On September 5-6, 2014, the energy of more than 1,000 volunteers will fill our warehouse for our second annual 24-hour volunteer event, Operation Orange. During the event, volunteers will enjoy music from a live DJ, refreshments and fun activities around the clock, all while helping those in our community facing hunger.

Volunteers from agencies are more than welcome to volunteer at any time during the event, however, we highly encourage you to come during one of the two “Agency Shifts” designated for our member agencies:

- Friday, September 5, 2014
  12:00 to 2:00 p.m.
- Saturday, September 6, 2014
  8:00 to 10:00 a.m.

**REGISTRATION IS EASY!**
Visit the Operation Orange page on the Foodbank’s website and complete a volunteer application. When asked, “Are you volunteering with a group?” Please note that you are a Member Agency and the day/time you would like to volunteer.

We may not often take the time to say **THANK YOU** as much as we should to those who have made a difference in our lives and in the lives of others. For this very reason, we set aside an entire week to express our gratitude for the difference our agencies making the our community.

We celebrated your role in our hunger relief network with special treats, sweets and tweets to show our gratitude the week of August 11-15. Each day, there were on-site activities and special **THANK YOU** gifts for agency representatives. Agency volunteers that were not visiting the Foodbank were encouraged to follow @ACRFoodbank on Twitter to be part of the festivities.

From the clients, the community, the Board and the entire staff of the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, **THANK YOU** for being on the front lines of our incredible hunger relief network and for all that you do to Feed People and Fight Hunger.
AGENCY SATISFACTION SURVEY

The Foodbank values the opinions and feedback of our member agency network. To this end, we are asking each agency to complete the Agency Satisfaction Survey.

This survey covers a variety of topics, including rating our communication strategies, product satisfaction by category on the menu, ease of ordering and pick-up, topics for trainings and providing feedback on the Agency Roundtable series.

The main contact at each member agency should have received an email with a link to complete the online survey. The survey will take no more than 15 minutes to complete.

Agencies will be entered into a raffle once the survey has been completed. Each week from August 18 to September 26, an agency will be chosen to receive a $50 food grant (excludes purchase program product). This grant will be applied to your Foodbank account and will be automatically applied to purchases before December 31, 2014 until it is fully expended. The earlier your agency completes the survey, the greater your odds of winning!

If you have questions or need assistance completing the survey, please contact Adrienne Bradley, Manager, Programs at abradley@acrfb.org or 330.777.2311.

THE RESULTS ARE IN

Hunger in America 2014 is Feeding America’s sixth extensive study of the charitable food assistance network in the United States since 1993. The national Feeding America report and our local Foodbank report are now available for download on the Foodbank website.

The results of this study are informed, at the local level, by 91% of our network participating in the agency survey and more than 100 visits to agencies to survey clients.

Together, our network serves an estimated 263,200 unique clients annually. During the survey period, more than 500 clients shared their stories and experiences with our data collectors. From their responses, we now know that:

- 67% of client households reported that they had to choose between paying for food and utilities in the past 12 months.
- Only 57% of client households currently receive benefits through SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program).
- 81% of clients reported buying cheapest food available regardless of health, even if they knew it wasn’t the healthiest option for their family as their most common coping strategy.
- 66% of client households chose between paying for food and paying for medicine or medical care at least once in the past 12 months; 31% faced this choice every month.
- 45% of families wait to come to the food program until they run out of food.

From the agency data, we have learned:
- 68% of our agencies have no paid staff.
- 85% of our agencies provide nutrition education information via fliers or writer materials.
- 29% of our agencies provide some sort of SNAP-related assistance.
- More than 60% of the food distributed by our network comes from the Foodbank.
- 79% of our agencies said no longer receiving food from the Foodbank would have a major impact on their program.

We understand that the circumstances of agencies and clients can vary, partly due to geography. For the first time, we now have access to county-specific data for each county served by our Foodbank. While less county specific information is available due to smaller sample size, this data will prove invaluable as we look toward improved services to clients and agencies in all of our eight county service area.

OUR NETWORK SERVES APPROXIMATELY

263,200 UNIQUE INDIVIDUALS EACH YEAR

Clients heavily rely on our agency network to make ends meet for their family. The data about our agency network is extremely important as we continue to meet the challenge of serving more clients in need.

TO KNOW THAT MORE THAN 260,000 DIFFERENT PEOPLE COME THROUGH THE DOORS OF OUR NETWORK IS TRULY A TESTAMENT TO THE COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE FOODBANK AND OUR MORE THAN 500 MEMBER AGENCY PROGRAMS. IT ALSO REVEALS THAT OUR VISION OF A COMMUNITY FREE FROM HUNGER IS FAR FROM BEING REALIZED. THIS DATA GIVES US THE POWER TO ADVOCATE FOR PUBLIC POLICIES THAT SUPPORT HUNGER-RELIEF, INCREASE CREDIBILITY AROUND DONOR REQUESTS AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, RAISE AWARENESS FOR HUNGER WITHIN THE COMMUNITY.

For more information, please contact Katie Carver, Programs Coordinator, at kcarver@acrfb.org or 330.535.6900 ext. 112.
AGENCY ROUNDTABLE SERIES CONTINUES

The Agency Roundtable Series has been packed full of interesting and engaging sessions to connect our member agencies to resources and to one another. These sessions have been hosted in nearly each of the eight counties we serve. Two of our most recent roundtable sessions focused on the SNAP program and another gave agencies the opportunity to participate in a cooking class.

Chef Sherri from Shy Cellars, winner of the 2013 Taste of the NFL, hosted a cooking demonstration for agencies in July at her restaurant in Strasburg. She created a “Chopped” style competition for agencies, in which they were placed in teams to create an appetizer, entrée, and dessert. The twist: teams were given mystery baskets with which all ingredients had to be used. The appetizer team, for example, was given a basket filled with raw shrimp, tortillas, canned black beans and spicy canned Spam. Participants experienced the difficulty clients may face when opening their cupboard to find ingredients that may not pair together well. In the end, agencies created gourmet meals to share.

There are still a few engaging roundtable sessions remaining for 2014. As a reminder, emergency feeding programs (food pantries, hot meal and shelter sites) are required to attend at least one Agency Roundtable during the year in order to maintain eligibility for grant funded product. For those agencies that did not send a representative to the 2013 Network Summit, attendance at an Agency Roundtable will reinstate eligibility for grant funded product.

WAREHOUSE REMINDERS

The Foodbank Warehouse is a fast-paced environment. To ensure the safety of all visitors, please follow the rules and communicate these rules with any volunteer picking up on behalf of your agency.

- No open-toed, open-heeled shoes in the warehouse.
- No children are permitted in the warehouse. This is for their safety and the safety of others.
- No tobacco. We are a tobacco-free campus. Please remind your volunteers that there is no smoking permitted on Foodbank property.

AGENCY ROUNDTABLE SERIES CONTINUES

SEPTEMBER IS HUNGER ACTION MONTH

September is Hunger Action Month, when we ask everyone in our community to take action to fight hunger in our area, all month long. Hunger Action Month is your opportunity to join a movement that has a real and lasting impact on our effort to feed more hungry men, women and children than ever before.

WEAR ORANGE ON SEPTEMBER 4, 2014

Wear orange, the color of hunger relief, on September 4, 2014 to show your support for Hunger Action Month. As individuals, charities, businesses and government, we all have a role to play in getting more food to our neighbors in need.
OHIO HUNGER DIALOGUE

Member agencies are invited to join Walsh University faculty, administrators, students and community partners in dialogue and action seeking solutions to hunger through the teaching, research and service activities of Ohio colleges and universities.

This daylong conference, held September 27th beginning at 9am, will features presenters from the Akron-Canton Regional Foodbank, Greater Cleveland Food Bank, area universities and Foodbank member agencies.

Agency participation in this event will count toward maintaining eligibility for grant funded product for emergency feeding programs. For more information or to register, visit walsh.edu/hungerdialogue.

AMERICORPS VISTA TO SUPPORT PANTRYTRAK

The Member Services Department is happy to welcome Felicia Fullerton to our team. Felicia is serving as an Americorps VISTA (Volunteer in Service to America). She will dedicate one year of service to the Foodbank and our agency network with implementation of PantryTrak.

Her role includes training agencies, providing technical support, and creating useful tools to assist in the implementation of PantryTrak at the agency level.

PantryTrak is a new, online data management system created specifically for food pantry programs by the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. The system is a no-cost, “Cloud” based program designed specifically for use in food pantries to replace the required Ohio Department of Job and Family Services paper TEFAP forms that must be completed and signed by clients each time they receive food.

The system also, as Felicia mentioned, provides agencies and the Foodbank access to better, more accurate data. Through PantryTrak, the count of clients and households served for the monthly report is automatically generated. The system will also automatically update client household age categories based upon client birth dates. Finally, additional services, such as SNAP referral, can be tracked in this system.

PantryTrak can revolutionize the operation of a food pantry and provide greater efficiency for agency volunteers. If interested in learning more, please contact Felicia Fullerton at ffullerton@acrfb.org or 330.535.6900 ext. 158.

MEET FELICIA FULLERTON
AmeriCorps VISTA, PantryTrak Training Coordinator

Felicia is a native of Canton, Ohio. Prior to joining the Foodbank as an AmeriCorps VISTA, she completed her law degree from Pennsylvania State University. She made the choice to become a VISTA in order to make the transition to working with non-profit organizations and gain experience in social service work. When asked what she is most excited about for the coming year as a VISTA, Felicia said, “I am excited about bringing more agencies on to PantryTrak. This will give us better data to communicate where hunger lives and how to fight it.”

UPCOMING TRAININGS

CIVIL RIGHTS & FOOD SAFETY TRAINING ONLY
Wednesday Oct 22 1pm - 3:30pm

NEW MEMBER AGENCY ORIENTATION
Tuesday Sep 23 9am - 4pm
Wednesday Oct 15 9am - 4pm

Orientation includes Civil Rights and Food Safety Training. Due to time limitations, please bring a bagged lunch to Orientation since there will not be enough time to leave the Foodbank for lunch. Please note, lunch will not be provided. Refrigeration for your bagged lunch as well as fountain drinks will be available.

Have you had a change to key staff or volunteers with your program? They are encouraged to attend the full New Member Agency Orientation. To RSVP for training opportunities, visit the Foodbank website, akroncantonfoodbank.org/orientations.aspx, or contact Gary Green, Manager, Member Services at 330.777.7575 or ggreen@acrfb.org.

TASTE OF THE NFL
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014
5:30 - 9:00 P.M.
VIP LOUNGE OPENS AT 5:00 P.M.

PRO FOOTBALL HALL OF FAME
2121 GEORGE HALAS DR NW, CANTON
PURCHASE TICKETS ONLINE
akroncantonfoodbank.org

SEPTEMBER 23, 2014
PLEASE JOIN US
5:30 - 9:00 P.M.
VIP LOUNGE OPENS AT 5:00 P.M.
SEPTEMBER 23, 2014
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