

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Last year, your Foodbank distributed enough food for 22 million meals.

# 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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## Join the AAIC Hunger Walk

The diverse faiths of the world share a common compassion to nourish the hungry and the vulnerable, especially children. That shared compassion finds expression during the Akron Area Interfaith Council (AAIC) Hunger Walks.

Susan Davis, AAIC member and Treasurer, originally became involved with the AAIC by leading the Akron CROP Walk, a walk that supported an international emergency-relief organization.

Five years ago, the AAIC Board decided that they could better serve their community and their mission statement by hosting a local walk that was inclusive of all faiths.

The Akron CROP Walk changed to the AAIC Hunger Walk and was hosted in Fairlawn. After three years of successful walks, Susan expanded the event to include additional locations in Stark County and Wooster.

Last year, with the three walk locations established and a donation to the Foodbank that provided more than 92,000 meals, Susan knew she could do more.

At 84 years of age, Susan spends her time passionately

sharing the power of diversity and living her personal mission to help those in need while building a better, kinder society through the message of the Hunger Walks.

So this year on May 3, 2015, hundreds of community members will walk to stop hunger at five locations including: Fairlawn, Hudson, Medina, North Canton and Wooster. The AAIC has an ambitious goal to raise \$55,000, enough for 220,000 meals for those facing hunger locally.

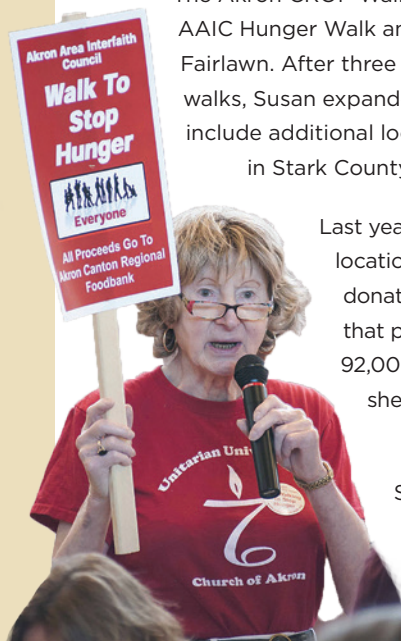
When asked the question why she does what she does, Susan answered, "We all have a common respect for a common cause. When people are brought together from diverse backgrounds, amazing things happen."

**TO SUSAN, THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTAGIOUS LIGHT AND FOR REMINDING US TO NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE SHEER POWER OF PASSION.**

Join us this year at the Hunger Walk. To register, please visit [hungerwalks.org](http://hungerwalks.org).

### HAPPY NATIONAL VOLUNTEER MONTH

April is National Volunteer Month, a month dedicated to showing gratitude for those who give their time and talents. We are extremely grateful to a team of 8,000 volunteers who just last year, donated a total of 50,000 hours!



# HONOR ROLL

SPRING 2015

415 Group  
Akron Community Foundation  
Akwen, Ltd.  
Mark and Michele Allio Family Fund  
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Making Smiles Foundation  
The Maynard Family Foundation  
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Akron Community Foundation  
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Northern Ohio Golf Charities  
Foundation, Inc.  
Robert O. & Annamae Orr  
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The Pampered Chef  
The Pastore Foundation  
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Ron Marhofer Chevrolet  
The Ruth B. Boger Charitable Trust  
at Stark Community Foundation  
Science Applications  
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Sequoia Financial Group  
The J.M. Smucker Company  
The Sterling Family Foundation  
TKM Print Solutions  
Tuscora Park Health &  
Wellness Foundation  
Wayside Furniture, Inc.  
WBC Group, LLC  
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The Honor Roll recognizes our top supporters of the season. Together we are the difference between hunger and hope. **THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

# Happy National Volunteer Month

Did you know a group of trained volunteers inspect every non-perishable food item that is donated to the Foodbank? We do this because we want to make sure the items we distribute are items we would be proud to feed our own families.

We are blessed to have many committed volunteers who visit our volunteer center regularly. We went to these regular volunteers and asked a simple question:

## Why do you volunteer here?



It's all about the love, and I love helping people and giving back. I'll sum it up with my favorite quote, "It's not how much we give, but how much love we put into giving."

**LINDA**



I enjoy helping others in need. I've been blessed and want to share my blessings with others.

**ERNEST**



I love coming here and being with the incredible people. To me, coming here isn't work, it's enjoyment.

**TONY**



I come here because I like to help people. It makes me feel good to be here with my friends.

**KATIE**

These four volunteers represent a team of people we are proud to call friends and members of the Foodbank family. This month, we look forward to celebrating all of our volunteers! Learn more about our volunteer program by visiting our website and clicking on [Volunteer](#) under the [Get Involved](#) section.



Foodbank staff members with volunteer Abdullah Alkhulawi



Akron RubberDucks staff before volunteering

## Join our advocacy efforts

In the crowded Atrium of Ohio's Statehouse, Foodbank President & CEO and Board Chair of the Ohio Association of Foodbanks, Dan Flowers, recently spoke to legislators, food bankers and farmers from across the state. He talked about the importance of state funding to Ohio's network of foodbanks and how it helps not only Ohio's farmers, but also food insecure Ohioans, including those right here in our community. Dan's efforts set the stage to



receive more funding for our important programs,

**BUT WE NEED YOU—OUR VOLUNTEERS, DONORS AND FRIENDS—TO MAKE YOUR VOICES HEARD.**

Sign up to receive advocacy alerts and sign our state budget endorsement by visiting our website and clicking on [Be an Advocate](#) under the [Get Involved](#) section.

Do you have an important story about our work that you want us to share with legislators? Email it to [advocate@acrfb.org](mailto:advocate@acrfb.org).





# HUNGRY FOR KNOWLEDGE



TODAY HE'S JUST HUNGRY

YOUR DONATION FEEDS YOUNG MINDS

**HARVEST**  
for HUNGER

There is still time to get involved with this year's Harvest for Hunger campaign!

Harvest for Hunger is the Foodbank's largest fundraising initiative. The campaign is a collaborative effort of four food banks serving 21 Ohio counties. One hundred percent of all Harvest for Hunger donations will go directly toward feeding hungry men, women and children in our community.

“I hope you know how much we appreciate each and every one of you.

We can not do this without you. This campaign is what puts millions of meals on the tables of people in need in this community. It is what allowed us to give away more food, and more produce in 2014 than any other year in our history. This is it!”



**DAN FLOWERS**  
President & CEO

What are corporate matching gifts, and does my employer offer them?

Corporate giving programs inspire employees to give back to their communities by offering a matching donation to the nonprofit of their

choice. Although different companies have different rules and regulations, giving through your employer is a great way to double your impact! Simply check with your company's Human Resources department, and inquire if your employer will match your charitable gift. Please contact Leslie Genovese at 330.535.6900 or lgenovese@acrfb.org with any questions.



## DATES TO REMEMBER

Volunteer Celebration  
**APRIL 28, 2015**

AAIC Hunger Walk  
**MAY 3, 2015**

Stamp Out Hunger 23rd Annual  
Letter Carriers' Food Drive  
**MAY 9, 2015**

CORE Event for  
Young Professionals  
**JUNE 24, 2015**

## LOOKING AHEAD

Taste of the Pro Football Hall of  
Fame (formerly Taste of the NFL)  
**SEPTEMBER 1, 2015**

Operation Orange  
**SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2015**

Selfless Elf  
**DECEMBER 19, 2015**

For event details, visit  
[akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://akroncantonfoodbank.org)

## WIN THIS GUITAR

AUTOGRAPHED BY  
**THE BLACK KEYS**



In an effort to give back to their community, The Black Keys will be selling raffle tickets to benefit your Foodbank.

Purchase Raffle  
Tickets Online  
**TBKguitar.com**  
through June 26th

This year, 1 in 7 people in Northeast Ohio will face hunger, and because of your support the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank will be there to help. We are the source of emergency food for 500 food pantries, hot meal sites, shelters and other hunger-relief programs that directly serve individuals and families in Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties.

## HOW WE WORK

FOOD IS DONATED



STORED AT FOODBANK



DISTRIBUTED TO AGENCIES



GIVEN TO THOSE IN NEED



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](mailto:info@acrfb.org) or 330.535.6900.

## Your donations provide more than food for families just like Bernadette's



Sitting outside of a food pantry surrounded by her children running and smiling on the playground, Bernadette is talking about the blessings in her life. Her husband works 40+ hours a week as a line clearance tree trimmer to provide for their family.

"He's an extremely hard worker," Bernadette shared. "He supports our beautiful family, but I've learned that everyone needs a little help sometimes."

At the food pantry, Bernadette receives wholesome food like bread, meat and fresh vegetables, but it's the sense of community being created at the pantry that she loves the most.

"Just listen to the people in there," Bernadette says. "This place is not only supplying people with food, they are talking, sharing and encouraging. This pantry provides food, but also fellowship."

## Thank you Polar Bears

This year at the Polar Bear Jump, coordinated locally by the Portage Lakes Polar Bear Club, more than 700 jumpers plunged into the icy waters of Portage Lakes and raised more than \$100,000, enough to provide 400,000 meals for those facing hunger locally.

One of the brave jumpers was President & CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional

Foodbank, Dan Flowers. "We are so grateful for the people who showed their generous and adventurous spirits by jumping into the Portage Lakes to support the Foodbank."

A special thank you to the team from FirstEnergy Corporation, who raised more than \$26,000, and the team from the Law Offices of Kising, Nestico & Redick, who raised more than \$25,000!



Senator Frank LaRose with co-founder of the Polar Bear Jump, Kelly Pariso



Dan Flowers takes the plunge with his son, Andy Flowers and friend



FirstEnergy Corp. employees prepare to jump



Employees from the Law Offices of Kising, Nestico & Redick take the plunge