



FOODBANKFOCUS

A PUBLICATION OF THE AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL FOODBANK ■ SUMMER 2018



350 Opportunity Pkwy, Akron, OH 44307
phone: 330.535.6900 fax: 330.996.5337
akroncantonfoodbank.org

SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

1. Local college student gives back
2. Thank you Foodbank Major Donors
3. School in Canton opens food pantry in support of local families
4. Harvest for Hunger Campaign Celebration
5. Starbucks FoodShare program rescues perishable food

“

It's my job as a parent to succeed.”

-APRIL



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY LIKE APRIL'S

April, a mother to four boys and a caregiver to elderly in-laws and sick parents, typically has her hands full. On any given day, she is transporting children to sporting activities, taking someone to an appointment or working as a waitress.

April is diligent about talking with her boys about their futures, emphasizing the importance of education and college. She believes they each have a good head on their shoulders, and hopes they strive to have a better life than her. She openly talks about having her first child at 15 and not finishing high school. “The choices we make in our lives dictate our future, and I hope my boys don't have to struggle like I do.”

To help her food assistance benefits last the entire month, April is resourceful. “I'm really good at living below my means. By the end of the month, after all my bills are paid, I have \$150 for groceries and other expenses.”

She bases her grocery list on the items she's able to

get from the local pantry, buys items in bulk and finds affordable protein at meat markets. Most recently, she began bartering to pay for sporting activities. Volunteering to be the team mom gives her a discount on registration fees; helping the coach's wife wash dogs at their local business means football fees will be covered.

“My kids didn't ask to be here; they didn't ask for this life. It's my job as a parent to succeed.”

Even though times are difficult for their family, April reminds her boys how much they have compared to others. Until circumstances change, she'll be able to turn to the food pantry for help when she needs it.

For more Stories of Hope, or to help community members like April, please visit our website.

akroncantonfoodbank.org/stories

HONOR ROLL

THANK YOU TO OUR TOP SUPPORTERS OF THE SEASON!

Ace Hardware
Affinity Medical Center
Akron Children's Hospital
Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Staff
Tony & Becky Alexander
Alliance Data
Atlantic Food Distributors, Inc.
Aultman Health Foundation
Bank of America Charitable Foundation
Sally Bernhardt
Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Company
Bridgestone Americas
Buehler's Fresh Foods
Cleveland Clinic Akron General
ComDoc
Stephen A. Comunale
Costco
Covelli Enterprises, Inc.
Mary and Dr. George L. Demetros Charitable Trust
Richard Edwards & Marcia Adair
FirstEnergy Corp.
Fishers Foods
Gervasi Vineyard
Giant Eagle, Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
The Hillier Family Foundation
John L. Hinds
Huntington National Bank
The Joy in Childhood Foundation
The Lehner Family Foundation
The Roger & Susan L'Hommedieu Family Fund
National Interstate Insurance Company
Nationwide Insurance
Ohio Edison
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation
Oswald Companies
John D. Papp
Pro Football Hall of Fame
ProVia
Charles E. & Mabel M. Ritchie Memorial Foundation
Roetzel & Andress
Allen & Laurie Rovner
Mike and Jennifer Saxon
William & Lori Shivers
Kenneth T. Siloac
The J.M. Smucker Company
Tim & Jennifer Smucker
Starbucks
John & Laura Stropki
Subaru of America, Inc. & Serra Subaru
The County of Summit
Synchrony Financial
Taste of the NFL National Affiliate
The TJX Companies
Michael & Christine Walker
Ethel R. Wheland
Willard Stephenson Foundation



Bryce earned a mocha apron by accruing more than 100 hours of service in 2015, and continues to be a dedicated volunteer.

LOCAL COLLEGE STUDENT GIVES BACK

For Bryce, volunteering is a welcomed break from his busy schedule. Apart from supporting the Foodbank's mission, he loves working with staff and other volunteers.

If you have attended any of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank's events during the past five years, chances are you have seen Bryce. Whether it's working late into the night at Operation Orange, handing out race packets to runners for Selfless Elf, or serving as a committee member for Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame, he is always ready to lend a helping hand.

"If waking up early on a Saturday and volunteering means a child, veteran or family is able to have a meal, then I am prepared to come in every Saturday, because life is about being there for others."

Like many students, Bryce was first introduced to the Foodbank while completing service hours required by his high school. He enjoyed

the flexible schedule and even created a game tracking his volunteer hours, seeing if he could beat his total from the previous month! Now, as a full-time student at The University of Akron with two on-campus jobs, he continues to dedicate his free time to hunger-relief.

"Due to my class schedule and multiple jobs, it's sometimes hard to come in on a regular basis, but whether it has been a week or three months—the staff always remembers my name. I always feel welcomed!"

Bryce is one of more than 400 volunteers from The University of Akron whose work provided more than 29,800 meals to our community in 2017. Because of their dedicated, hands-on support, The University of Akron was named the Foodbank's Organizational Volunteer Group of the Year award winner at this year's annual volunteer celebration.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

OPERATION ORANGE



Sept. 7 - 8, 2018

HARVEST MOON RUN



Sept. 16, 2018

*Registration open now.

TASTE OF THE PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME



Sept. 25, 2018

SELFLESS ELF 5K



Dec. 22, 2018

*Registration open now.

Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/events for event updates and registration.

THANK YOU FOODBANK MAJOR DONORS!

LEADERSHIP PARTNERS 200,000+ MEALS



MISSION PARTNERS 80,000+ MEALS

Akron Area Interfaith Council
Akron Children's Hospital
Alliance Data
American Wood Reface
The Beaver Excavating Company
Bridgestone Americas
Citizens Bank
ComDoc
The Gessner Family Foundation, Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Thomas A. Haught
John Hinds
The Joy in Childhood Foundation

Marc's Meyer DC
Nationwide Insurance
The M.G. O'Neil Foundation
Sandridge Gourmet Salads
Save A Lot
Mike and Jennifer Saxon
Sequoia Financial Group, LLC
Serra Subaru
The Sisler McFawn Foundation
Sisters of Charity Foundation
Superior Dairy
Tri-County Restaurant Association, Inc.
WAKR, WONE, WQMX, WNWV

SCHOOL IN CANTON OPENS FOOD PANTRY IN SUPPORT OF LOCAL FAMILIES

Canton City's Belden Leadership School welcomes children in grades 3 - 5. Its mission is to inspire confident, creative and open-minded learners, "where all students acquire a worldview of life's possibilities and the confidence to pursue their dreams."

Principal Angela Seders is confident her students can reach their full potential, however, at times, there are barriers hindering their success. All of the children at Belden Leadership School qualify for free and reduced meals. Children receive breakfast and lunch while at school, and sometimes those are the only meals they will have that day.



Seders, along with two teachers who volunteer their time staffing the pantry

Seders references Abraham Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs, simply stating that if the children in her school do not have access to regular, healthy food, it is impossible for them to focus on their school work.

In a casual conversation last fall with Reverend Ed Fashbaugh, pastor of Crossroads United Methodist Church in Canton, Seders referenced her desire to have a food pantry in the school to better serve her families. Crossroads operates a pantry from the church every Friday and was eager to help.

Rev. Fashbaugh engaged the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for support, and a few months later, the pantry was up and running. Foodbank staff helped the pantry secure a new refrigerator to store fresh produce and other perishable items with support from a child hunger grant award from Feeding America, thanks to Linda and Keith Monda.

Rev. Fashbaugh and his team of volunteers pick up food for the school pantry at the Foodbank when they pick up their food order for the church. This helps eliminate transportation costs and staff time for the school.



Seders uses each interaction at the pantry to build strong relationships with the families.

The school pantry is available one day per month, and opens once school is dismissed, in hopes of being convenient for parents picking up their children. It's open to all residents, not just school families, and plans to be open during the summer months too. It currently serves approximately 20 families, but with 300 kids enrolled in the school, Seders realizes it has potential for major growth.

Seders and her teachers volunteer their time to staff the pantry. They hope to uncover the reasons more families are not accessing the pantry and are open to adjustments during this beginning learning phase.

"Any barrier we can tear down helps us in the educational realm," she said.

THANK YOU FOR HELPING US EXCEED OUR GOAL

During Harvest for Hunger, we exceeded our meal goal and provided more than 5.3 million meals toward 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, dress-down days, donations made in grocery store checkout lines, and more than 200 food & funds drives are the difference between hunger and hope for tens of thousands of community members in our region. **THANK YOU!**

HARVEST FOR HUNGER



ANNUAL REPORT

Collaboratively with our network, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank works hard to maximize our impact on people and communities struggling with hunger.

To learn more about the Foodbank's record-breaking year in 2017, we invite you to view the 2017 Annual Report at akroncantonfoodbank.org/resources.



STARBUCKS FOODSHARE PROGRAM RESCUES PERISHABLE FOOD

In partnership with Feeding America®, the Foodbank joined with local Starbucks stores as part of the Starbucks FoodShare program that donates nourishing, unsold food product that would otherwise go to landfills.

With donations from 19 local stores, this new, perishable food rescue initiative provided more than 9,400 pounds of food in 2017. The program is estimated to provide 52,000 meals annually.

“The program exemplifies what we can accomplish when we work together,” said Foodbank President & CEO Dan Flowers.

Starbucks was recently recognized as the Corporate Volunteer of the Year award winner at the Foodbank's annual volunteer celebration. Local stores donated more than 220 hours of volunteer service in 2017, and through various food & funds drives, they collected more than 27,000 pounds of food.



District Manager, Robin George, and Akron West Market Store Manager, Taylor Miller, accepted the Corporate Volunteer of the Year award.

BE AN ADVOCATE FOR YOUR FOODBANK

The Foodbank counts on support from members of our community to take actions that will help us in our fight against hunger. By signing up for the Foodbank Advocacy Network, you'll receive Action Alerts in your email inbox notifying you of ways you can help. We can't do it alone! For more information, visit akroncantonfoodbank.org/advocate.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

William Shivers
CHAIR

Terry Link
VICE CHAIR

Jim Bowen
TREASURER

Amanda Montgomery
SECRETARY

Bill Artman

Lisa Backlin

Rob Bowers

Todd Civiello

Randy Frame

Ron Hartman

Nitesh Jain

Nicole Koharik

Greg Long

Annie McCauley

Jill Penrose

Laura Query

Pamela Simpson

Bennett L. Williams

Dan Flowers

PRESIDENT & CEO



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.