. "We serve families who have unexpectedly lost jobs, grandparents raising grandkids, families with no transportation access, and people who need help just for a short while."

"There are kids simply wanting apples and oranges – just asking for the basics. No one should go hungry."

Because of your support, the Foodbank continues to partner with organizations making a tremendous impact in the neighborhoods where people need food.

## YOUR SUPPORT MAKES AN IMPACT!

- 70 families served weekly
- 125 families served monthly at Direct Distributions
- 92,000 meals provided last year



## BECOME A MEMBER OF THE SUSTAINER CIRCLE AND MAKE A LASTING IMPACT

The Sustainer Circle is a monthly giving program that allows you to easily help families struggling with hunger, while enabling the Foodbank to stretch your dollar further, so you can make an even greater impact.

Sustainer Circle members are vital to our local hunger-relief efforts and help provide meals year-round for the 1 in 7 food insecure people in the Foodbank's eight-county service area.

Please consider joining the Sustainer Circle, a very special group of faithful friends and Foodbank supporters committed to fighting hunger year-round.

### MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Receive less mail, simply tell us how often you want to give.
- Less mail = reduced costs for your Foodbank for printing and postage.
- Printing less = environmentally friendly
- Better budgeting—we'll both be able to plan for our future.
- Make a difference in the lives of kids, families and seniors in our community!

To join the Sustainer Circle, please call 330.572.3102 or visit [akroncantonfoodbank.org/monthlygiving](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/monthlygiving).



**MARCH 31, 2020**

**BENEFITS THE COMMUNITY HARVEST PROGRAM**

General admission \$40/person; table sponsorships available.

Visit [akroncantonfoodbank.org/events](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org/events) or contact **Faith Barbato** at [fbarbato@acrfb.org](mailto:fbarbato@acrfb.org) or 330.493.0800 for more information.

Presented by Tri-County Restaurant Association and Atlantic Food Distributors

# YOUR SUPPORT OF OUR HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN MADE A DIFFERENCE!

THANK YOU FOR THE SIGNIFICANT IMPACT YOU MADE DURING THIS YEAR'S ANNUAL HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN.

Nearly 100 organizations coordinated food and funds drives with their schools, churches, friends and family, and more than 1,000 elves participated in the Foodbank's seventh annual Selfless Elf 5k. A new event organized by iHeartMedia station Rock 106.9 collected a tower of macaroni and cheese and during the annual Long Haul Against Hunger radiothon, 98.1 KDD helped raise more than 416,000 meals! We're tremendously grateful for you and your dedication to fighting hunger in our local community. Thank you!



Alice was excited to donate food items to Long Haul Against Hunger to help other children.



Foodbankers joined J.M. Smucker Co. employees to pack Thanksgiving bags for Akron families.



Officer T.J. Ford of the Cuyahoga Falls Police Department issued a fundraising challenge to all first responders at Long Haul Against Hunger.



Rock 106.9 listeners helped donate a mountain of macaroni and cheese.



Great Lakes Honda coordinated a food drive to support the Holiday Campaign.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR

### FEBRUARY 21, 2020

CORE Lunch & Learn for Young Professionals

### FEBRUARY 25, 2020

Harvest for Hunger Campaign Kick-off Breakfast

### MARCH 1 - APRIL 11, 2020

Harvest for Hunger: Check Out Hunger

### MARCH 19, 2020

CORE Volunteer & Networking Opportunity

### MARCH 31, 2020

28th Annual Celebrity Cuisine

### APRIL 21, 2020

Annual Volunteer Celebration

**FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT**

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

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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