



DID YOU KNOW?
1 in 7 individuals in the Foodbank's 8-county service area struggles with hunger.

WINTER 2014

THE FOODBANK FOCUS

A publication of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

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



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Four rows of folding chairs are filled with people patiently waiting at the Middlebury Chapel in Summit County. Families seated are reconnecting with friends and neighbors in the warm community room. On the end of the last row is David Conley, sitting quietly alone.

“You know,” David says slowly, “Thirty-seven years ago, I was married in this church. I’ve been coming here for years.”

David was born and raised in this community, and two months ago, he had a house fire. His family was forced to leave the home they loved.

Because of the fire, David is visiting his church for a new reason. He is here for Middlebury Chapel’s food pantry.

“Recently, I had to choose between paying a gas bill and buying food,” David said.

“I’ve only had to come [to the pantry] twice, and this place helps fill in the gaps when nothing else can.”

David has a degree in culinary arts, and he’s currently looking for a job. When asked what some of his favorite items are to receive from the food pantry, David replies, “I just love to cook. All the food is wonderful, and you should see what I can do with spices.”

The Middlebury Chapel operates a food pantry and is a member agency program of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. The pantry receives nutritious grocery items including frozen meat, fresh breads and vegetables from the Foodbank.

David will receive more than food today at the food pantry. He will receive hope, and a way to continually show his family love— with the meals he will prepare.



Each day, the Foodbank distributes the equivalent of
72,000 MEALS

HONOR ROLL WINTER 2014

Access Midstream
Akron Children's Hospital
Employee Foundation
Akron Community Foundation
Akron General Medical Center
Allstate
Mark and Michele Allio Family Fund
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Ameriprise Financial Services
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Bober, Markey, Fedorovich & Company
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Buckeye Community Health Plan
CBIZ Accounting Tax &
Advisory Service, LLC
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter
Day Saints Akron Ohio Stake
Clara Faber Foundation
ConAgra Foods
The Mary S. and David C.
Corbin Foundation
Feth Family Foundation
The First Congregational
United Church of Christ
FirstMerit Bank N.A.
Albert W. and Edith V.Flowers
Charitable Foundation
GAR Foundation
The Giant Eagle Foundation
GOJO Industries, Inc.
The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company
Grainger Industrial Supply
Hitachi Medical Systems
of America, Inc.
The Hoover Foundation
W. Henry Hoover Fund
Huntington National Bank
Junior Women's Civic Club
Kismet Foundation
Kovatch Castings, Inc.
Laurel Lake Retirement Community
Levin Furniture
Main Street Gourmet
Making Smiles Foundation
Medical Mutual of Ohio
Laura R. & Lucian Q.
Moffitt Foundation
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Charitable Foundation
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of Akron Community Foundation
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Powell Family-Stark Comm Fnd
Saber Healthcare Foundation
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Memorial Foundation
The J.M. Smucker Company
Temple Beth Shalom
Temple Israel
T.G.I. Friday's
The Timken Company
Trinity Lutheran Church
Western Reserve Academy
Westfield Insurance

The Honor Roll recognizes our
top supporters of the season.
Together we are the difference
between hunger and hope.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

Join the Sustainer Circle

Hunger is a year-round problem that requires a year-round solution. In our community, nearly 1 in 4 children struggle with food insecurity. As a member of the Sustainer Circle, you can make an impact on that number, and join the fight to end hunger right here in our community. Simply visit our website, akroncantonfoodbank.org, and click on the Sustainer Circle under the red "Donate Now" tab. With any questions, please contact Gina Campbell at 330.777.2308 or gcampbell@acrfb.org.



Wanted: Foodbank Advocates

This holiday season was particularly hard for many of the families the Foodbank serves, who also participate in the SNAP (formerly known as food stamps) program. Recent across-the-board cuts to SNAP will continue to increase demand on the Foodbank's network of more than 500 food pantries, hot meal sites, shelters and other hunger-relief programs.

Did you know that 76 percent of SNAP households included a child, an elderly person or a disabled person? These vulnerable households receive 83 percent of all SNAP benefits.

BE AN ADVOCATE! You can play a significant role in our mission to Feed People and Fight Hunger. Please sign up today to become a member of the Foodbank Advocacy Network. As an advocate, you will receive special alerts when grassroots action, like protecting SNAP benefits, is needed. The need for advocacy is now. Please visit our website and click on the "Get Involved" tab to sign up for the Advocacy network.

Questions about the Foodbank Advocacy Network? Contact Colleen Benson at 330.777.7571 or cbenson@acrfb.org.

How do the Foodbank and my community food pantry work together?

It is very common for food pantries to refer to their program as a food bank. While we work together, there is a difference.

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is the source of emergency food for more than 500 food pantries, hot meal sites, shelters and other hunger-relief programs that directly serve individuals in the community. Three of the Foodbank's largest hunger-relief programs are operated by member agencies in Tuscarawas and Holmes Counties: The Greater Dover New Philadelphia Food Pantry, The Journey's End Ministries and The Love Center Food Pantry.

Pastor Hasemeyer of The Love Center Food Pantry said, "The Foodbank and the Love Center Food Pantry have a common goal to eliminate the stress that accompanies hunger. We have a long-standing passion to reach out to the community with the tangible love of God, and our partnership with the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank continues to be a tremendous blessing to our hunger-relief efforts."



Pastor Hasemeyer adds, "The need keeps growing, and I don't foresee it decreasing at all. Just this year, we will serve more than 1,100 families. We can serve the volume of people that we do because of the Foodbank, and I can't image any organization operating at a higher level of excellence."

Food banks and food pantries share the same commitment and work towards the same goal—to eliminate hunger in our community.



Harvest for Hunger Kicks Off

Last year was a record-breaking year for food distribution at the Foodbank. The Harvest for Hunger campaign provides a significant portion of the food that is distributed to those in need each year, and this year, you are invited to join the Foodbank in this vital campaign!

Harvest for Hunger runs the entire month of March and is the collaborative effort of four Foodbanks covering 21 Northeast Ohio counties. 2014 will mark the 23rd Anniversary of the Harvest for Hunger campaign.

There are several ways you can support the campaign, which helps support food distribution all year long.

CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF EVENT

Join us in the warehouse of the Foodbank on Wednesday, February 26, 2014 at 10:00 am for our Harvest for Hunger campaign kick-off event. Meet our campaign chairs, who will help us kick off the 23rd year of this campaign.

CHECK OUT HUNGER

Shop at participating supermarkets and ask your cashier to scan a \$10, \$5 or \$1 donation coupon as you "Check Out Hunger." Please visit akroncantonfoodbank.org to find a list of participating grocery stores near you!

HOST A FOOD & FUNDS DRIVE

Join the more than 200 businesses, schools, churches and other organizations by conducting a food & funds drive. Visit our website for food & funds drive details and to learn how to register your drive.

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers make a huge difference in the lives of those struggling with hunger. Your assistance at the Foodbank will help us to provide food more efficiently and effectively to those in need.

MAKE A DONATION

Visit akroncantonfoodbank.org to make a donation online or mail your check today.



Do you have what it takes to be named the 2014 Harvest for Hunger Virtual Idol winner? Individuals and groups of all ages and quantities are invited to compete in our 2nd Harvest for Hunger Idol-gone-virtual online singing competition.

Register and submit your 3-minute or less singing video by March 24, 2014, and you will be entered in our 2014 Harvest for Hunger Virtual Idol online singing competition. Rally your friends, family members and co-workers to visit virtualidol.org to vote for your video!



DATES TO REMEMBER

CORE
Young Professionals Event
FEBRUARY 8

Harvest for Hunger Kick-Off
FEBRUARY 26

Check Out Hunger
MARCH 2 - APRIL 13

Virtual Idol Submission Deadline
MARCH 24

SAVE THE DATE

Operation Orange
SEPTEMBER 5-6

Taste of the NFL
SEPTEMBER 23

For event details, visit
akroncantonfoodbank.org

LEAVE A LEGACY

The Foodbank is privileged to have many generous donors that faithfully give of their time, talent and resources. Just as donors have made helping people and organizations their passion in life, others have chosen to continue their work in the future through a legacy gift. If you are interesting in discussing your opportunities that include your will or estate plans, please contact Gina Campbell at 330.777.2308 or gcampbell@acrfb.org.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT.

HUNGER FREE families



Hunger Heroes rally together

The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank would like to thank all those who participated in the holiday Hunger-Free Families campaign. Approximately 300 companies and organizations became Hunger Heroes for the Foodbank, by hosting food & funds drives.

Our community truly rallied together for this holiday campaign, and we were able to provide more than 800,000 meals to families in need.

On Friday, November 22, 2013, the Foodbank partnered with radio stations 98.1 WKDD, My 101.7 WHOF, 106.9 WRQK and 640 WHLO for the annual Long Haul Against Hunger. Listeners of the four stations drove by and dropped off non-perishable food and monetary donations in Akron and Canton.

Also part of the Hunger-Free Families campaign, the Foodbank held “Double Your

Dollar Dar” on the traditionally largest online shopping day of the year—Cyber Monday. For every \$1 that was donated, a generous friend of the Foodbank matched the gifts. The Foodbank had it’s largest ever online donation day, with more than \$37,000 raised including the match!

The Foodbank wrapped up this spirited campaign by hosting the first annual Selfless Elf 5K run. More than 600 runners embraced the season and dressed up in festive holiday-themed running gear. The race began and ended at the Foodbank and all who participated ended the race with hot chocolate and a chance to meet Santa!

Again, thank you to everyone who participated in the Hunger-Free Families campaign! Because of your participation, many families struggling with hunger this holiday season, had a meal to share.



Community members rallied during the Long Haul Against Hunger to make donations for individuals and families struggling with hunger.



Associates from Kisling, Nestico & Redick hosted a large food & funds drive and donated turkeys to the Foodbank.



The brand new Giant Eagle Market District in Green donated 500 turkeys to the Foodbank.



On air personalities from 98.1 WKDD, My 101.7 WHOF, 106.9 WRQK and 640 WHLO collected donations during the Long Haul Against Hunger.



The Charter One Foundation donated \$10,000 to the Foodbank as part of its Carving Out Hunger program, which helped provide 812 turkeys to families 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 or 330.535.6900.

A member of **FEEDING AMERICA** **OHIO** ASSOCIATION OF **FOODBANKS**