



FOODBANKFOCUS

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MEMBER OF
**FEEDING
AMERICA**

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akroncantonfoodbank.org

SERVING 8 COUNTIES

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

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“

It's like having a family member that's there for you, making sure everything is okay.”

-TRISTON



EVERY MEAL HAS A STORY LIKE TRISTON'S

Quietly shopping the shelves of his local pantry, Triston and his 7-year-old son, Christian, are excited to see pantry staples like peanut butter and jelly, along with fresh fruit. He shows his son the proper way to bag the groceries, to ensure the bread doesn't get smashed.

Before the first grader packs away the Uncrustable sandwiches he was so excited to see, he offers one to me. Teaching his children manners, respect and how to be kind to others is evident in Triston's thoughtful conversations with his son.

Triston hasn't always needed to visit the pantry to make ends meet. Four years ago, his wife was diagnosed with a degenerative disease of the nervous system that affects her muscle coordination. She needs a full-time caregiver,

so Triston had to quit his job. He receives help, but it's not enough to feed a family of four, especially two growing, active boys.

Committed to showing his sons that an education is important, Triston is enrolled at Stark State College, studying criminal justice online. He hopes to become a police officer or find a career in which he can help and protect people.

“Receiving this food allows me to do the other things I need to do to care for my family. Words just aren't enough to show how appreciative we are.”

READ MORE STORIES OF HOPE ONLINE.

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.
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Community Health Resources, Inc.
Timothy K. & Nancy Cooley
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CSE Federal Credit Union
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Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation
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GateHouse Media Ohio
The Gessner Family Foundation, Inc.
The Giant Eagle Foundation
GOJO Industries, Inc.
Stacey K. & Jeffrey Gonzalez
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
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Hard Rock Rocksino Northfield Park
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Community Foundation
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Shearer's Snacks Charity Foundation
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Theodore F. & Maureen Unton
James & Linda Venner
Visconsi Companies
Norm & Denise Wells
Frank & Linda Wenthur
Westfield
Alan J. & Janice Woll
Woodforest Charitable Foundation



Volunteers pack and deliver hot meals for people with transportation barriers.

ST. AMBROSE CATHOLIC WORKS OF MERCY FOOD PROGRAMS SERVE MEDINA COUNTY

NOT MANY ARE FAMILIAR WITH THE NEED IN MEDINA COUNTY. UNFORTUNATELY, SIMILAR TO THE REST OF NORTHEAST OHIO, THE COUNTY HAS NOT BEEN IMMUNE TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIPS, CAUSING FAMILIES TO EXPERIENCE POVERTY.

According to the most recent Feeding America study, nearly 10 percent of Medina County residents are food insecure, meaning they don't have regular access to safe, nourishing food. Luckily, organizations like St. Ambrose Catholic Works of Mercy have stepped up to help community members get the assistance they need.

Located in Brunswick, St. Ambrose's food program began 12 years ago as the community-focused branch of St. Ambrose Catholic Parish. It was small, helping approximately 10 families, and has since grown to serve more than 500 families each year. The program operates a food pantry each Wednesday and a community meal the third Sunday of the month.

"A lot of people think of Medina as a more affluent area—and there are places where it is, but I can take you to places that you would be shocked exist here in Brunswick," shares Jeff Trush, director of St. Ambrose's food programs.

compared to neighboring areas, there are still people struggling to make ends meet. The organization's goal is to provide assistance now in order to stop the need from growing.

In addition to providing a hot meal and groceries, volunteers also connect individuals in need to local services that assist with a variety of issues, such as housing, dental services, and offer a Christmas in July program that provides school supplies for children.

Partnering with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has allowed St. Ambrose to stretch its small budget to provide a wider range of food options at both its hot meal and pantry. "Controlling cost is the hardest thing," said Trush.

"The Foodbank really plays a big role in that because we can drive our costs down on many products, including meat, and I really believe that the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has allowed us to serve a more quality meal."

Thanks to community support and its partnership with the Foodbank, St. Ambrose has provided more than 4,500 meals in the past year and continues to serve community members in need in Medina County.



He explains that while some residents may view Brunswick as "not that bad"

THANK YOU FOODBANK MAJOR PARTNERS!

LEADERSHIP PARTNERS 200,000+ MEALS



MISSION PARTNERS 80,000+ MEALS

Akron Area Interfaith Council
 Akron Children's Hospital
 Akron Community Foundation
 Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank Staff
 American Wood Reface
 The Beaver Excavating Company
 Bimbo Bakeries
 Citizens Bank
 ComDoc
 Country Pure Foods
 Frito Lay Inc.
 The Gessner Family Foundation
 GOJO Industries
 Sandra L. and Dennis B. Haslinger Family Foundation
 John Hinds

Integrated Marketing Technology
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 Kraft Heinz Company
 Marc's
 National DCP
 Save A Lot
 Mike and Jennifer Saxon
 Sequoia Financial Group, LLC
 Serra Subaru
 The Sisler McFawn Foundation
 Smith Dairy
 Stark Community Foundation
 Tri-County Restaurant Association
 W.W. Grainger
 WAKR, WONE, WQMX, WNWW
 Whole Foods

LOCAL COUPLE INPIRED TO SUPPORT FOODBANK AFTER EXPERIENCING HARDSHIP

THE FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTIONS FROM THE COMMUNITY IS WHAT ENABLES YOUR FOODBANK TO SERVE AS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN HUNGER AND HOPE FOR OUR NEIGHBORS STRUGGLING WITH HUNGER.

The financial contributions from our community is what enables your Foodbank to serve as the difference between hunger and hope for our neighbors struggling with hunger.

Larry has been a steadfast supporter of the Foodbank for nearly 10 years. Philanthropy and showing kindness to others was ingrained in him at a very early age. He remembers seeing his grandfather and father consistently showing compassion to individuals in need.

After a long career in banking, Larry has the ability to make an impact in his community through the charities he supports. "Giving back is something I believe strongly in. God has put me in different situations to be able to do that, and I try to be the servant he wants me to be."

Though Larry has supported the Foodbank for years, it wasn't until he met his wife, Necia, that giving to the Foodbank became much more personal for him.

Necia lost the majority of her income as a real estate agent after the market

crashed in 2008. Trying to make ends meet, she found a job as a telemarketer, and to supplement her income, also cleaned houses, sold homemade pies and offered childcare in her home. She remembers her electric being turned off in January and finding new ways to create and extend the longevity of meals with limited resources.

Necia found herself in a difficult situation, something she calls the "donut hole."

She was slipping through the cracks of the system. If she made a few dollars more, she'd be okay, but if she made a few dollars less, she would have been better off. Her income, though meager, made her ineligible for food assistance benefits.

Necia began attending a local Bible study. Her fellow members recommended she visit the church pantry. She was reluctant at first, but found the pantry immensely helpful in extending her limited budget.

"It's taught me to be very appreciative," she says of her experience with hunger. "You see things differently after you've gone through something like I have."

Larry and Necia met in 2013 and were married a year later. Necia is following her passion in real estate once again, and together, the couple continues to give back to their local community.



Necia and Larry find joy in giving to the Foodbank.

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING HARVEST FOR HUNGER!

We came together to truly make an impact, helping provide more than 5.2 million meals to the people in our region struggling with hunger. We couldn't have done this without you – THANK YOU!



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

JULY 18, 2019
AUGUST 13, 2019
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019
OCTOBER 15, 2019
 CORE Event for Young Professionals

JULY 20, 2019
AUGUST 10, 2019
OCTOBER 12, 2019
 Operation Impact

SEPTEMBER 17, 2019
 Taste of the Pro Football Hall of Fame

NOVEMBER 3, 2019*
 Harvest Moon Run

DECEMBER 21, 2019*
 Selfless Elf 5K

*Registration now open

FOR EVENT DETAILS, VISIT
akroncantonfoodbank.org/events



I PROMISE SCHOOL PANTRY HELPS ALLEVIATE SUMMER HUNGER

Though the school year has come to an end, the new I PROMISE School will still see children and families walking the halls as the curriculum continues year-round. In addition to seven weeks of summer programming, the Family Resource Center will continue to offer support services, including the in-school food pantry.

The pantry is a partnership between the Foodbank, the LeBron James Family Foundation and Akron Public Schools. The pantry is the first pantry managed by Foodbank staff members and volunteers.

The structure of the I PROMISE School and its available resources is a new way to reimagine urban, public education. Offering wraparound services and additional support within a school setting, is an innovative approach to support the entire family.

“Our students at the I PROMISE School are facing a variety of challenges outside of

school, and we know that we can't throw numbers and lesson plans at them until we've addressed those issues and gotten them to a place where they're nourished, confident, and ready to learn,” said Michele Campbell, executive director of the Foundation. “And those issues – including hunger – don't go away in the summer. These are real-life, everyday struggles we are working to address along with the help of our partners like the Foodbank to make the I PROMISE School the special, all-encompassing resource it is for our families.”

When summer arrives, families with already overextended budgets are forced to make up for lost school meals, in addition to childcare costs. It can be difficult to supplement the 10 meals per week their children would have received at school. Keeping the I PROMISE pantry open will help families preserve their resources for other expenses.

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