



DID YOU KNOW?
The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank is a member of Feeding America, the nation's largest domestic hunger-relief organization.

FALL 2011

THE FOODBANK FOCUS

A publication of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank

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



AKRON-CANTON REGIONAL

FOOD BANK

A member of **FEEDING AMERICA**

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LIVES YOU ARE HELPING CHANGE

Across Ohio the recession has had an effect on many individuals, and data recently released by the U.S. Census Bureau is another reminder of why emergency food assistance programs are vital to supporting hungry Ohioans. In 2010, nearly one in six households or 15.8 percent of the population lived in poverty. Many of these individuals are newly poor, part of middle-class households knocked off their feet by unemployment or sudden unfortunate circumstances.

Dan, an unemployed truck driver, is seeking a job and wants desperately to be back in the workforce. His arthritis, bad knees, and the economy are obstacles, but he continues on his quest to find a job and improve his situation. He has seen better times, but also knows things could be worse, and is determined to continue fighting.

"I am just thankful my children are grown and I am not responsible for feeding them. I don't know how these single parents are making it," said Dan.

Dan, a very humble man, occasionally relies on the food pantry at Arlington Memorial Baptist Church in Akron to supplement his food supply. He is very grateful for the fresh produce and shelf-stable food he receives at the pantry, allowing him to sustain his home and continue to focus energy towards his job search.

When asked what he would like to say to donors that make this program possible, he said, "Thank you, I don't know where I'd be without this help."

Since the start of the Great Recession in 2007, distribution from the docks of the Foodbank has increased 48 percent, and last year 19.2 million pounds of food were distributed to those seeking emergency assistance from one of the Foodbank's 450 hunger relief programs.



"I am just thankful my children are grown and I am not responsible for feeding them. I don't know how these single parents are making it."



CORPORATE & FOUNDATION GIFTS

Albert W. and Edith V. Flowers Charitable Foundation	\$5,000
Allstate Insurance	\$5,000
BJ's Charitable Foundation	\$7,500
Bridgestone Americas Trust Fund	\$3,500
Buckeye Corrugated, Inc.	\$5,000
Champion Windows	\$3,057
Charter One Foundation	\$10,000
Dominion Foundation	\$7,500
F.W. Albrecht Family Foundation	\$5,000
FirstMerit Foundation	\$5,000
Glenn & Alice Boggess Memorial Foundation	\$2,000
Incept Corporation	\$2,600
Jeff Dunham Fund	\$20,000
Keith and Linda Monda	\$30,000
MACtac/Bemis Company	\$17,307
Maynard Family Foundation	\$11,000
Medical Mutual of Ohio	\$3,000
Musson Charitable Foundation	\$2,500
OMNOVA Solutions Foundation	\$5,000
PPG Industries Foundation	\$1,000
Robert O. and Annamae Orr Family Foundation	\$10,000
Sequoia Financial Group, LLC	\$20,000
The College of Wooster	\$2,000
The Denise G. & Norman E. Wells, Jr. Family Foundation, Inc.	\$5,000
The Giant Eagle Foundation	\$10,000
The Grainger Foundation	\$10,000
The Mirapaul Foundation	\$5,000
The Sisler McFawn Foundation	\$20,000
The Sue and Mal Ames Fund of Akron Community Foundation	\$500
The Welty Family Foundation	\$10,000
Unimet Charitable Trust of Stark Community Foundation	\$1,000
Woodforest Charitable Foundation	\$4,775

HELP FEED THOSE IN NEED THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

PARTICIPATE IN OUR HUNGER-FREE FAMILIES CAMPAIGN

We need your support to feed people in need right here in our community. Join the Hunger-Free Families campaign, which inspires people to come together this holiday season to take action and help provide food to families facing hunger. Hundreds of local companies, non-profit organizations, governmental bodies, schools, social groups and faith-based organizations are invited to host food and funds drives between November 1st and December 31st. Hosting a food and funds drive is an easy way to participate in the Hunger-Free Families campaign. In-house drives are a wonderful way to promote community involvement and team building while benefiting those in need.



You can also support the campaign by participating in the drive-by and donate event that will be held on Friday, November 18th from 6am to 6pm. This promotion, supported by 98.1 WKDD, My 101.7, ROCK 106.9 and 640 WHLO, will have locations in Akron and Canton where community members can drive through the parking lot and drop off food and financial donations. Please visit www.akroncantonfoodbank.org for more information or contact Leslie Letner at 330.777.7572 or lletner@acrfb.org to learn how you can get involved.

HUNGER FREE
families

Take action and give hope to families facing hunger this holiday season.

NOV 1st - DEC 31st

FEATURED CORPORATE PARTNER: THE J.M. SMUCKER COMPANY

The J.M. Smucker Company has been the largest food donor to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank for many years,



Employees from The J.M. Smucker Company volunteer at the Foodbank

donating millions of pounds of food to those in need. In 2011, that partnership escalated to a new level, as Smucker's generously made a commitment to fight hunger by becoming a Corporate Partner of the Foodbank. A generous contribution of \$35,000 was used in 2011 to support general operations at the Foodbank along with support of the annual Harvest for Hunger Campaign and WKSU Membership Drive.

The J.M. Smucker Company also has very generous employees who have participated in Foodbank activities such as on-site volunteering. Rich Wilson, Director, Supply Chain Initiatives, serves on the Foodbank's Board of Directors and chairs two board committees. Smucker's is a model partner that is helping the Foodbank in its mission to Feed People and Fight Hunger.

WALMART PROVIDES EQUIPMENT TO AGENCIES

More than 30 member agencies of the Foodbank are better equipped to feed people thanks to the Walmart Foundation. At the beginning of the year Walmart provided grant funding to the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank to build the capacity of its network. Member agencies applied to the Foodbank to receive equipment such as commercial refrigerators and freezers, microwaves, stoves, printers, floor mats, hand carts and shelving units. This summer, the Foodbank distributed more than 100 pieces of equipment valued at \$32,000 to qualifying agencies.

The gift was part of Walmart's \$2 billion commitment to help end hunger in America.



Volunteers at Randolph Suffield Atwater Food Shelf receive their new freezer and cart

BRING YOUR CHILD TO WORK DAY

Young philanthropists filled the Foodbank on July 29 when it held its first Bring Your Child to Work Day. Friends and family members of Foodbank employees enjoyed a day jam-packed with activities related to hunger awareness. The children took a tour of the Foodbank, learned about hunger and healthy eating, repacked pasta and made thank you cards for our donors.

"This has been a great experience for Abigail, children are never too young to learn about helping others," says

Gina Campbell, Foodbank employee and grandmother to 3 year old Abigail. Whenever Abigail sees an apple now, she relates it to the Foodbank logo and tells whomever she's with, "Grammy works at the apple; she feeds people."



Jon, age 9, weighs pasta at Bring Your Child to Work Day



WE NEED YOUR HELP IN 2011

Hunger-Free Families Campaign
November 1 - December 31

No Muffin Left Behind Sale
November 12

Hunger-Free Families Drive By and Donate Event
November 18

WKSU On-Air Challenge
December 1 - 2

Ryan Humbert Holiday Blow Out Concert
December 10



Abigail, age 3, at Bring Your Child to Work Day



Kurt Kleidon seals bags of pasta at the Fall Young Professionals Volunteer Project



Britney Mayes fills bags of pasta at the Fall Young Professionals Volunteer Project



Staff members sport their orange Hunger Action Month t-shirts to raise awareness for hunger issues

DOMINION MAKES DONATION TO FEED HUNGRY IN HONOR OF HUNGER ACTION MONTH

The Foodbank received a generous donation of \$7,500 from the Dominion Foundation in honor of Hunger Action Month, a national movement to raise awareness and take action to help the 50 million Americans who experience hunger.

Locally, one in six households in Ohio struggled with hunger on average in the years 2008-2010, according to new data released recently by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) in its annual report on food insecurity.

“So many individuals in our community are suffering from not having access to enough food.” said Theresa Corey Bishop, Philanthropy Manager for the Dominion Foundation. “I am proud that

Dominion is stepping up to help the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in its efforts to get food to these children, seniors and families in need.”

“We continue to see evidence of the struggles facing so many people in our state and in our community.” said Dan Flowers, president and CEO of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. “We are deeply grateful for this generous donation from the Dominion Foundation that will enable the Foodbank to provide hunger relief locally.”

Throughout the month of September, the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank worked to engage citizens to take action and help spread the word about how pervasive hunger is in every community. Governor

Kasich issued a resolution designating September 2011 Hunger Action Month in the state of Ohio. He encouraged all Ohioans to raise awareness about the need to combat hunger throughout the state. The Foodbank created *30 Ways in 30 Days*, a calendar providing individuals with daily ways to take action and help fight hunger in our community.



ANNUAL TASTE OF THE NFL EVENT CROWNS NEW CHAMPION

Tuesday night, September 20, 2011 the Pro Football Hall of Fame hosted the fourth annual Taste of the NFL benefiting the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank. Approximately 450 guests in attendance raised more than \$135,000 in funds to support hunger relief efforts in northeast Ohio.

Hall of Fame Enshrinees attended the event to mingle with guests and sign autographs. 2010 Hall of Fame inductees, Floyd Little and Browns legend Leroy Kelly were popular Enshrinees with guests. They were joined by Joe DeLamielleure, Charlie Sanders, Randall McDaniel, Jim Taylor, Dave Wilcox, Rayfield Wright, and Jack Youngblood.

This year's event highlighted delicious cuisine and beverages provided by 19 local and national vendors. Meeker Vineyards from California was the featured winery at the event. Molly Meeker, co-owner of Meeker Vineyards was present to mingle with guests and offer wine tasting tips. Chef Carl Falcone of Bender's Tavern in Canton was crowned the Grand Champion and will represent the Pro Football Hall of Fame and the Foodbank at the national Taste of the NFL event held on the eve of the Superbowl in 2013. Chef Carl Falcone and his team served delicious scallops with sun-dried tomato sauce and lobster bisque.

Thank you to event Co-Chairs Linda DeHoff and Lara Wilson and the entire

Steering Committee for their work in planning the event. Also, thank you to Title Sponsor WAKR/WONE/WQMX/ Akron NewsNow and Platinum Level Sponsors Akron Beacon Journal, Meeker Vineyard distributed by Esber Beverage, Mix 94.1 & News-Talk 1480 WHBC, OMNOVA Solutions Foundation and The Repository and About Magazine.

Taste of the NFL is a partnership between NFL teams and food banks across the country. Local events are held in NFL cities throughout the year and a national Taste of the NFL is held on the eve of the Super Bowl. The Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank partners with the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



Event volunteers Vince Delsanter and Roger Wolanski with Hall of Fame Enshrinee Joe DeLamielleure



Carl Falcone and Jon Jacob from Bender's Tavern with Foodbank President & CEO, Dan Flowers



2011 Taste of the NFL Co-Chairs Lara Wilson and Linda DeHoff

If you know anyone who might be interested in receiving this newsletter, or if you would like to be removed from this mailing list, please contact the Marketing Department at info@acrfb.org or 330.535.6900. Thank you for joining the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank in the fight against hunger.

