



**HARVEST**  
**for HUNGER** 

**For: Immediate Release**  
February 24, 2010

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**Foodbank announces \$700,000 *Harvest for Hunger* Goal**  
*Campaign one of the largest food and funds drives in the U.S.*

**Akron, Ohio--- February 24, 2010 ---** With the need for food now greater than ever before, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is encouraging community participation to reach its local goal of \$700,000 for the 2010 *Harvest for Hunger* campaign. *Harvest for Hunger*, a collaboration of four food banks serving 21 counties in northeast Ohio, is one of the largest food and funds drives in the country.

The local 2010 *Harvest for Hunger* campaign is being led for the second consecutive year by co-chairs Kevin Kampman, publisher of The Repository in Canton, and Andrea Mathewson, publisher of the Akron Beacon Journal. “The Harvest for Hunger campaign fulfills a very real need we have in Stark County and Northeast Ohio,” stated Kampman. “The needs of our community have become more severe this past year and it’s important for each of us to do our part. I encourage everyone to donate food and donate funds to help the *Harvest for Hunger* campaign.”

The campaign is following the release earlier this month of ***Hunger in America 2010***, which reports that more than 40,000 different people are fed every week by the Foodbank. “Northeast Ohio is not recovering from the recession as quickly as other parts of the country,” said Daniel R. Flowers, president and CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. “We are still seeing increasing numbers of people coming to local food pantries and meal sites and expect the numbers to continue to rise throughout this year. We have to feed more people, and we can do it with the community’s support.”

The biggest impact in the fight against hunger is made through financial donations. Every \$1 donation provides 3 meals for people in need. Donations are accepted at the Foodbank by mail or online at [www.akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://www.akroncantonfoodbank.org). One hundred percent of all *Harvest for Hunger*

donations are used to provide food at no cost to local food pantries, hot meal sites and shelters with emergency food programs.

Six local supermarket chains are participating in Check Out Hunger, which allows shoppers to scan coupons and make donations of \$1, \$5 or \$10 at the check out register. Check Out Hunger is available at Acme Fresh Markets, Buehler's Fresh Foods, Dave's Supermarkets, Fishers Foods, Giant Eagle, and Heinen's Fine Foods. Check Out Hunger runs from February 28 through April 10 at all stores operated by the six supermarkets within the 21-county campaign region, and is supported by the members of UFCW Local 880.

More than 200 businesses, schools and community organizations are holding *Harvest for Hunger* food and funds drives in the 8 counties served by the Foodbank. Coordinator kits that provide tips on holding successful food and funds drives are available on the Foodbank website, or by calling (330) 535-6900. "Last year more than 80 businesses and organizations held food and funds drives for the first time," said Mathewson. "The need is great. Please support the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank -- it's a tremendous community asset."

Additional support for *Harvest for Hunger* is provided by local media sponsors including the Akron Beacon Journal, The Independent, The Repository, The Suburbanite and The Times-Reporter. Television and radio sponsors include WJW-Fox 8, WKYC-TV3, WOIO 19 Action News, Time Warner Cable and ClearChannel and CBS radio stations in the Cleveland market.

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**About Harvest for Hunger.** *Harvest for Hunger is a collaboration of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Cleveland Foodbank, Second Harvest Food Bank of North Central Ohio and Second Harvest Food Bank of the Mahoning Valley, serving 21 counties in northeast and north central Ohio. In 2009, Harvest for Hunger raised a total of \$2.9 million providing 10 million meals for people in need across the 21-county campaign region. All donations remain local and provide emergency food at no cost to pantries, meal sites and shelters for each respective food bank. The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank has a local goal in 2010 to raise \$700,000 in Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties.*

**The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank** is a non-profit organization with a mission to Feed People and Fight Hunger. The Foodbank provides food and other essential products to more than 430 community organizations that operate food pantries, hot meal sites and other hunger relief programs in Carroll, Holmes, Medina, Portage, Stark, Summit, Tuscarawas and Wayne counties. In 2009, the Foodbank distributed 18.7 million pounds of food, providing 13.5 million meals locally for people in need. For more information visit: [www.akroncantonfoodbank.org](http://www.akroncantonfoodbank.org). Find us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/akroncantonfoodbank](http://www.facebook.com/akroncantonfoodbank).